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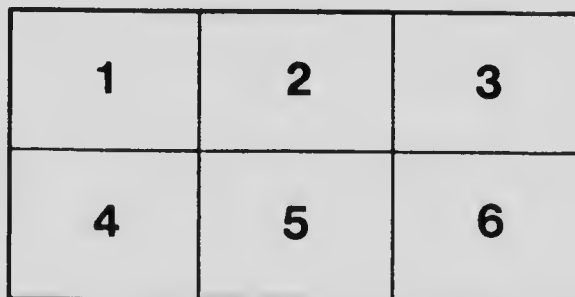
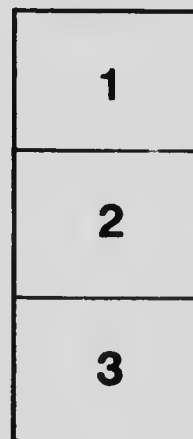
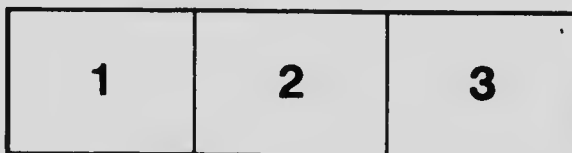
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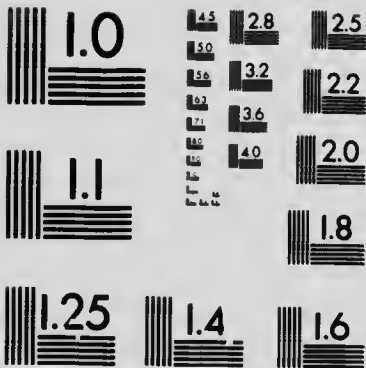
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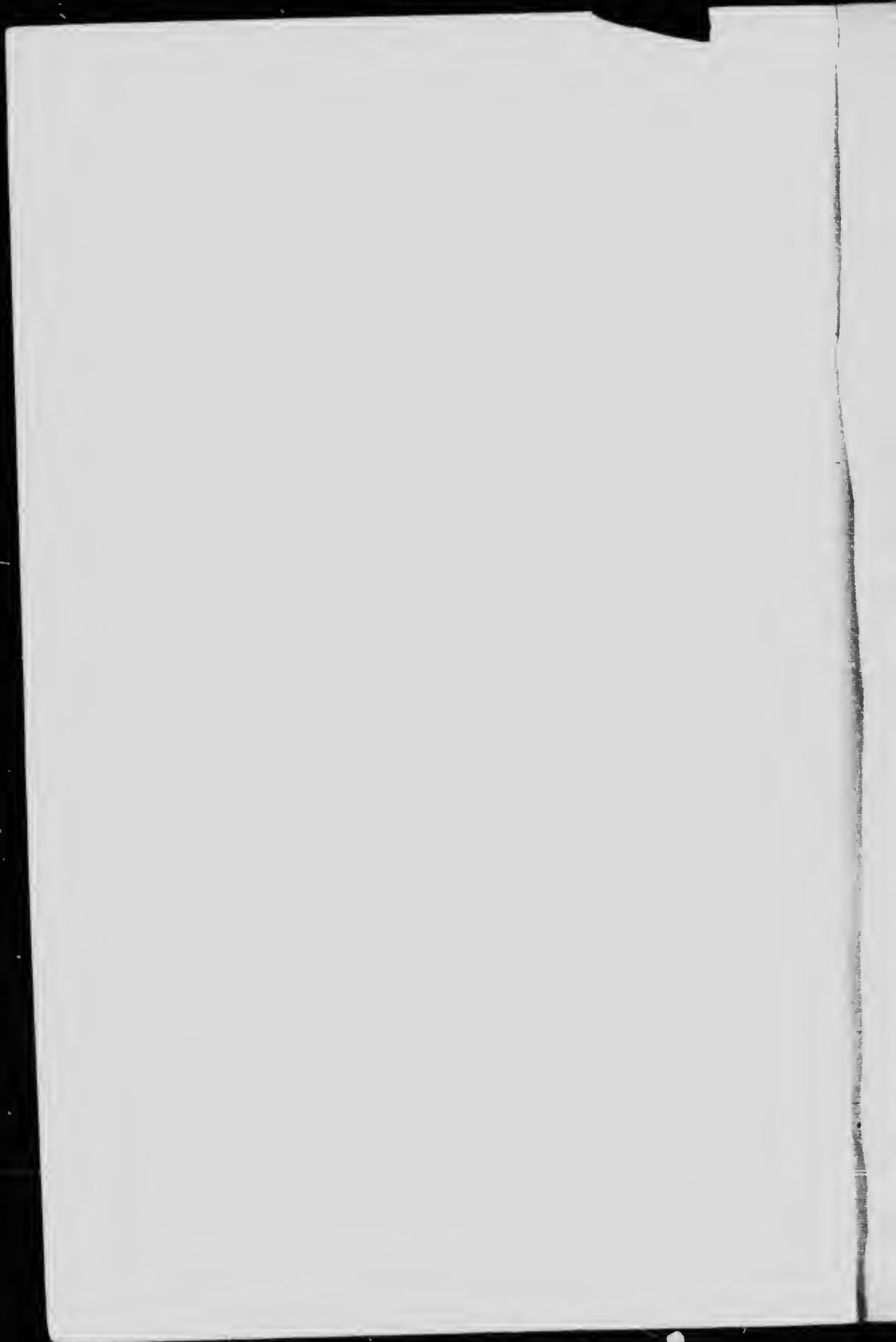
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HON. E. H. ARMSTRONG,

CLOSING SPEECH

Of the debate upon the Financial Condition, &c., of the Province at the last session of the Legislature was delivered by Hon. E. H. Armstrong, Commissioner of Public Works and Mines. He followed Mr. C. E. Tanner, leader of the Opposition, and his reply was an effective answer to the carrying criticism of the Opposition, and a masterly review of the present Government's administration of the affairs of the Province. The various provincial issues are fully discussed in this speech, and it should be carefully read by all who wish to become familiar with them.

Ch 12



CLOSING SPEECH

IN THE

Nova Scotia Legislature

ON THE

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE PROVINCE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said in concluding the debate which had arisen over this important matter of the consideration of the financial accounts of the Province, he desired as concisely as possible to take into consideration some of the matters referred to both on this side of the House and on the other side.

NOT AFRAID OF CRITICISM.

It was a matter that very properly should be made the subject of debate and careful consideration, involving as it did the consideration of questions affecting the well-being of the Province and the administration of its affairs by the party in power—the Government of the day. He was sure we all must agree with the principle suggested by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday, that criticism was desirable. No Government should be alarmed about criticism, but should welcome it. We welcome criticism as does every strong Government—strong in the conviction that its administration has been honest, progressive and in the best interests of the welfare of our people. But all Governments meet with criticism, whether good or bad. If one were to believe what is recorded in the press at the present time, they are driven to the conclusion that the Federal Government at Ottawa, looked upon by gentlemen opposite as the ideal Government, run under ideal conditions, is being the subject of very severe criticism. The acts of commission and omission were made the subject of attack at the hands of those opposed to them. It was only a reasonable and natural condition of things which was quite to be expected. The very best of Government would, therefore, find criticism and the Opposition was entitled to criticise.

DUTY OF OPPOSITION.

He (Hon. Mr. Armstrong) took issue with the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Tanner) when he intimated that the function of the Opposition was to criticize only. He submitted that it was the duty of an Opposition not only to criticize, but it was a duty equally as incumbent on them as on members of this side to assist in the formation of what might be called constructive legislation. The Hon. Gentleman asked what we were here for, and what the Government was here for, as though the whole purpose and object of our being here was to indulge ourselves in spending weeks in the consideration and debate of a subject, however important, might have been concluded with full justice to it long ago. He (Hon. Mr. A.) answered that we were here to do the country's business. That business was a trust, and it was just as much the duty of the Opposition to assist in discharging that trust, as those on this side.

SAME OLD ARGUMENTS.

It has been very difficult to follow the hon. gentleman through many of his arguments, because to a certain extent the subject matters that had been imported into this debate were not new, and many of the references and allusions made by the hon. gentleman, Mr. Tanner, were the same as made by him on many former occasions. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had heard his expression about "responsible men on this side having lost their heads"; about the "do nothing" Government, the "unprogressive Government" over and over again and also his expressions that what we needed was a "progressive and statesmanlike administration," and his remarks about "waste and extravagance" times without number, all meaningless, but all delivered with an apparent seriousness, as though these qualities were the sole property of the Opposition. However, there were some phases of his argument entitled to some consideration.

CORK-SCREW ATTITUDE.

It was quite apparent that on some subjects the hon. gentleman had adopted a volt about face argument. I am sure most members on this side of the House, and, perhaps, on the other, were astonished to learn that the Agricultural College at Truro, was the product of the policy of the Opposition and not of the Government of the day. The hon. gentleman had naturally devoted a considerable of his time to convince himself that the real opponents of the Agricultural College were Premier Murray and the Liberals. He repeated that this certainly would surprise most members and the country. But yet such was his argument. The same as to his attitude towards the Farm Settlement Act. The debates of the House would show that the hon. gentleman and some of his supporters approved of the Act and cordially endorsed it. Yet by devious methods the same gentlemen now say they were opposed to it. He remembered a debate led by the Hon. Member for Hants, the late Mr. Wilcox, one of the then leaders of the

Opposition, who took the position that all purchases of supplies should be by tender and contract. Today, however, we had the present Leader of the Opposition saying that it was time we had a purchasing agent. That can only mean more salaried officials and more patronage, about the abundance of which they now complain. Then, again, his hon. friend has always argued, and with some consistency and force, and with a great deal of vehemence, that this country was being led to direct taxation. Yet yesterday he took a whole hour to demonstrate that it was not with us, and that the day of liberty had gone by. These things all went to show that so far as his honorable friend was concerned, his whole mental attitude had become distorted and he did not now know where he stood. One would be puzzled to know where the Opposition now stood on our Agricultural College policy. Were they in favor of it or not? Take the question of Technical Education; it was all very fine for hon. gentlemen to argue their fine spun distinctions between Technical Education and the Technical College. They find themselves now driven by circumstances to argue that they favor technical education, which they say is right, but dispute that the two are one and the same, they split hairs and argue that a Technical College is wrong. The argument is too fallacious to be taken seriously. They might just as well try to argue that the Common School was right, but the High School, the Academy, the College, all forming an important function in our educational programme, was wrong.

Let the hon. gentleman follow his own record in many of these matters and he will discover that his agility for adopting new attitudes and new opinions would require a cork-screw to follow him. A few years ago there was a plank in the temperance platform of the Conservative policy known as the "O'Mullin plank." It had never received very cordial support and now that this plank had been dropped and the happy days of Provincial Prohibition were with us, he could only conclude that the Leader of the Opposition would have no further use for that very handy little implement—the cork-screw—but would utilize the surplus supply in asserting him and his party in pulling themselves out of the difficult situations in which they found themselves. It must be quite evident that the well known qualities of such an instrument would be much needed and very well adapted for the purpose.

BY-ELECTIONS.

His hon. friend said something about by-elections. It might be interesting to discuss some of these by-elections. The two particularly referred to, were the one in Lunenburg and the one in Digby. He did not know what political lesson could be drawn from either one. Both occurred before there had been any session of this House, and both occurred after the people had by a large majority endorsed politically, the policy of the Liberals. There had been no change in public feeling, no change in sentiment, because there had been no session of the Legislature upon which to raise an issue. He (Hon. Mr. A.) might off-set these by-elections by the one that took place in his own County of Yarmouth. There was no change of sentiment there, and the gentleman who was returned there, won his election by a much larger majority

than in either of the other two places, and much larger than at the general election. He (Hon. Mr. A.) doubted whether it would serve any useful purpose, but it might be interesting to know something about the inner history of the elections in Antigonish and Victoria. If there was one page of political history that did not commend itself to the public at large and about which the least said the better, for the Tory party and public morals generally, it would be the conditions that prevailed in the contests in these two counties.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) had under his hand a list of the public works promised in the by-election in the County of Antigonish, or alleged to have been promised by the Federal Government in that election, where hundreds of thousands of dollars were promised. Everyone in that County knew today that these promises were false, that they remained unfulfilled, yet the people, unfortunately, were influenced by them. He questioned whether it could be done again.

As to Victoria, he did not think his hon. friend would want the light turned on that election or should take much credit to his party for how it was done. However, we had the report of the judge who tried the case, and one or two statements in that would indicate the state of affairs that prevailed. It would be found as Appendix 29, the Journals of 1915.

It is the report of Mr. Justice Russell of the Supreme Court declaring void the election of Philip McLeod, who was elected at the by-election by a small majority—because of corrupt practices, of a widespread and dangerous character.

His hon. friend protested that it was a reflection upon the good people of the good County of Victoria. That was begging the issue. The good people of that County are not reflected upon. Those implicated were not natives of that County. For example, Dr. Joseph Hayes, Organizer for the Conservatives, and now Lt.-Col. Hayes, Hugh D. McLean, Charles McCormick, W. G. Fraser, J. M. McGillvary and Hugh Philpot, were not natives of Victoria County. They were the conspicuous ones. If his hon. friend wanted to take any moral glory to himself, he was entitled to it in the face of the record of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. Mr. Justice Russell said: "There is reason to believe that corrupt practices extensively prevailed in the election to which the petition relates; upwards of twenty witnesses were called on their subpoenas and failed to attend." There was disclosed a system of corruption of a most vile character. Perhaps no election contest in any Court had brought out more disreputable facts than that trial in connection with the by-election in the County of Victoria.

There were many things discussed in this debate which had very little relevancy to the financial condition of this Province. He quite agreed that one of the most important subjects that ought to interest members of this House was the matter of the financial condition and the general financial state of this Province. The hon. gentleman said we were here as a committee. We were more than a committee, we were a Board of Directors. And he would undertake to say, notwithstanding the remarks and criticisms of the hon. gentleman about an inclination on this side of the House to rush matters, that any competent Board of Directors sitting over the same business we had to

transact, would discharge that business in less time than we did in this Province. He was afraid if these dilatory tactics continued the public of the Province would properly come to the conclusion that the only place where time was of no value was in the House of Assembly. Rush matters! Why every member of the Opposition who could speak had spoken upon every conceivable subject, relevant and irrelevant ad libitum. The debate had been adjourned again and again to suit the convenience of members opposite. The work of the Public Accounts Committee was held up and the public generally were questioning the bona fides of our transactions. Apparently the hon. gentleman's sole idea was that there was virtue in long sessions and long drawn out hair splitting debates. Like poor Martha of Gospel days, he (Mr. T.) was "careful and troubled about many things." And these were little things. And yet the hon. gentleman complains that we are anxious to rush things! It is well for the Province that things are not in charge of the hon. gentleman, if this is his idea of rushing things. The hon. gentleman opposite had gone over the whole ground. Yet, after he had finished, he concluded with the bare assertion that there were many things to be done in this Province. He did not suggest nor give this House nor this country, one practical suggestion in regard to the things left undone that should be done, or done that should be undone, or what his party intended to do about them. He has no fault to find with his hon. friend's criticism because we courted criticism, but what he would say was that a gentleman aspiring to the leadership of a great party in this Province, with his Parliamentary experience, might have done better than to conclude a four hours' speech with the simple declaration that there were many things to do, without indicating what they were, and what he would do. Such an attitude indicated a hopeless and a helpless party and was impracticable nonsense.

CRAZY QUILT POLITICS.

Not only did the hon. gentleman as the leader of his party not suggest anything or formulate anything, but if the intimations that fell from some of his supporters indicate anything, they would indicate ideas of the most varied and incoherent character. Joseph's coat of many colors was plain. They were all strong in their admonition to practice retrenchment and economy. Yet what was the attitude of the Hon. Member for Antigonish (Mr. O'Brien). He asserted with that emphasis so becoming to him, that he would spend larger amounts of our Provincial moneys on the roads, he would increase the grant of elementary education to \$600,000. He would also spend large sums of public money to improve rural social conditions, et cetera. And yet with all this ambitious programme for expensive social reform, they talked about extravagance and retrenchment.

The same hon. member had no objections to the Technical College, but claimed that it should be maintained by the Federal Government. With that position he (Hon. Mr. A.) would not take issue, but how could such a desirable thing be brought about, expected or sought for in view of the opposition and bitter antagonism of some of his fellow members towards that institution and who openly and publicly declared the

College was a "White Elephant," was "useless," had produced "no results" and was only for the "favored few!"

What would they think at Ottawa if we made such a claim in view of these statements by hon. gentlemen opposite? They would say: "This is unnecessary, your public men are on record as saying that it was an absolute waste of money." In fact, he understood his hon. friend from Antigonish to go so far to favor the Dominion Government taking over and supporting the public schools or the Province, a proposition to which he (Mr. A.) could not assent.

What conclusion can the Province come to as to their varied attitudes and attacks upon the coal industry. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition himself complained in a somewhat indefinite way of the long term leases.

The Hon. Member for Queens, Mr. Hall, announced himself as absolutely opposed to the long term lease. These leases had been adopted by the Legislature unanimously, and were regarded as in the interests of developing the coal industry in the Province. No special favors were held out to any particular Company. Under the Mines Act all companies had the same privilege. The Hon. Member for Queens, Mr. Hall, went further and urged that such restrictions should be put upon the sale of coal outside of the Province as would regulate the price of coal in the Province of Nova Scotia, and complained that coal had been imported from the United States into the Montreal market at a cheaper price. Beside him sat the hon. member for Cape Breton, Mr. Butts, who more than once had made the statement in this House that the Dominion Coal Co., in spite of the fact that they had tendered for the supply of coal in the Montreal market at a low price, had been under-bid by American coal competitors. This was for the supply of a large quantity of coal for the City of Montreal. If the facts as stated by the Hon. Member for Queens were correct, why, then, does he not urge a removal of the duty on coal, if, as he states, American coal can be sold in Nova Scotia at a lesser price than Nova Scotia coal, and that is the matter of which he complains?

The Hon. Member for Colchester, Mr. Stanfield, wanted to cut out the subsidies to steam packets and ferries to the extent of at least \$50,000. This was his statement to the House, and he was so reported in the Halifax Herald. He (Hon. Mr. A.) noticed, however, that some of the Conservative papers, now seeing the predicament in which they had placed themselves, had inserted a phrase which the member for Colchester had not used, and now stated that he was to cut out unnecessary expenditures to the extent of \$50,000. The same hon. gentleman wanted to hand over the Victoria General Hospital, in which this Province had over \$200,000 invested, to the City of Halifax. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had not heard any one on the Conservative side of the House continue or advocate that argument any farther. The same hon. gentleman wanted to abandon the Department of Immigration. That was the only thing upon which there seemed to be any unanimity among the members on the opposite side of the House. The hon. member for Colchester would revolutionize the whole Mines Department and the coal mining operations in this Province, for, as he said, "the operators are dissatisfied, the public are dissatisfied, and the miners are dis-

satisfied." In reference to the coal question, not a member of the Opposition has spoken during this debate on that subject who had not attacked it, directly or indirectly. Reference had been made to the fact that the coal industry in this Province had been largely influenced for the better by the Whitney legislation of 1893. Members of the Opposition denied this, and said it was not so. They used the old argument and said that the prosperity of the coal trade was to be attributed to the National Policy of 1878. If the National Policy of '78 was responsible for the prosperity of the coal trade, and the Whitney legislation was not so responsible, then who was responsible for the deplorable and unfortunate conditions for trade, but the Hon. Member for Queens, the Hon. Member for Antigonish, and the Hon. Member for Colchester? They must either take one horn of the dilemma or the other.

The Hon. Member for Colchester made a statement that the Technical College was costing \$50,000 per year, for which he proposed to strike off at least \$25,000. As he would show later on, his figures were not correct. Members opposite were opposed to Technical Education, as far as the Technical College was concerned, while others were in favor of the Agricultural College. One said that there should be a four years' course at the Agricultural College so that it would not be necessary for the students to go to Guelph to complete their college education. Another said we should do away with the Technical College in this Province and let the students go to McGill or Queens or Worcester. If one argument was good, surely the other was equally so. How can we justify providing higher technical courses for agriculture and not other subjects?

The Hon. Member for Lunenburg was opposed to the construction of the Halifax & South Western Railway, and said the Federal Government should have built it, and so they should, but whose fault was it? Would he have advocated the Province standing by and waiting until the Federal Government were prepared and willing to build it? The same hon. gentleman had also propounded the astonishing truth that the Mines Office has ruined the wooden ship industry of Nova Scotia.

One member of the Opposition said that this Government was an Arm Chair Government, and that it was doing nothing. Another persisted and complained that this Government was doing too much, and complained because it had taken up the subjects of Farm Settlement, Technical Education, Industries and Immigration, etc. All these things were good and fair and necessary, but if the Government were progressive and are doing these things in the interests of the people of the Province, how can they be called "An Arm Chair Government" and a "Do Nothing Government?"

The fact that this Government has been making progress along these different lines should awaken hon. gentlemen opposite to the fact that if we have things in this Province of which we are proud and which are a source of satisfaction to our people, it is largely due to a Liberal Government—a Government that did things—not an Arm-Chair Government. Not only is the attitude of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and his supporters so circuitous as to require a cory-screw to follow, but it is so irregular and varied as to be more properly characterized

as a crazy quilt policy. One of them had one idea, and another, another and a different one; one said yes, and another said no.

OUR DEBT AND FINANCIAL CREDIT.

Their criticisms, if worthy of the name, centered around two points: (1) That of our public debt, and (2) Allegation of waste and extravagance. In discussing these matters they referred to some matters of suggested retrenchment with which he would deal. The subject of our Provincial debt had been largely dealt with by several hon. members on this side of the House, and, therefore, he did not propose to prolong its discussion to any extent.

MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY.

The Leader of the Opposition had complained that there had been some criticism on the side, of persons, and not of subjects; that our criticism was of a personal character, and he went out of his way, I think, to fairly crown with roses two of his supporters, the Hon. Member for Colchester, and the Hon. Junior Member for Yarmouth, in their respective fields of special activities. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition could be believed, there was no person like them. The one in the field of finance, and the other in the farm, were the men of all men. The Junior Member for Yarmouth was described as a man of the equal of the Provincial Secretary. The Hon. Member for Colchester was a financial authority of unquestioned ability and influence. Why the hon. gentleman found it necessary to heap these encomiums upon these two special members, he did not know. The Senior Member for Cape Breton, Mr. Douglas, who always took the laboring end of the oar of the Opposition, was ignored, and likewise the Hon. Member for Lunenburg, Mr. Zwicker, who always, in season and out of season, more than did his bit in carrying out the work of the Opposition. Why should he not also have a pat on the back? Why this mutual admiration should be limited to the Hon. Member for Colchester and the Hon. Junior Member for Yarmouth, was hard to understand, unless there existed some jealousy, or unless the Leader of the Opposition was endeavoring to induce the Hon. Junior Member for Yarmouth to abandon his position as an independent member of the House and become a full fledged member of the Conservative party. If that were his object, he could quite understand from the conduct of his hon. colleague that his conversion had become most complete and effective.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not want to assume the role of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in regard to some of his supporters, by paying undue compliments to those who had spoken from the Government side of the House. But he could not refrain from saying that hon. members on the Opposition side of the House in dealing with this branch of our financial situation, entirely ignored the strong presentation of the financial position of the Province, as stated by the Hon. Leader of the Government and later by the Hon. Member for Guysborough (Mr. Tory). When the close reasoned address of the latter hon. gentleman was placed before the public, with the facts with which it bristled, it

would disclose a financial condition with which the public would be fully satisfied. It was in striking contrast to the petty, fault finding and carping criticism of members on the Opposition side of the House. It made it clear that the only sources from which we heard any cry of alarm in relation to the debt of the Province and our general sound fiscal standing, was from members of the Opposition only. There was one answer to hon. members opposite on this point, and it was conclusively; namely, that notwithstanding the fact that our debt was what it was, the credit of the Province in the financial world never was better, and as a Province we could go into the money markets of the world and borrow money on equal, if not on better terms, than other Provinces. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that the Government was borrowing money, and so we were. It is necessary, and all Governments have to do the same. If that were so, it was for the reasons stated by the Hon. Member for Guysborough in his admirable address. They were borrowing money in the first place because they were able to do so on advantageous terms, and in the second place, because no progressive Government having control of activities such as those of which the Government of this Province has the control, could possibly provide for them without borrowing money. Our ability to borrow was measured by our ability to pay the interest on that public debt.

WHAT OTHER PROVINCES HAVE BORROWED.

It must not be forgotten that we were not the only Province that was borrowing money. He held in his hand a list showing that, every Province of Canada during the year 1915, with the possible exception of P. E. I., had gone into the money markets and borrowed large sums of money. Perhaps, to make it clear to what an extent the different Provinces had borrowed, he might as well, for the benefit of the House, read the list. These were the borrowings during the calendar year 1915 only, and clearly prove the point he was endeavoring to make. In addition the Dominion Government had borrowed very large sums:

PROVINCIAL BORROWINGS.

Province of British Columbia, due Dec. 31, 1915.....	\$ 2,700,000
Province of Manitoba, due Feb. 1, 1920.....	5,475,000
Province of Saskatchewan, due Feb. 1, 1918.....	2,500,000
Province of Ontario, due Feb. 1, 1920.....	3,000,000
Province of Ontario, due April 15, 1920.....	1,000,000
Province of Quebec, due 1920.....	6,000,000
Province of Ontario, due 1916.....	3,000,000
Province of Nova Scotia, due July 1, 1916.....	1,000,000
Province of Ontario, due May 1, 1925.....	4,000,000
Province of Alberta, due May 1, 1925.....	4,000,000
Dominion of Canada, due Aug. 1, 1916-17.....	45,000,000
Province of New Brunswick, due 1925.....	250,000
Province of New Brunswick, due April 1, 1920.....	1,000,000
Province of Saskatchewan, due Oct. 1, 1916-25.....	1,200,000

Province of New Brunswick, due 1925.....	706,000
Province of Saskatchewan, due Oct. 1, 1918.....	750,000
Province of Saskatchewan, due Oct. 1, 1925.....	1,700,000
Province of New Brunswick, due 1925.....	1,700,000
Province of Nova Scotia, due Jan. 1, 1926.....	382,000
Dominion of Canada, due Dec. 1, 1925.....	100,000,000
Province of British Columbia, due Dec. 1, 1925.....	3,130,000
Province of Manitoba, due Dec. 1, 1918.....	1,000,000

These were some of the borrowings that the various governments had to make last year in connection with carrying on of their public activities. Yet you heard no alarming outcry. The other governments were no better able to borrow than our own. He rather commended the attitude of the Hon. Member for Queens in this matter because there was an unfair tendency on the part of the Opposition to exaggerate the financial situation of the Province. The position taken by the Hon. Member for Queens (Mr. Hail) on the other hand was that the financial position of the Province was satisfactory, and that the credit of the Province was good and that it was a "lamentable thing" to cry down the credit of the Province. He (Hon. Mr. A.) commended the Hon. Member for Queens for those views, which were also the views of a large portion of the thinking people of the Province. The hon. member went further and said that a \$13,500,000 debt for the Province was not of itself bad. Whether good or bad depended upon the resources of our Province and how we were using them. Any Province whose financial condition was as good as ours was could afford to go into the money markets and bid for money, and unless our financial condition was good, we could not borrow. The question as to why the debt of the Province had been incurred had been discussed to some extent. At the expense of going into what might seem to be unnecessary detail he (Hon. Mr. A.) could not refrain from pointing out that the various expenditures which gave rise to our public debt were clearly marked on the pages of the public accounts and he could say without fear of contradiction that practically every dollar of that expenditure had been incurred for objects and purposes which were to the permanent advantage of the country, and from which, as a Government and in the best interests of the Province there was no mistake.

FOR WHAT INCURRED.

In considering this subject it is useful to examine the items for which money was borrowed. Take the matter of railways. Practically \$6,000,000 of our total debt of \$13,500,000 had been incurred in connection with the construction of railways. The Junior Member for Cape Breton (Mr. Butts) said that the Province despite this, did not own a mile of railway. What had that to do with it? The Dominion Government subsidized the Canadian Pacific Railway to the extent of over \$35,000,000. It had also subsidized the Canadian Northern and the Transcontinental and other lines of railway and outside of the Inter-colonial it did not own a mile of railway. There were few government owned railways, although all governments in the past, had aided in

their construction. The fact was that the railways had to be built for the general advantage of the Province and the Government gave them financial assistance and today they were built and in operation. Other objects calling for large expenditures were the larger bridges, into which we had put \$3,300,000, Agricultural College at Truro, which represented an expenditure of perhaps \$140,000, the Victoria General Hospital \$200,000, the Nova Scotia Hospital \$260,000, and the Technical College \$250,000. Take these three or four items and outside of the Technical College not one of them had been the subject of much discussion or differences of opinion, and no one could say that they were not necessary or that any government having the ambition to serve the people should have withheld financial support from the building up of any of these great works. These accounted for practically \$10,000,000, or over 90 per cent. of our public debt, and he wanted to point out that a public debt which could be justified and which did not involve a great burden upon the revenues of the country, was not a bad thing if it had been incurred for the construction of great public services such as those to which he had referred.

THE AMOUNT OF THE DEBT.

The gross debt of the Province on September 30th, 1915, was \$13,410,980 or \$26.28 per head of our population. The net debt, deducting from gross debt what were known as liquid assets, was \$6,947,664, or \$13.89 per head. Our net debenture interest was \$314,485,000 or about 63 cents per head. This was, he submitted, not large when we considered that this Province had within its borders such large and valuable resources. There were good reasons why the credit of the Province stood high in a commercial way, and in spite of the attempt to decry its financial position, on the part of the Opposition, the fact remained that the commercial and financial public upon our real state of affairs and not upon these fault finding criticisms and attempts to create a feeling of uncertainty as to the financial situation of the Province. There was no foundation for any such wild and reckless statements appearing in the Opposition press to the Province being burdened with a large debt. Look at the debts of our Incorporated towns. Amherst, with a population of not over 10,000 people, had a public debt of \$919,500.00, or over \$90.00 per head. Glace Bay, with a population of probably about 20,000, had a public debt of \$875,285.00, over \$40.00 per head. Yarmouth, with a population of about 7,000, had a debt of \$150,000, or \$65.00 per head. Dartmouth, with a population of some 5,000 or 6,000, had a public debt of \$400,000, or about \$60.00 per head. Notwithstanding that, the gross debt per capita of all these towns was very much **GREATER** than that of the Province of Nova Scotia, all their services were being looked after and nobody was at all alarmed at the condition of these towns, so far as financial stability was concerned. Take the Dominion of Canada today. The gross debt on the 31st of March last was over \$920,000,000, over \$120.00 for every man, woman and child in Canada. A year ago it was \$674,000,000, showing that there had been an increase of over \$200,000,000 in one year. And one could see how that debt was piling

up month by month to tremendous proportions. It would soon reach the Billion dollar mark. Yet everyone realized that this great country had abundant resources, and so far no one was worried about our National debt. Its payment was for the future. Our direct concern was as to our ability to meet our debenture interest obligations out of existing resources. It was a matter of satisfaction to know that in many of the other Provinces the per capita rate of debt was greater than in this Province. It was greater in the Dominion of Canada and in many of the Incorporated towns, and yet we did not hear any cry of alarm with reference to them. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was not very much concerned, and he felt sure the people of the Province were not, about this outcry which the Opposition had sent forth throughout the Province as to our financial condition. He was willing that financial papers should give us a certificate as to the real condition. He had under his hand the London Financier, a journal which must be regarded with some respect, so far as financial questions were concerned. **Speaking of the Nova Scotia Loan of 1915**, it said: "The exceptionally low rate of interest according to ruling prices which the Nova Scotia loan for one million dollars, recently negotiated in New York, is costing the Province 3.90 dollars per cent., is a conclusive indication, not only as to the high position held by Nova Scotia in the financial world, but also of the solid foundations which her prosperity has been built up in the past."

Against the somewhat carping criticism on the part of our friends of the Opposition, he placed this opinion from the Financial Journal, which could have no object but to speak the truth in regard to the financial condition of the Province. Hon. gentlemen themselves were not immune from undertaking certain obligations in this Province to the extent of further increasing our debt. Not long since the Hon. Leader of the Opposition himself, was in a certain part of this Province and although he now alleged that the public debt was assuming alarming proportions, that we were "on the rocks," he himself was willing so he (Hon. Mr. A.) was informed, to make certain proposals whereby he would commit himself to a very considerable expenditure of public money. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had a letter written by an hon. gentleman on the other side, in which he said so far as the whole Opposition was concerned, they were in favor of a public work projected in a certain part of the Province which would cost at least \$100,000.00. They were not consistent. They cried out against expenditures, but for party purposes they were ready to pledge the credit of the Province farther.

BETTER TERMS.

These questions only emphasized the truth of the fact that the Province of Nova Scotia, when it entered Confederation, had not received those favorable financial terms to which we were entitled. He made this statement without for one moment desiring to raise any issue as to the wisdom or unwisdom of union. In this respect the Province of Nova Scotia was no different from any other Provincial Government in Canada. But under the terms of Confederation, in 1867, this Province, as every person must admit, did not get those favorable financial

terms to which we were entitled, and which would have enabled us to have carried on those very Provincial services, the responsibility for which still remains with us in a way as to meet the natural aspirations and desires of our people. Ever since Confederation, and down to the present time, the demand for better terms for the Province of Nova Scotia had been insistent. This had always been the policy of the Liberal Party in this Province, from the days of Howe down to the present time. He joined with hon. gentlemen opposite and with those who had spoken on this side of the House in favor and approval of Federal aid to agricultural education in this Province. Personally, he (Hon. Mr. A.) had on more than one occasion publicly expressed his personal appreciation of these subsidies. But after all was said and done, what amounts we received for this purpose were nothing more than our deserts. It had been given to the various Provinces, including Nova Scotia, for a particular use, and because it would be conceded that not only this Province, but all the other Provinces did not receive those favorable considerations under the financial terms of Confederation that they should have received. As a result the various Provinces had to go time and again to the Federal Government for readjustment of the financial terms of the Union. Nova Scotia was in no worse position than any other Province in pressing these matters upon the consideration of the Federal authorities. In fact he (Hon. Mr. A.) submitted that we in Nova Scotia had probably a stronger claim than many of the other Provinces. All the other Provinces had the same difficulties which we in this Province have in providing sufficient revenue for our Provincial needs.

He had here the record of the past conference at Ottawa, held October, 1913, between the different Provincial representatives, and had in his hand a copy of the resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. Lucas, then Finance Minister of the Province of Ontario, representing a Conservative Government, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, late Provincial Treasurer of the Province of Quebec, which he would read to show that so far as Nova Scotia was concerned, we were in the same position as all the other Provinces of Canada, notwithstanding the fact that they had opportunities perhaps, which we did not have, of creating a Provincial revenue. These resolutions were an emphatic endorsement of the position taken by the Liberals in this Province for years and it was still our policy to assert these claims, notwithstanding the objections of those opposite. The resolutions stated:—

Whereas, under the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, and the various amendments thereto, the existing financial arrangements between the Government of the Dominion of Canada and the various Provinces thereof are inadequate to provide a sufficiency of revenue to enable them effectively to provide for their expenditure, in consequence of the heavy and steadily increasing amounts required to be expended to maintain the efficiency of the services of their respective Governments, as by law provided, and to promote the moral and material progress of the people;

Whereas, the financial arrangements made at the time and since Confederation have never been regarded as final by the Provinces;

Whereas, in 1867, the Provinces surrendered to Canada their Customs and Excise duties amounting then to \$11,580,968.25, and received in lieu thereof the sum of \$2,227,942.21;

Whereas, in 1913, the total revenue from Customs and Excise was \$133,212,143.67, of which the Provinces received only \$10,281,042.56;

Be it therefore resolved,—1. That in the opinion of this Conference an additional subsidy equal to ten per cent. of the Customs and Excise duties collected by Canada from year to year should be granted to the Provinces, payable semi-annually in advance, in addition to all other subsidies to which they are now or may hereafter be entitled, under the reserve of the right of any Province to submit to the Dominion Government a memorandum in writing concerning any claim it may have to larger sums than those mentioned in this resolution. and without prejudice to any existing claims or demands of any Province.

2. That this additional subsidy be paid to each Province, as follows:

(a) There shall be set aside out of such additional subsidy an amount sufficient to pay to each Province a sum equal to fifty per cent. of the amount now payable to each Province for Government and Legislature.

(b) The balance of such additional subsidy shall be payable to each Province, according to its population as ascertained from time by the then last census.

3. That in the case of the Government of Canada concurring in the views of the Conference as expressed in the above resolutions, a measure should be submitted to the Parliament of Canada at the next session providing for payment of such increased subsidies and allowances as may be determined upon, pending an amendment of the British North America Act, if such amendment should be deemed necessary.

The Province of Nova Scotia joined in this memorial to the Federal Government at Ottawa, and when these resolutions were submitted in 1913, to the Premier of Canada, Sir Robert Borden conceded their fairness, and suggested, as the delegates themselves suggested, that each ten years the Provinces would probably have to come together, and that the Federal Parliament would have to re-adjust their several financial conditions. In 1913 there was every hope that the demand for additional concessions made by this claim would be recognized by the Federal Parliament and that each of the Provinces would receive some additional revenue by way of Dominion subsidy. It was a disappointment, not only to this Province, but also to the other Provinces, that the unfortunate war came on, and the practical carrying out of these new financial arrangements, for the time being, giving a substantial increase in our revenue, had to remain in abeyance. Notwithstanding the fact that the Province had been able to make such ample provision, there was still need of increased revenue. Roads and Bridges in Nova Scotia were costing this Province a large sum of money. He doubted if there was any Province in Canada which had paid as much out of its exchequer directly for the support of Roads and Bridges,

whether on capital account or maintenance account. In Ontario, the Government, except to a limited extent, and that only of late years, did not pay out of its revenue for the construction and maintenance of its roads and bridges. That was left as a matter of Municipal obligation almost solely; and, therefore, it was unfair to compare the situation in Nova Scotia with this and other Provinces, because of the fact that we had undertaken to do, for the various Municipalities many of the things which in the other Provinces were left to be maintained and kept up by the Municipalities themselves. It was rather interesting sometimes as a matter of ancient history to read some of the statements of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. To indicate his disposition to exaggerate our true position, with an apparent ambition to decry the real condition of the Province and impair its credit. He ran across a statement of his in 1906 in which he then endeavored to alarm the people with the fact that the public debt had reached \$12,540,000, yet in ten years the debt had only increased by three million dollars. In his manifesto of 1906 he made the estimate that our debt was then \$12,543,315.70. That was ten years ago. Today it is less than \$13,500,000, and yet he is still preaching his wail of alarm to the people of this Province.

OUR STRONG POSITION.

Now, going a step further in connection with the debt matter, his hon. friend said that it was an easy matter to borrow money and that it required no ability to do so. He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not know what the experience of his hon. friend had been, but he would undertake to say that no Province which was in the financial condition which his hon. friend would have the House believe that this Province was in, could go into the financial markets and find it an easy thing to borrow money. He (Hon. Mr. A.) thought on the contrary that it did require ability and that his hon. friend did not do himself credit in making that statement. If it was an easy matter to borrow money, why need anyone worry about it? You might ask for money, but the financial markets of this and other countries were critical and they would not lend their money unless there was substance back of the assets of the corporation of the Province applying for the loan, and it could be taken as the general opinion of the financial world that so far as this Province was concerned, its debt was not overwhelming. **IF IT WAS EASY FOR THIS PROVINCE TO BORROW MONEY IT WAS BECAUSE OUR CREDIT WAS GOOD**, and for no other reason. The hon. gentleman said that the burden of our debt was too great for us to bear. If this were true, why was it that there was no protest from any other source than the hon. gentleman himself? If it were true, why the commendation of the hon. member for Queens? If the burden of our debt was too great for us to bear, why should the hon. member for Queens say that the credit of the Province was good? It was because in this Province we have valuable assets which are being conserved and which are being developed on conservative lines, and, first and foremost, because the administration of the affairs of the country has been in the hands of an administration in whom the investing public

have the utmost confidence. The hon. member said that the hon. member for Guysborough had an Indian rubber principle with regard to debts, but he (Hon. Mr. A.) would venture to put the statement of the hon. member for Guysborough against the hon. gentleman's statement and it would be found that if there was any Indian rubber principle, it was from the side of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and not from that of the hon. member for Guysborough.

HOLMES-THOMPSON REGIME.

Then the hon. gentleman had something to say about the Holmes-Thompson Government. The other day when the hon. member for Pictou (Hon. Mr. McGregor) referred to the Holmes-Thompson Government, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition made the appropriate observation, "Why not go back to the days of Adam and Eve." He (Hon. Mr. A.) was not surprised that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition did not like to be taken back to that dismal period in the history of the Province of Nova Scotia. You might find Adam and Eve, but you would not find the Garden of Eden. The hon. gentleman said that the members of that Government were great statesmen—that they were great financiers. If so, what did they do, for we might as well get at the facts. There were one or two things from which we might draw lessons for the future. We had a Conservative administration in this Province from 1878 to 1882. The people of the Province then had the opportunity to test them and to weigh them in the balance. They expressed their opinion of them at the polls in 1882 and they had been of the same opinion ever since. If the principles enunciated by the Conservative party in 1878-1882 were the principles which actuated them today; if that was the criterion by which they wished to be judged; if it did no more for the Province than it did when it was led by men like Thompson and Bell, what could we expect from the hon. gentleman who purported to lead the party today? He might cast his enconiums upon the hon. member for Colchester and the hon. member for Yarmouth, but the people would want more than such a certificate of character as that if those hon. gentlemen were the ones he was relying upon to administer the affairs of this Province. The Holmes-Thompson Government attempted to borrow \$2,000,000 by the sole authority of an Order-in-Council, without asking the sanction of the Legislature. What had the hon. member for Colchester to say to that? Would he call that high financing? Then they attempted to borrow the sum of \$800,000, and when they took it to the Legislative Council they were asked what it was for. They refused to give any answer and their Bill was defeated. There were two special instances of financial exploits on the part of the Conservative Holmes-Thompson Government when they had a majority that placed them in control of the affairs of the Province, so far as this Province was concerned, that at least had very little to commend them for the future.

When the Holmes-Thompson Government came into office in 1878 they found a deficit balance of \$118,331.67. They gave up office in 1882 with a deficit balance of \$58,713.07. When they assumed office, on the 22nd of October, 1878, there was to the credit of the Province,

at Ottawa, in what is known as the "Debt Fund," \$477,753.48. When they left office, in 1882 there was by the Debt Account statement \$6,533.25 at credit (see page 2, Appendix 16, Journals, 1883). The Conservatives, therefore, withdrew from the amount standing to the credit of the Province at Ottawa, during their four years' term of office, \$471,220.23. Of that amount they expended on the ordinary services of the Province, such as roads and bridges, \$242,901.30, and secured a loan of \$40,000 from the Western Counties Railway and utilized it for the same purpose. Add to that the deficit when they went out of office of \$58,713.07, and their total indebtedness was \$341,614.37. Deduct from this the deficit balance of \$118,331.67, on their assuming office, and it will be seen that they went into debt to the extent of \$223,282.70, for the ordinary services of the country.

During the previous four years of Liberal administration there had been expended on the Roads of the Province \$914,926.00. During the four years of Conservative administration there had been expended on the Roads of the Province \$467,482.00, a reduction of expenditure on this item of \$447,444. In other words, during the Holmes-Thompson administration the Province went into debt to the extent of \$223,282.70, they starved the roads of the Province by \$447,444, and went out of office showing an indebtedness of \$341,614.37.

These might be some indications of statesmanship. These may be some evidences of financing which commend themselves to the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Stanfield), but he doubted if it would be regarded as conducting public business in a way which the people of this Province would approve. Was it good business to draw from our Capital Account at Ottawa, on which we were being paid interest at 5 per cent. by the Federal Government, and expend the money for the ordinary purposes of the Province? Yet that was the record of the Holmes-Thompson Government. That was the policy which the hon. gentlemen opposite now commends to the people of this Province. That is the only assurance which we have as to the future policy of these hon. gentlemen. He (Hon. Mr. A.) ventured to say the Province did not want such administration for the future.

DEFICITS AND SURPLUS.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that the history of the Murray Government was a history of deficits, and to make his point he enlarged the deficits, but carefully omitted the surpluses. Now no one could disguise the fact that it ought not to be the policy of any Government to so finance matters as to lead to inevitable and continued deficits; but this Province had had its years of surpluses as well as its years of deficits, and when you compare the deficits with the surpluses you would find, other things being equal, that not much had been added to the public debt by virtue of the deficits to which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition referred. If there was a Province that had suffered, as far as its finances were concerned as a direct outcome of the war, it was the Province of Nova Scotia. Whatever might be said of other Provinces we were face to face with a condition such as had never existed before, and which was a direct outcome of the war. He was now dealing particularly with the subject of our revenue

from coal, because a condition of affairs, directly attributable to the war, might materially affect the revenue of the Province from coal.

Now as to the matter of deficits and surpluses, between the years 1897 and the year 1915—and this referred more particularly to the period of the administration of the Murray Government—we had surpluses amounting to \$495,161.59. During the same period we had deficits amounting to \$804,688.89, leaving a net deficit of \$309,527.30.

Fiscal year ended	Excess Receipts over Expenditure. Surplus.	Excess Expenditure over Receipts. Deficit. \$
1897.....		\$ 21,458.41
1898.....	\$ 6,630.25	
1899.....	24,448.66	
1900.....	76,861.82	
1901.....	1,303.32	
1902.....	52,814.91	
1903.....	66,250.56	
1904.....	33,299.61	
1905.....	20,822.61	
1906.....	16,041.11	
1907.....		131,002.17
1908.....	158,707.58	
1909.....		20,528.62
1910.....		133,550.76
1911.....		165,125.00
1912.....	37,980.80	
1913.....		29,218.61
1914.....		213,435.42
1915.....		120,369.90
Total.....	\$495,161.59	\$804,688.89
Net Deficit as between Expenditure and Revenue.....		\$309,527.30

Four of the deficits, totalling \$632,481.08, occurred in years where there was a coal strike, reducing receipts from royalties on coal, and in the last two fiscal years the revenue from mines was seriously affected by the financial stringency and the outbreak and continuance of war.

The Conservative press allege that one cause of the increase of debt is due to yearly deficits since Mr. Murray came into power. As a matter of fact, the total increase of debt owing to expenditure being greater than revenue during the whole 33 years of Liberal administration is but \$383,924.37, or \$11,637 per year. During the four years in which a Tory administration was in power the excess of ordinary expenditure over receipts was \$223,282.70, or \$55,821 per year—or five times greater per year than under Liberal administration.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition last night used figures very different from these, enlarging the amount of our debt to a considerable extent. But the figures we submitted for years from 1897 to 1915

and the net deficit as he had stated was \$309,527.30. It should be stated that this net deficit was more than accounted for by the decrease in the revenue from coal in the years 1914 and 1915. In the year 1914 the deficit was \$213,435, and in the year 1915 it was \$120,369, making a total for the two years of \$334,000. The financial statements submitted during those years outline the causes of the deficits and it would be found that in instances it could be largely attributed to the falling off in the revenue from coal, which was largely a direct result of the prevalence of war conditions.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition had something to say about interest charges. That subject was fully dealt with by the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Tory). Against the interest charge of \$472,728.45 must be set off the interest on debentures of the Halifax and South Western Railway, which left the net interest \$314,485. This was a very different state of affairs from that represented by the hon. member for Colchester, notwithstanding the reputation for finance given him by his leader. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted to put this statement against that of the hon. member for Colchester as to the actual debenture interest. To that must be added the \$63,900 estimated for ordinary interest this year and which was a considerable reduction from the charge in the estimates for 1915.

BUGABOO OF DIRECT TAXATION.

Then the hon. gentleman had something to say about direct taxation. As he had been pointed out over and over again this was a cry that the Opposition had been ringing the changes for many years. He (Hon. Mr. A.) assumed that when the hon. gentleman meant by direct taxation was taxes levied directly upon the tax payers of the Province. No doubt that was what he was endeavoring to make the people of the Province believe was imminent. Now if he would look into the question he would find that under the terms of the British North America Act that the only legal way that the Province had of raising revenue for Provincial purposes was by direct taxation. The words of the Act of Union are "Direct taxation within the Province in order to the raising of a revenue for Provincial purposes." He (Hon. Mr. A.) could not comprehend the argument of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in dealing with this question. No Provincial Government could raise revenue by any other process; it would be unconstitutional to do so. The hon. member said that the Government were taxing the insurance companies and the banks as a means of raising revenue. No Province in Canada was doing it in any other way. We had no right to impose any other form of taxation and, therefore, he (Hon. Mr. A.) could hardly understand the attitude of the hon. gentleman when he endeavored to raise it as a political issue. He wished to ask hon. members opposite whether they were opposed to direct taxation; whether they were opposed to the levying of taxes upon banks and insurance companies and telephone companies; whether they were opposed to succession duties? If they were frank let them say so. But if they meant a direct levy upon the people at large, let me tell hon. gentlemen their alarms was unnecessary and uncalled for.

How did they propose to raise taxes in this country if they were going to abolish direct taxation or the resources we had for taxation. In this Province it was not competent for this Legislature to impose taxation in any other way than by direct taxation? Let them be practical and not alarmists.

NO WASTE OR EXTRAVAGANCE.

The hon. gentleman dealt with the question of waste and extravagance. That opened up a large subject. We dealt with that last year when we dealt with the question of the war loan. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was responsible for one of the largest spending departments in connection with the Government, and he would say without fear of contradiction and in face of the public, that no Province in Canada or no State in the Union, per capita, in consideration of the large and varied list of items we had to cover, administered the public money with less expense and less waste than we had in Nova Scotia. He thought sometimes people were unduly critical, because in many of our services we were cramped for want of aid. If there was any extravagance it had been in some of the statements made on the other side in connection with some of these services. One of the most astounding had been made by the hon. member for Colchester in regard to the salaries. He did not want to do that hon. gentleman an injustice in his absence, because he since understood that he denied saying what he was alleged to have said, but he wanted it placed on record and he wanted the public of this country to understand that the hon. member for Colchester did permit, not only in the Halifax Herald, but in the Conservative press throughout this country, the intimation to go abroad that there were 272 salaried officials in the employ of this Government, ostensibly in the inside service of the Government, all receiving very handsome salaries. He was willing to accept the word of the hon. gentleman that he did not make the statement, but if he did not, some person must take the responsibility of placing on record just what the newspaper reports say he did say. Here was what appeared in the local press, and after reading it if there was any person in this House so dense that he did not take the same meaning from it as he did, he would like to see him.

“Mr. Stanfield showed that last year there were in the employ of the Government no fewer than 125 persons in receipt of over \$1,000 per annum, 75 officials receiving \$1,500 or upwards, 32 officials in the \$2,000 class, 21 in receipt of \$2,500, 11 getting \$3,000 or upwards, 6 receiving \$4,000, and 2 in receipt of \$6,000 per year. And there is a countless army of small-paid retainers spread like locusts over the face of the Province.”

125 officials receiving \$1,000 a year.....	\$125,000
75 officials receiving \$1,500 a year.....	112,500
32 officials receiving \$2,000 a year.....	64,000
21 officials receiving \$2,500 a year.....	52,500
11 officials receiving \$3,000 a year.....	33,000
6 officials receiving \$4,000 a year.....	24,000
2 officials receiving \$6,000 a year.....	12,000
	<hr/>
	\$422,000

No living man who understands plain English who reads that could take any other meaning from it than that 272 officials were receiving \$423,000, or one fifth of the entire revenue of the Province. The hon. member for Colchester may not have said that, but somebody had said it for him. That statement was absolutely untrue, absolutely without foundation in fact. There are only 124, and not 272.

The hon. gentleman further said that the Technical College cost \$60,000 last year. If he did not say it, the Halifax Herald and Yarmouth Times reported him as saying:

"Last year the so-called Technical College, which cost the Province over \$60,000 a year, graduated but one Mining Engineer."

Every member of this House knows that such an extravagant statement is absolutely void of truth. There was no such expenditure. Yet the Opposition press were spreading it broadcast throughout the Province, and crediting the hon. member for Colchester with the statement. To what opinion can the public at large come with reference to such wild and ridiculous statements? There were indications of extravagance, but of a very different kind.

SALARIES NOT LARGE.

Let us examine the question of salaries for a moment. The impression had gone abroad that these officials were directly connected with the administration of the various Departments here at Halifax. The list read by the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Butts) shows that they include all the School Inspectors throughout the Province, all the Deputy Inspectors of Mines, all the teachers, pensioned and active, at the Normal College, the Agricultural College and the Technical College, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of this House and of the Legislative Council, the Speaker of the House, the Superintendents of the various Hospitals, in addition to those who may be regarded as forming the civic service employees of the Government. But take the salaries of these officials, were they large? There was no Government having the responsibilities, having the variety of difficult activities to administer as ourselves that conducted its affairs with less expense than ours. Our school inspectors were underpaid. With the valuable work they had, and their responsible position, they should be better paid. Take the Deputy Inspectors of mines. We had as fine a lot of deputy inspectors as could be produced in any country in the world. Everybody would like to see these men receive more pay. Take many of the other officials, he was sometimes ashamed to meet them face to face and know that our revenue would not permit of some more liberal consideration in that direction, so that these officials would receive a salary commensurate with their responsibilities.

The hon. member for Queens made the somewhat astounding statement that the capital expenditure during the last three years on account of the arm Settlement Act was over \$200,000. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was quite satisfied that it was possibly an unintentional error. But it was made and repeated in the Tory press. He wanted to show that there was no justification for any such statement. If the hon. gentleman had referred to Table "D" of the Financial Returns he would have dis-

covered that on Farm settlement the total expenditure on capital account up to September 0th, 1915, was \$44,918. As a matter of fact that did not disclose the real situation, as he would show presently.

The hon. member for Queens (Mr. Hall) in dealing with this subject was evidently referring to Table "C" of the Public Accounts. And whether unwittingly or not his representations were entirely in error. Table "C" is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Province. Among the Liabilities is the following table of "Indirect Liabilities":

Guarantee of loan on Mortgage of Farm Lands and Buildings, Acts 1912-13:—

Amount so guaranteed to Sept. 30th, 1915.....	\$ 42,975.00
Intercolonial Coal Company.....	100,000.00
Eastern Canada Savings & Loan Co.....	50,000.00

It will be seen that the amounts referred to are practically the amount, \$200,000.00. But it is also evident that the \$100,000.00 guarantee of the Intercolonial Coal Co. can by no possible construction have any reference to the Farm Settlement Act. In fact, this table has no reference whatever to the settlement of the Hollanders in Hants Co. Under the Farm Settlement Act, Acts of 1912-13, loans are made by the Eastern Canada Savings & Loan Co. on the security of real estate taken at a conservation valuation. The only possible liability the Province can have would be in case the properties were foreclosed and the Loan Company could not realize the amount of their advances. As the loans have all been made on a very careful basis, the liability of the Province is not only indirect, but very remote. In fact, there is no apprehension that there will be any liability. Yet by this process of reasoning, an effort was made to make this House and the country believe that under the Farm Settlement Act there had been a capital expenditure of over \$200,000, when if the real figures were disclosed they would show that there had only been expended on capital account the amount he had already mentioned, \$44,918.00. This was another concrete instance of extravagance on the part of the Opposition. Extravagance of language, extravagance in dealing with facts, extravagance in misrepresenting the actual condition of public administration in the Province.

Now the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Stanfield) made another startling statement when dealing with what he alleged extravagance, and goes on record as estimating that there was a waste of \$200,000 per year which he could avoid. Here is the report as circulated in the Opposition press: "The member for Colchester submitted that \$200,000 might be saved to the people of the Province by discontinuing this waste, doing away with the Legislative Council and cutting out other expenditures in the following list:

V. G. Hospital	\$ 75,000
Technical College	25,000
Legislative Council	30,000
Immigration	10,000
Printing and Supplies.....	10,000
Steamers and Ferries.....	50,000

\$200,000."

Now this financial expert, this one man of all others in the whole Province who was deserving to be called a financial expert, takes these items and said: "There is where I prove a waste of \$200,000 last year." **How much was wasted on the Victoria General Hospital?** He (Hon. Mr. A.) challenged him to name anything in the administration of the Hospital that could be characterized as waste. It might be that the Province should pay less to the hospital for maintenance and shift that maintenance to some other party, but that would not be characterized as waste. As to the Technical College he (Hon. Mr. A.) admitted that about \$25,000 had been expended there in connection with the college proper, but he questioned whether any person would say that any part of that had been wasted. Whatever might be said about the wisdom or not of maintaining the college, as a part of our educational system, it was going far afield to make a statement that that was waste. Take the matter of the Legislative Council; it might not be a necessary expenditure, but to say it was waste, without showing that the \$30,000 could be diverted to some other purpose, and that legislative expenses should be much less, was scarcely fair. Take the matter of Immigration. With all deference to the opinion of hon. gentlemen opposite, the last thing this Province would want to do under existing conditions, would be to do away with that department, especially when all the other Provinces were bending their energies and mapping out future courses in regard to immigrants coming to the country. This expenditure could not be considered as waste. The next item complained of printing and supplies, \$10,000.00. Tenders were called for these things and there could not be any waste. And the hon. member for Guysboro gave some figures indicating that even the press that the hon. member for Colchester was anxious to have considered, put in a higher tender than the others who were successful. The next item his hon. friend complained of was Steam Ferries, from which he was anxious to deduct \$50,000.00, **EVERY DOLLAR OF WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS WASTE.** The hon. gentleman brought forward the same schedule a year ago. He did not make as long speeches as some of us, but if he only had the one speech, he might be frank and tell the House where the waste was. Last year he told the House that \$85,000 could be saved on the Victoria General Hospital. Where was the difference? Last year he said that \$6,000 should be deducted from the Attorney General's department. Last year he wanted to take \$10,000 off Technical Education, while this year he had jumped to \$25,000. There was just enough difference to give it a little variety. Because he did not want to duplicate himself, after a year's reflection, he had either to increase or diminish his figures.

Dealing with the matter of Legislative expenses in the different Provinces he (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted to make good what he had said, as to the cost of administration in this Province, as compared with other Provinces. We had a condition of affairs that ought to be very acceptable. Taking Ontario, with a population of 2,500,000, they had eight Cabinet Ministers, receiving each \$6,000, with the exception of the Premier, who received \$9,000. They had one hundred and six members, each receiving \$1,400.00. In Quebec, with a population of 2,000,000, they had seven Cabinet Ministers, of whom the Primo Min-

ister received \$7,000.00 and the others \$6,000.00 each. They had eighty-one members, each of whom received \$1,500.00 sessional indemnity. In Nova Scotia, with a population of 497,000, we had three Cabinet Ministers, the Prime Minister receiving \$6,000 and the others \$5,000.00, and thirty-eight members, each of whom received \$700.00 indemnity. New Brunswick, with a population less than that of Nova Scotia, had six Cabinet Ministers, of whom the Premier received \$2,400.00 and the others \$2,100.00 each, and forty-eight members, each receiving \$500.00.

In the Province of New Brunswick they had six cabinet ministers and the amount paid them was equal to that paid in the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Attorney-General of the Province of New Brunswick was permitted to engage in private practice. Manitoba, with a smaller population than Nova Scotia—455,899—had seven cabinet ministers and paid the Premier \$6,000 and the others \$5,000 each. In addition to this they had a Legislature of 42 members, each of whom received an indemnity of \$1,500. Take the Province of Saskatchewan, with about the same population as Nova Scotia. There they had seven cabinet ministers, receiving \$5,000 each, and a Legislature consisting of 54 members, each of whom received an indemnity of \$1,500. In the Province of British Columbia, with a population of 390,000, they had seven cabinet ministers, of whom the Premier received \$5,000 and the remaining six \$4,000 each. They had a Legislature of 42 members, who received an indemnity of \$1,200 each. It would be seen from these facts that with the exception of the Province of Prince Edward Island, the public business of the Province of Nova Scotia was administered by a Government of fewer members than any other Province in Canada. Therefore, he (Hon. Mr. A.) was justified in saying that so far as administration was concerned, public business was administered with more economy and with less waste in Nova Scotia than in any other Province in Canada.

MR. DOUGLAS said he understood his hon. friend to confine his remarks to a comparison of expense in proportion to population. Perhaps he could compare the cost of Legislative expenses in proportion to revenue. He (Mr. D.) thought that would be fairer.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he believed his statement was good no matter how it was based. The cost of Legislative expenses was as small or smaller in the Province of Nova Scotia than in any other Province in Canada.

HOW SUPPLIES ARE PURCHASED.

Now the Hon. Leader of the Opposition made some allusion to the matter of the purchase of supplies—and the hon. member for Colchester was responsible for that—and he intimated that the Government were wasteful in relation to the purchase of supplies. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wished to say in reply that the purchases for all large institutions, including the Nova Scotia Hospital, the Victoria General Hospital, the Sanitarium at Kentville and the College of Agriculture were by tender and contract, and he knew of no better or fairer system by which these purchases could be made. He did not know what the hon. gentleman

meant by his reference to the purchase of a few typewriters. The Government did not use many, and the reports showed that twelve were purchased last year. That would not be an excessive number to have purchased. If the Government purchased these few machines at the catalogue price, as they did, he failed to understand how that alone supported an argument that a purchasing agent should have been employed. As far as the larger institutions were concerned, it should be clearly understood that the supplies were purchased by tender and contract, **THAT EVERYONE WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE, AND THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTERFERENCE WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOWEST TENDER.**

OPPOSED TO SUBSIDIES TO STEAMERS.

The hon. gentleman also dealt with the question of the payment of subsidies to steamers. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was at a loss to know what the attitude of the Opposition would be with reference to this important question. In some parts of the Province the matter of steamship subsidies was regarded as a necessity. In the Counties of Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens subsidies were given that no one could deny were absolutely necessary for the accommodation of the people they served. He appealed to his hon. colleague whether he would say that the Government should not give a subsidy for the steamship service connecting Yarmouth with the South Shore. In reference to the Eastern part of the Province the same thing held good, and he undertook to say that when the estimates were being put through not a member of the Opposition would stand up and ask the Committee of Supply to vote against the appropriation for these steamship subsidies. The expenditure for steamboat subsidies was about \$60,000. The self elected Finance Minister of the Opposition said \$50,000, or five-sixths, should be cut off of that amount. He (Hon. Mr. A.) would like him to state what services were unnecessary and could be dispensed with? If he did not, then what becomes of his alarm about waste in this service?

PUBLIC PRINTING AND THE HALIFAX HERALD.

The hon. member for Colchester had something to say about public printing, about the cost of which he complained and about which he (Hon. Mr. A.) rejoined he knew as much as he did. The public printing in the Province was done under a system of tender and contract. How, then, did the hon. member know that there was any waste, unless he was prepared to say that too much printing was done? The hon. member for Guysborough gave the figures in respect to the various Government publications and no doubt the figures he gave were absolutely correct. The fact was there had been a great increase in the amount of printing done, and necessarily so. But what did it all amount to. The cost of all the public printing done last year, under the system of tender and contract, was \$24,000, while last year the Halifax Herald drew from the Federal treasury at Ottawa the sum of \$22,725, or practically as much as the whole Province of Nova Scotia expended in one year for its public printing. Then the hon. member for Colchester professed to be indignant because, as he said, the Truro News was

getting the go by when tenders for public printing were called for. All that he (Hon. Mr. A.) had to say in reply was that the Truro News had the same opportunity as any other paper or printing concern in the Province. Last year the Dominion Government expended twenty odd thousand dollars for printing voters' lists.

MR. ZWICKER asked what this Government spent?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he assumed they spent a very limited amount if they spent anything. But the Federal Government last year had the Dominion voters' lists printed. One would have thought that it would have been an act of kindness on the part of the hon. member for Colchester, who was always solicitous in respect to the interests of the Truro News, if he had prevailed upon his friends at Ottawa to have the lists printed in Truro. But he (Hon. Mr. A.) found that instead of doing so they paid the **SYDNEY POST** the sum of \$367 for printing the voters' lists for use in the County of Colchester. In his own County of Yarmouth, in which his colleague (Mr. Corning) took such a paternal interest—in fact he ran the Federal patronage there—there was a Conservative paper known as the Yarmouth Times. One would have thought that with all the industry and diligence of his colleague he would have procured the publication of the voters' lists for the County of Yarmouth by the Yarmouth Times, which needed all the patronage it could get. But the publication of the lists was taken from Yarmouth to the Imperial Publishing Co. in Halifax and that company was paid the sum of \$470.25 for printing these lists. Where was his hon. friend on that occasion? There was the sum of \$470.25 taken out of the town of Yarmouth where the friends of the Conservative party had not got more than their fair share of the loaves and fishes. Then there was a Conservative paper in the town of Bridgewater, and what happened there? The Lunenburg lists were not sent to Halifax but were sent away off to Burns & Co. of St. John, N. B., who were paid the sum of \$257, the balance \$260, going to the Standard Publishing Co. of that city. He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not think that this was done in the interest of the general public.

OPPOSED TO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Tanner) had a good deal to say about the question of the Agricultural College, and he devoted a considerable amount of time to showing that he was not opposed to the Agricultural College and never had been. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was not quite satisfied to accept his hon. friend's statement. If it were consistent with his record in the past he would be disposed to think that he was sincere, but he was now realizing that his former attitude was not popular and he wanted to get in out of the rain. His hon. friend's record on this subject was too firmly embodied in the records to permit him to escape. The attitude of the hon. gentleman, as his record would show, had been either one of open hostility to that institution, or if he said anything it was to damn it with faint praise. The most astonishing part of his argument was then when he endeavored to demonstrate that not only were he and his party friends, the personal friends of the Agricultural Col-

lege, but that the Prime Minister and his followers were the persons who opposed it and were opposed to it.

Now his hon. friend's attitude in regard to the Agricultural College was well known. He had his statements before him, and proposed to read some of them, that the public might know the inconsistency and illogical attitude which the hon. gentleman and his party had assumed with regard to that great public institution in this Province. It was an institution of which any Province might be proud, and had done admirable work. It was administered by an able man, and one of the mistakes that the Conservative Party in this House had made, was in endeavoring directly and indirectly, to undermine and prejudice the reputation of the gentleman who was principal of that College. In season and out of season certain members put themselves out to cast aspersions on his reputation and character, and two or three years ago took concerted action to cast reflection upon the management of that institution. He (Hon. Mr. A.) would say without fear of contradiction, that the better element in the Conservative Party did not justify but refused to condone that action. The hon. gentleman opposite had not always been of the same frame of mind concerning this institution. Let us see what he said in this House in 1905, when we were discussing that College:—

“He would like to say one or two words with reference to the Agricultural College which perhaps would be a useful institution in Nova Scotia. We had had an Agricultural School in Nova Scotia for nearly twenty years. So far as anybody had been able to discover with the naked eye, after a large expenditure upon that school, there was nothing from it, no practical benefit or advantage. He hoped that something better would come from this Agricultural College. His own judgment was that the general run of farmers in Nova Scotia were not so much in need of an Agricultural College as of a more practical administration of the agricultural affairs of the Province. No doubt a comparatively few people would reap some advantage from going to that College, but as far as the general run of farmers were concerned they would never be able to take the benefits of the College. He was firmly of the opinion that the whole question of agricultural administration must be revolutionized in order to be of benefit or advantage to the farmers of this Province.” (Debates, p. 16).

He did not say much in favor of the Agricultural College there. In 1906 we again discussed this matter, and this was what his hon. friend said:— (page 16)

“I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Queens when he called the College of Agriculture the School of Agriculture. Some twelve or fifteen years ago we started a School of Agriculture in Nova Scotia, and we heard the same promises and the same predictions about the School of Agriculture that we are hearing today about the College. The school was to be a great institution; it was the one thing needed to give development to the agricultural industry. It went on from year to year. What became of it? Where are the students? Where are the results of ten or fifteen years of expenditure? Where is the return for the money expended? There is nothing in sight. When we wanted a few people to go about the Province and explain how better should be made, did we go to the School of Agriculture at Truro and draw upon the students there, and send out graduates of that school? We did not. Why? Because we had not any such students. We had

expended our money but we had nothing to show for it; and we had to send to Ontario and bring down two or three estimable young women to go about and do the work. That is what happened about the School of Agriculture. Nothing more will come out of the College unless the Government realizes its duty and applies common sense to its administration in the future."

In 1907 we again heard from him:— (page 20)

"He was not going to talk much about this Agricultural College. He had heard the very same predictions and the very same fulsome praise with respect to an institution that was now dead and buried, called the School of Agriculture. We had been told that it was doing magnificent things for the farmers of Nova Scotia, but so far as the naked eye could discern it never did anything, and it went out of sight. In its place was written the new name 'college,' and thereupon we are called on to bless hon. gentlemen because they were doing such great things for the farmers. He had no guarantee that the administration of affairs with respect to this College would bear any more fruit than the ten or twelve years of wasted time, money and energy with respect to the defunct School of Agriculture."

This was an attitude of open hostility and discrimination not easily misunderstood. The only difference in his opinion was that one institution had the word "college" written over it, and the other "school," but both would prove useless. Not only did he thus express himself at different times, but he had some supporters in this House, who took a hand in the debate. One of them was the late Mr. Baillie, who said:

"If he had a boy who wanted to learn scientific farming, he thought he would spend the money that it would take to keep him there to keep him away from it, because it would actually discourage him, because from one end of it to the other, from the keeping of stock to the cultivation of the soil, there was so sign of tidiness; no sign of scientific keeping of stock. The only thing that could be said was that it had grown from a school to a college, and we were told to hope that it would be a great benefit to the farmer in the future."

He quoted these statements of the hon. gentleman and of the late Mr. Baillie as indicating the attitude which his hon. friends occupied with regard to this institution. Conditions were not the same, the administration had gone on developing and improving, and the institution had obtained a firm hold upon the sympathies and interests of the people of this Province.

MR. TANNER said that it was criticism from his side of the House that caused the Government to improve it.

MR. FAULKNER said it was very encouraging criticism indeed.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was a bit curious to know what particular thing the hon. gentleman had pointed out as necessary to improve it?

MR. TANNER said all he had to do was to read these debates and he would find numerous suggestions.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said it was the quintessence of courage for any person to give an opinion in these words: "He was firmly of the opinion that the whole question of agricultural administration must be revolutionized to benefit the farmers of the Province." When did the revolution take place? Has anyone ever heard of any such necessary revolution led by the hon. gentleman? Never!

MR. TANNER said that the point that he mentioned the other night, that it was not a good thing to centralize all educational energies, and that was being demonstrated by the fact that these local schools were being established.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that was only one step in the agricultural and educational system of every country and was brought about by normal conditions, not revolution. That was entirely beside the question. That was a very general criticism that might be made by any person.

MR. TANNER said that his hon. friend would remember that suggestions from this side resulted in saving the herds on the farm.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that was not so. He would give him all the honor due, but he was just trying to get the hon. gentleman to be a little more specific as to what particular thing he suggested to the Department of Agriculture that led to any practical results and he had not yet given any direct answer. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted it recorded that when his hon. friend was asked what suggestions he had made in that respect, he had to remain silent. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had been listening for ten years now for a suggestion from the hon. gentleman and has yet to hear one.

FEDERAL AID.

As to the Agricultural Aid (Federal) as already stated, he concurred very largely in what had been said with reference to that matter, and he had only this observation to make, that occupying the position which he did, he had taken the opportunity on more than one occasion to express his very great satisfaction to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and to the Department of Agriculture for the very generous assistance given to Agriculture in the various Provinces. There had been no effort on the part of any member of the Government to discount or minimize the advantages which that expenditure had brought to the various Provinces. But the hon. gentleman was hardly justified in trying to create some political capital out of that matter. It was not a matter of Provincial patronage, it was not a matter with which this Province had ever assumed the responsibility of interfering. In connection with the new Science Building at Truro, we had erected a building which was a credit to the Province. The hon. gentleman referred to the loan from the Eastern Trust Company. When the matter of the loan was arranged the whole thing was discussed fully with the Federal representatives and the members of the Department of Agriculture, and whatever was done in arranging for this temporary loan of \$100,000, or whatever the amount might finally be, it was all done with the cognizance, consent and approval of those who represented the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. It was a temporary arrangement only, and all agreed the same for the time being. It was at a time when it was with a great deal of difficulty, you could borrow money in such small amounts to better advantage; but the hon. gentlemen must recognize, that the Province of Nova Scotia, up to this moment, was responsible for the repayment of that loan for this building. There was an understanding that the interest on the money and a small amount for a sinking fund, would be taken

out of the Agricultural Aid Fund annually, and eventually, if that fund continued, the whole amount would be paid off, but in the meantime the Province was responsible. The hon. gentleman talked about this policy being beneficent. It must be remembered, however, that Agriculture was one of the things over which both the Federal and Provincial Governments had concurrent jurisdiction, and the Federal authorities had the same rights and responsibilities. In fact, there was a greater responsibility on the Federal authorities to assist in this matter of Federal aid, particularly along the lines of education, than on any of the Provinces. The action of the Conservative Party on this question was only carrying out a program formulated by their predecessors, it could not be abandoned, and whatever party was in power the Provinces could not afford to recede one iota from their present position that this aid must be continued. On the contrary, they should press for an additional grant. And when we heard this talk about this beneficent policy, it was as well to remember that this money was not manna from heaven—not mere gratuities—it was the money of the taxpayers of this Province. There was no Province that paid more pro rata into the Exchequer and received less in return than the Province of Nova Scotia. We paid heavy rates in customs and other taxes. He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not want any person to say that we took the slightest exception to, but we endorsed and commended the attitude which the Minister of Agriculture had taken upon this important subject. It only emphasized again the contention of the Liberals and what he had already said, that in some form or other the Federal Government must recognize that further financial aid to the Provinces is necessary.

FARM SETTLEMENT ACT AND HOLLANDERS.

Now he wanted to deal with the question of the Farm Settlement Act as a part of our Immigration policy which had been most severely attacked, not only by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tanner) but by other members on the opposite side. Perhaps he did not follow the argument of his hon. friend on this question, but if he did he thought he would be justified in saying without doing that hon. gentleman any injustice, that in his treatment of this question he was equally as inconsistent as in connection with some of his other arguments. The records of the House would show that the hon. gentleman strongly endorsed the policy the Government were adopting when they amended the Farm Settlement Act in 1913, extending its provisions so as to cover the very cases about which the hon. gentleman now had so much concern. At that time he never said a word in opposition to this further extension of the principle of the Act. The hon. gentleman complained that we in this Legislature were the followers of Ontario in connection with their Farm Settlement programme. It was Nova Scotia that led. We were not mere copiers or followers. The hon. gentleman had quoted some facts which showed that he was in utter ignorance of the Act itself or had entirely misunderstood the statement of accounts.

Some hon. gentlemen opposite argued that the Act was to be condemned because it was intended wholly to aid foreigners. That was not the intention of the Act because it was open to our own people to the same extent that it was open to foreigners. The preamble of the Act

of 1912 read: "Whereas, it is desirable that agricultural settlement should be further promoted in this Province, and that facilities should be afforded whereby settlers will be encouraged to purchase or acquire for themselves farm holdings." And it then went on to say, "And, whereas, there are in the British Isles and elsewhere, many men with practical experience in farming who might be induced with advantage both to themselves and to the Province to settle in Nova Scotia, or to return to this Province if previously resident here, provided facilities are available that will assist them in the purchase of farm land and buildings by way of loans or mortgages."

There was nothing in the Act to exclude young men who were natives of the Province and had gone abroad and desired to return here and take up land for farming purposes. As a matter of fact, of the 47 loans made 23 were to natives of the Province. The Dutch settlers referred to were brought here by reason of a special effort made by an officer of the Immigration Department because it was admitted that the Dutch were perhaps the best intensive farmers in the world, and it would be most desirable to have some of them in the Province. Strenuous efforts were made to get them here for that reason; and it was felt that if we succeeded in bringing a number of these people into the country they would form a valuable addition to our farming population. This was the policy that was being adopted by all progressive governments where immigration was found, and it was the policy that every Province in Canada was aiming to carry out. His hon. friend said that these people who were brought out and taken to Hants County were paupers. What the Government did was to bring these people to Nova Scotia on the distinct understanding with the Holland authorities that we would secure farms for them and provide them with what was absolutely necessary to start them. They arrived later in the season than was expected, in consequence of which supplies had to be furnished to tide them over the fall and winter. In pursuance of this understanding the Government purchased the properties at prices which defied criticism and the Government held the deeds of the properties. Further they held security on the live stock and other personal property furnished these settlers—all of which, including the farms, were to be repaid for from their earnings.

The hon. member argued that the Government was making itself liable for an expenditure that would run into the millions. He made this assertion knowing that the very provisions of the Act he was discussing placed the maximum amount of expenditure not to exceed \$200,000.

The hon. gentleman read the various items of expenditure made by the Government in connection with the bringing of these immigrants to the Province, and he confused the issue by mixing the cost of immigration and industries generally, with the special items chargeable against investments under the Farm Settlement Act. As a matter of fact, and as the public account will show, there was expended out of capital for purchasing the farms and bringing these settlers to Nova Scotia, in

1914	\$16,852.00
In 1915	28,066.00

A total of.....\$44,918.00

This was the entire expenditure. Now, every dollar of this total expenditure or liability was offset by securities which the Province held. These securities consisted of the farms upon which these settlers had been placed, and upon all their personal property, implements, etc., which had been furnished by the Government. So that as a matter of fact, this particular investment was amply secured to the Province, and for every dollar of the \$44,918.00 there was at the least a good dollar to offset it in the nature of the securities which the Province held. Our policy had been to procure farmers with some capital, but difficulties were encountered and suspicion aroused that made this impossible. The next best thing was done, the chief object being to introduce this type of farmer to the Province and see if he could succeed.

With any reasonable success on the part of these farmers every dollar of that money with interest would be returned to the Province. These men were succeeding, and they had good properties, which they were improving and increasing their value. If his hon. friend would go to the County of Hants he (Hon. Mr. A.) could refer him to gentlemen who were not supporters of the Government, and he ventured to say that he would not venture to say in Maitland, in the County of Hants, that these men were paupers and that the Government was entering upon a carnival of expenditure in bringing them here. The people were succeeding, and if they did succeed all honor to the Government for bringing them here. There was no reason why they should not succeed and their prospects were good, and they were establishing a reputation for the Province that would prove a good example to their fellow laborers.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) admitted that the Government were to a certain extent making an experiment when they went to Holland and brought over these people to take up land here, and even if they did not get back every dollar that they expended, if these people proved a success, it would mean more for the development of the Province through the bringing in of this class of immigrants than anything else that we could do. If they succeeded they would be followed by others who would have capital, and who would be of a most desirable class. In respect to the character of the people who had already been brought in and who were referred to by the hon. member as paupers, he (Hon. Mr. A.) had here a letter from Hants County addressed to Mr. Cutten of the Immigration Department:

Bay View Creamery Company, Limited.

Sterling Brok, Hants County, N. S.,
February 5th, 1916.

A. H. Cutten, Esq.,
Truro, N. S.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find statement of cream received from the seven Dutchmen here from May 13 to December 31, 1915. I have given you the number of patrons and total pounds of cream received so that you will be able to get the proportion of cream supplied by the Hollanders. We must say that we regard these people as our best patrons for they

seem to be able to get more out of the cow than a great many of our own people can do. They are good citizens and we would be glad to have more of them.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Bay View Creamery Co., Ltd.,
B. H. Power, Secretary.

He had other letters to the same effect from local persons with intimate knowledge, all referring to them as good citizens. And yet the hon. gentleman indulges in scurilous remarks cheap enough to be bandied about in a country Sabbath house, but ill-becoming one who poses as a statesman. It was unfair to denounce people of this class as "paupers" as being "planted" by the Government! It was true that they were not possessed of fortunes, and they came here on that understanding; but it was unfair to call them paupers and wards of the Government, when the Government were endeavouring to build up a policy that would be to the advantage of the Province.

MR. TANNER asked at the same rate of expenditure that had been made for these people, how many would the Hon. Commissioner of Works and Mines undertake to bring here?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said they would be brought to the extent of the Act and no farther. Every dollar of the expenditure was secured.

MR. TANNER said he would like his hon. friend to explain why it was necessary to buy groceries and supplies.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had explained that already. His hon. friend was crawling down now from \$4,000,000 to \$1,800.

MR. TANNER said his argument was that if the Government went on in the same way and brought in 1,000 families it would cost the Province \$4,000,000.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said the hon. gentleman should discuss the Act and not "ifs." It was admitted that the properties purchased for these settlers were without exception worth more than they were when they went on them and that they were purchased at conservative prices. Section 2 of Chapter 56 of the Acts of 1913 was authority for every item of the expenditure of \$1800 referred to by the hon. leader of the Opposition last night, and about which he was so much worried and concerned. There had been no extravagance and there had been no waste in connection with it. And he ventured to say that in ten years' time with ordinary success these men will have repaid a large part or all of the advances made to them. In the meantime the security held by the Province was ample to protect it against loss, and was yearly increasing and earning money.

MR. TANNER said that was what the hon. member said about the Halifax and South Western Railway.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said his hon. friend had prophesied a lot about that road that had never come true.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that the money expended in connection with the bringing in of the Dutch settlers was expended under statutory authority, and that when the amendment of 1913 to the Act of 1912 was submitted to the House not a member of the Opposition raised his voice in protest.

Now, as he said, the hon. gentleman had placed himself on record as sympathetic with this whole idea. In the Debates of 1914, at page 901, a statement by him would be found to the following effect:—

HON. MR. MURRAY said that a number of farms had been bought at a low rate from people who had no further use for them, and carefully selected men were being put upon them. Some crops had been put in in order to give the settlers a fair chance. The people referred to had no money for investment, but had enough for their personal requirements.

MR. TANNER said he thought it was a practical way of dealing with the subject. Yet last night he ridiculed the thing as a carnival of extravagance.

MR. BUTTS said the subject was one that all members of the House were fairly well agreed about. He had been informed that in the fine agricultural sections of Bailey's Brook and Lismore, every fourth farm was vacant. The honorable leader of the Government would require commendation if he could extend his policy, so as to fill, as far as possible, the vacant farms in Nova Scotia.

MR. CORNING thought that the policy might be carried so as to enable young men, belonging to our own Province, to stay on the farm."

That was the policy—the very fundamentals of the Act which dealt with this matter. Now let his hon. friend take cognizance of another extract, and see how this conforms to the attitude he took last night. He said in the Debates of 1913 at page 271:—

" . . . Assuming we wanted farmers in Nova Scotia, he would say that a practical business-like Government would do this. They would select a number of farms, that they believed would be profitable to work,—might be ten, might be one hundred,—and the next step would be to get the right men to put on those farms, and it would pay this Province far better to spend its money in going to the Old Country and picking out one hundred reliable and progressive farmers and putting them on these farms than spending twenty-five thousand dollars in newspaper advertising, and paying bonuses to organizations.

"This was his (Mr. T.'s) idea of immigration in this Province with respect to settlers on the land. This was the first thing that we should devote our time and money to—to get people on the land AND TO ASSIST THEM TO STAY ON THE LAND. In one of the reports of the Secretary of Industries he pointed out the same thing, saying:—

"It is absolutely essential that some scheme of settlement should be inaugurated for the placing of farmers on our lands, men who have not sufficient capital to purchase outright a farm of their own, and to whom a little assistance is all that is necessary to make them permanent settlers. I trust that at this session of the Legislature a Bill will be introduced which will carry into effect in some form or other the provisions of the farm settlement scheme proposed."

"In saying this the Secretary struck the keynote to the situation. THE THING TO BE DONE WAS TO GET THE FARMER ON THE LAND. LET US EXPEND OUR MONEY IF NECESSARY TO DO THAT AND LET US DO A DEFINITE, POSITIVE PART OF THE WORK INSTEAD OF THIS INDISCRIMINATE MISCELLANEOUS WORK. He (Mr. T.) would not enlarge on this further than to say it was to enable hon. gentlemen opposite to distinguish between the policy which they had been carrying on and the policy that they should have been carrying on.

"In the prosecution of our immigration policy it was only necessary to apply ordinary business principles and ordinary business policy. If the settlement of farmers upon our lands were entrusted to a private company did any one think they would adopt the methods that had been adopted by the Government? IT WOULD ACQUIRE LANDS, IT WOULD KNOW WHERE IT COULD PUT THE SETTLERS AND WHERE THEY COULD HAVE A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF MAKING A GOOD LIVING. IT WOULD THEN GO TO ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND OR THE CONTINENT AND PICK OUT SUITABLE MEN AND BRING THEM OUT AND PUT THEM ON THE FARMS. That was what a business-like company would do and that was the kind of business that this Government had not been carrying on because it was not a business-like Government."

MR. TANNER said that one hundred was the number he mentioned.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG asked if his hon. friend limited it to a hundred? Was that now his only objection? He thought himself a hundred would be better than to have less, but he preferred to see twelve men from Holland come to Hants County and settle on the vacant farms and then write letters to the people back home, telling them this was God's country, and that was what they would do, unless disturbed by the agitation of hon. gentlemen opposite, than stand aside and do nothing but complain. The Federal agent of the Immigration Department was against our plans, and the Holland Government only allowed these people to come across on the strict understanding that they would be taken care of as we have done. If these people were successful, we would have the hundred there, make no mistake. Let me repeat the hon. gentleman's language:—

"This was his (Mr. T.'s) idea of immigration in this Province with respect to settlers on the land. This was the first thing we should devote our time and money to—to get people on the land and to assist them to stay on the land."

Yet last night in the most scurrilous way, he tried to ridicule and create some merriment amongst the members of his own House at the expense of these people who were endeavoring to become decent citizens of this country, and he quotes with approval Mr. Barnstead's report wherein he recommends as absolutely essential that some scheme of settlement should be inaugurated for the placing of farmers on our lands, men who have not sufficient capital and to whom assistance will be necessary.

Now the very idea of the Secretary was adopted by the hon. gentleman and made part of his speech. Now what was the comment of the hon. leader of the Opposition on this paragraph: "Mr. Barnstead had struck the keynote to the situation—the thing to be done was to get farmers on the land. Expend money to do that, etc., etc."

The very thing that had been done, and yet his hon. friends condemned the policy and said there were no results commensurate with the

expenditure. Fortunately we had decided on this policy before he gave his advice, but it was nice to refer to these favorable benedictions of the hon. gentleman:—"That was what a business-like company would do and that was the kind of business this Government had not been carrying on because it was not a business-like Government."

MR. TANNER asked if the hon. gentleman would kindly see that these extracts were published.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said they had been published but could be published again. Hon. gentlemen either did not understand the true nature which had been given under this Farm Settlement Act, or, if they did, they had entirely misapprehended the matter in placing the facts before the House. He had pointed out that so far as this Holland settlement in Hants, they had been brought out as an experiment, the Government had purchased these farms, held the title, and held security on all the live stock and property belonging to them. They were improving these farms, and our best reports were that they were making a success. At any rate, a large majority of them would make a substantial success in improving them. He would go further and say that the only capital expenditure charged against the Province was in connection with these settlers during the two years mentioned, and for that expenditure the Province held ample security. The account might very properly be balanced showing a cross entry of assets equal to the capital expenditure. The policy of the Government was a sound one, and one in regard to immigration which was being adopted by New Brunswick, Ontario and the other Provinces. He was instructed that the Province of New Brunswick proposed to borrow one million dollars on a scheme of this kind. They went to the same extent as we in connection with these Dutch settlers. Ontario proposed to buy farms for settlers, give them assistance, and purchase live stock.

House adjourned.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that when the House rose he had practically concluded his discussion of the Farm Settlement Act, and he only proposed to return to it for a moment for the purpose of adding one or two remarks that he had intended to make. The hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Douglas) wanted to know about the German settlers on the Mira River, Cape Breton. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was not familiar with the facts at the moment, but he found that the matter was dealt with in respect last year of the Secretary for Industries and Immigration on pages 19 and 20 of his report. In that report it was said:

"We assisted certain Austrian settlers at Mira in the spring to buy seeds and fertilizers. I visited these people on two or three occasions and found them doing fairly well, contented and happy with their lot. We did not look for any great results from them for some years. The farms have been very badly cultivated for generations and need to be renovated and built up. To do this properly means that stock must be kept in increased numbers from year to year until a better body is put into the land. Such a method together with the ground they intended clearing from the swamps, which contains a good amount of virgin soil, would enable them to become fairly well-to-do. To accomplish this it was expected that these men would derive a regular income or maintenance from the pit timber cut from the lands they cleared and from work-

ing at odd times in the coal mines (their old trade). Owing to the reduction of work in all the collieries and the closing down of the Broughton mines these men are not now able to obtain any work there or sell their pit timber. Much of the timber cut last winter and this spring is still lying on the banks of the Mira River and cannot be converted into the necessary cash.

"This is causing very serious inconvenience to these families and has thwarted our aim, which was to repeople the vacant lands of the Mira by men who understand living close to nature. While we exercised great care in selecting these men, disappointments will always occur in a scheme of this kind. Two men who held their positions in the mines and allowed the women to do the major portion of the farming are financially all right."

This settlement was the result of intervention on the part of the Rev. Mr. Kinsale, a Presbyterian clergyman, who was interested in these people who had been farmers in their homeland. It was for these reasons that arrangements were made to enable these people to take advantage of the Act. While they had not much capital they had enough to pay their initial twelve per cent. under the Act. The loans were all made during the summer of 1913 and before the outbreak of the war, and the properties were regarded by the loan company as ample security for the balance of the advance. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was informed that these people were doing well and his advices were that they were making a success on the farms they had secured. He had no further information as to the present condition of the people, but he was informed that they were inspected not long since and there was then no indication that they were not likely to succeed. It was probable that this settlement would lead to others of the same character. These were the facts so far as the settlers at Mira were concerned, and they were in striking contrast to the efforts carried on by the Militia Department for the establishment of soup kitchens and relief stations for the support of other aliens under the administration of the Federal Government in the same County.

THOSE HARDWOOD FLOORS.

There was only one matter, to which he wished to refer briefly, and that was to the very serious matter to which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had called attention, although he ((Hon. Mr. A.) did not think he was the originator of the issue, if it was worthy of that name. The hon. gentlem. had secured information and he (Hon. Mr. A.) assumed that he considered it valuable, because he delivered it in oratorical tones, and in a tragic attitude to the effect that the Government had provided these Dutch settlers, against whom he seems to have a grudge, with hardwood floors for their houses and that they were permitting their poor innocent hens to use them. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted to disarm his fears by assuring him that there was absolutely no truth in the statement that the Government had placed hardwood floors in the houses of the people, and as far as the hens were concerned, they pleaded "not guilty." He did not know why a thing of this petty character should be made a matter of public concern, and discussions. Yet it had been made so. If there were hardwood floors, and the hens were trespassing upon them, there should be a Commission appointed to investigate the matter and let them inquire

whether there were hardwood floors, and if so, whether the hens were trespassing upon them, and whether if there were hardwood floors they should not be protected by taking the brass fenders, of which we heard so much, from the Technical College to protect them against the hens. The only hardwood floors, if any, were those in the house, when purchased by the Government. The general principle which was being followed with regard to the settlement of these lands was laid down in the Farm Settlement Act. It must be apparent that if the Province was to take its place and reap the advantages of an immigration policy, and to stand side by side with the other Provinces of the Dominion, some special provision must be made. We had not in the Province large tracts of unoccupied farm lands, such as they had in the Western Provinces, and which were attractive to those looking for cheap land. Therefore, if the Province of New Brunswick and the older parts of Ontario and the Province of Nova Scotia could do anything along the lines of inducing immigrants to settle upon these vacant farms, or could induce our own people to settle on these lands, they must do it under some special policy adopted for that purpose. That is what we were doing, and all the Act contemplated.

VOLUNTEER WORK DEPT. INDUSTRIES.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition made some caustic observations about the work that was being accomplished by the Department of Industries and Immigration, and said that the work that the Department was doing for the Patriotic Fund, and for other funds, was no excuse for the expenditure of the money that the department cost. When that charge was made it was without foundation, because he (Hon. Mr. A.) had the data here to show that in every other Province of Canada the work of these committees was centralised, and a Secretary was paid, either by the Province or by the City, in which the work was being carried on. In the Province of Nova Scotia we had had the benefit of the services of the Secretary for Industries and Immigration and his staff since the fund was organized. Not only had he attended to the work of the committee and kept it up to date, but he had acted as agent for Belgian Relief Fund. In every other Province of Canada these services were paid for, and it could not have been done here unless some one were paid to do it. If it were not that the services of the Secretary for Industries and Immigration and his staff were available, an expensive central office would have to be maintained. In the Province, as far as these funds were concerned, the work of administration had not cost a dollar. The entire cost of the work had been borne by the Province, and the work had been efficiently attended to by the Secretary of the Department. This was indirect contribution of the Province to further these very worthy causes—but at no cost to the various Funds.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Now he wanted to deal for a moment with the subject of technical education. One thing was clear, as far as the members of the Opposition was concerned, and that was that they were absolutely opposed to the Technical College and its maintenance. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted to say that when the members of the Opposition placed themselves in

opposition to the principle of maintaining the Technical College as a part of our system of technical education, they proclaimed themselves as in opposition to every advanced educationist, as opposed to Boards of Trade, as opposed to the Mining Society, and as opposed, possibly, to every collegiate institution which took any interest in higher education. When this policy was adopted it was recognized that it was necessary in order to put the Province in the position which it was entitled to occupy as a Province largely interested in industrial development. If this Province was to hold its own it was felt that it was necessary to take some advanced step in the matter of vocational training. Hence, when the idea of the Technical College was advanced it was indorsed by all the bodies that he had enumerated. The Province of Nova Scotia was different from other Provinces. In the Province of Ontario the Government contributed a substantial amount towards the support of the universities. In the Province of New Brunswick a large amount of public money was contributed for the same purpose. In nearly every Province of the West, liberal contributions were made out of public moneys for the up-keep of the universities. In this Province, outside of a small contribution towards the support of the Medical College, we did nothing of that kind. We had here a number of denominational colleges, such as King's, at Windsor; Acadia, at Wolfville; St. Francis Xavier, at Antigonish; Mount Allison, at Sackville, and Dalhousie at Halifax, all of which were supported independent of any Government aid. The Presidents and the Governing Boards of these different colleges were ambitious that something should be done along the lines of advanced scientific courses which they could not undertake. One of them had opened a mining school in Sydney. It had not proved a success. There was a consensus of opinion among them that the first two years of a higher technical course could be undertaken by the colleges and that what was needed beyond this was the establishment of a college to which students could go for their final two years course, and which would have the power to confer degrees, and which would compare favourably with similar schools or colleges in Montreal, in Kingston or in Massachusetts to which many students had gone in the past. This was the idea with which the Technical College was established.

MR. O'BRIEN asked whether there was any understanding between the Government and the colleges, that the Technical College would not be erected in the City of Halifax, or in any place where a college was situated?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was not aware of any such understanding, but if there was, it would not alter the force of the argument that, it was with the practical concurrence and co-operation of all the colleges, the decision was reached by this Government, that this college should be established to carry on the higher work of technical education. This work, as he stated, was to be conducted in co-operation with the other colleges in Nova Scotia, and students who had completed the two years of preliminary study at any of these institutions could complete their course at the Technical College.

In his (Hon. Mr. A.'s.) opinion, so far as the Province of Nova Scotia was concerned, while this idea might be an ambitious one, no

system of technical education could be successfully carried out unless we had at its head such an institution as the Technical College. Up to the time that the Technical College was organized, we had in the Province Mining Schools; but it would be admitted that since the establishment of the Technical College their courses had been put upon a more practical basis, and even though there might not be a student in attendance at the Technical College for the next two or three years, it must be admitted that we could not have a thorough and effective system of technical training in the Province unless we had the guiding influence of the college to make the work more effective.

That was the distinction between the situation in the Province of Nova Scotia and the other Provinces to which he had alluded. And it was not an answer to say, that other Provinces were not doing the work along the same lines as we are, because the real reason the Technical College was decided upon in this Province was that we did not have the same opportunities for completing those scientific courses which some of the Provinces having their State Universities had. The March number of the Labor Gazette, under his hand, refers to the subject of technical education in Quebec most cordially. We talked about cost. If there was one thing more than another we could afford to pay even more for, it was technical education, and of the most advanced character. He was surprised to hear hon. gentlemen sometimes suggest that this college was an expensive luxury, because the total cost last year was \$25,000. Strictly it was not that because that amount included certain charges only incidentally associated with the College proper. The article to which he had referred as to the cost of Technical Colleges in Quebec, said: "The cost of buildings, furnishing, and plant at Montreal was \$636,187.30."

That was not strictly a college, but one of the local training schools, probably taking the place of apprenticeship.

"At Quebec it cost \$405,309.00. Continuing, the article said:

"The Government has paid out for the maintenance and other expenses of the Montreal school, \$228,000, and for Quebec \$197,411. Expenditures on account of the schools at Shawinigan Falls, Sherbrooke and Beauceville have been \$12,500, \$8,000 and \$3,000 respectively."

You will see, therefore, that other Provinces are expending liberal amounts in this direction.

We made far too much of the fact that twenty-five thousand dollars annually was expended upon technical education in the college. In other Provinces, with no greater ambitions than ourselves, with no greater latitude for expenditures, they were contributing very liberally to this important matter. It was an unfair argument to say that the Technical College at Halifax was designed for the favored few. Take the list of those who had graduated. There was no justification to classify them as a "favored few." He had in mind one student, from his own County, a graduate who worked his way through, taking advantage of the scholarships the Province gave him, and today that young man occupied a responsible and profitable situation in connection with the Western Union Telegraph Co. That young man could have afforded to have gone into debt to the extent of twenty thousand dollars, if he were able to get the credit and pay interest on it, for the advantages

which accrued to him as the result of his training in the Technical College at Halifax, rather than not possess these advantages. We should not ask our ambitious young men with limited means to do this; but we should give them this technical training at the lowest cost, as at our Technical College, where the course would compare very favorably with that given at any similar institution on this side of the water. The argument about educating the "favored few" was fallacious and dangerous. He had heard people argue in incorporated towns that they should not be taxed to support high schools. They said why should a few high school pupils be supported by the great majority of the people? The argument was narrow and fallacious, and not a credit to those who used it. It was an argument against any collegiate training in this country, for while necessary, it is obvious that but few will avail themselves of it. The same argument might be applied to any of the colleges of the country. Why not take all this money and spend it on the Common Schools, because there are more pupils in these schools? Why should the parents of a young man make sacrifices to afford their son such education? Now it was sometimes said, and had been urged on the other side, during the course of this debate, that there were very few graduates from the Technical College. Considering the age of the institution and all the circumstances, attendance at this College would compare favorably with any other college of equal age. He had looked up the Calendars of Dalhousie College, and he found that, though established in 1820, in the year 1866 it had only two graduates, and yet hon. gentlemen opposite said that because we had only 32 students in the Technical College, after an existence of 5 or 6 years, it was for the "favored few." Dalhousie in 1867 had 9 graduates; in '68, 6; in '69, 5; in '70, 4; in '71, 3; in '72, 10; in '73, 10. If you investigated other colleges you would find, for the same age, that the number of graduates from the Technical College was fully as large as in the case of any of the others. He had said before that the Technical College had justified its existence. Even if the students had not attended, or the attendance at present was small, it would have paid its way. At the present time the staff was assisting in night schools, and giving short courses at the College.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) had recently had the pleasure of attending the closing exercises of one of these courses. There were some 20 or 25 bright, energetic young men who had completed the course and received the necessary certificate from the College. They were from various parts of the Province, chiefly industrial centres. Some of them had attended at considerable sacrifice and cost, but all admitted the very great benefits they would receive from even this course. It could not be undertaken elsewhere in this Province as effectively as at the College—with its trained staff of experts as teachers and its equipment. These young men would be reluctant to admit the truth of statements made by the hon. gentlemen opposite, that the College was for the "favored few," that it was a "white elephant," was useless, and gave no results. Every one of them on going out would be a splendid advertising medium as to the benefits the College had afforded to young men ambitious to succeed. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was surprised

at the antagonism of hon. gentlemen opposite to the Technical College. He had in mind many scientific and successful researches, made in the laboratory of the College, that were of incalculable value to the Province. One in particular had reference to the use of electricity in the mines of this Province. He had no doubt the value of these tests had very materially assisted the Commission in determining this inquiry when reporting on that question as they did. It might have cost us thousands of dollars to get the same researches and tests made abroad. They came to Halifax, made these tests under proper conditions. That alone showed what the College was doing, and was equipped to do, for scientific research work. We could afford to pay liberally, even if few pupils entered the College. We frequently had gasses from the various collieries tested there as accurately as it could be done in any laboratory in Canada. These tests were necessary and important. These were things the ordinary public did not know. The country at large should know that this institution—apart from the fact that a certain limited number of students took the course each year, was doing a very great deal of practical work. There was also the testing of minerals. That was worth a great deal to this Province in the development and progress it was making in our valuable mining industry. Other things might also be referred to, all assisting in the development of our various industrial activities. At the present time the Principal and staff of that institution were working on a very carefully thought out correspondence course for the Province, soon to be made public. He had no doubt that hundreds, perhaps thousands of dollars went out of the Province every year to correspondence schools. This would effect a much needed reform; but without a central college well equipped it would be impossible. He thought he had said enough to indicate that, apart from the cost of \$25,000, we were getting results in connection with that institution that the public was not aware of, and would appreciate when attention was called to them. It was not always a full or a satisfactory answer to a question of this kind to say that the graduates went out of the Province. In this Province, and in other Provinces, the graduates of our colleges find their way to other countries. We had some big men in this Province, and it stood to the credit of Nova Scotia, along educational lines, that the product of our educational institutions were big men who did not take the narrow and contracted view of the conditions of affairs that the Conservative party did. They have not all remained with us. Look at Professor Schurman, of Cornell, a product of our colleges, as against the assertion that we did not get any results from higher education. Take the late Professor J. G. McGregor, who had won a world-wide reputation as a teacher and a scholar, the product of our colleges. Look at President Falconer, of the Toronto University. Hill, from Onslow, Colchester County, who had gone to the Western States, another product of our schools, an honor and credit to the Province; Murray, of McGill, and Murray, of Saskatchewan; Tory, of Alberta University, all young men, but to-day making their mark; Creighton, of Cornell, all men who stood in the educational world without their equals, and who had carried the fame and reputation of our Bluenose Province, **not only**

throughout Canada and the United States, but beyond. These were results and we should be proud of them. It was not for him (Hon. Mr. A.) to preach to his hon. friends opposite, but they should cast away these narrow ideas. They were not consistent with the aspirations and ambitions of the people of this Province, and he would regret, and he doubted if the gentlemen who occupied seats opposite should come into power, that they would depart one iota from the policy of this Government in the maintenance and support of the Technical College. We should not play the part of little Nova Scotians. Some hon. members might have noticed recently an interview with Sir William Osler, a distinguished Canadian, which he would commend to the careful consideration of those who are opposed to higher technical education—The Technical College.

“Your greatest opportunity lies in teaching to yourselves the lesson which Germany so successfully has learned—the wisdom of linking up the best of scientific knowledge with the practical tasks of life.

“No reason in the world exists why you should not produce your own dyes, but you cannot do this, or many other things which easily might be within your reach, until you have begun to do what Germany has done—develop real technicians of the highest order. There are great rewards in store for such an effort, for the individual as well as the State. Scarcely a great business enterprise exists in Germany which does not pay its scientific experts higher salaries than American professors get. The best investment Germany has made has been of money in the brains of scientists. It has returned to her a million-fold.

“If we compare the days of civilization with the total of the days since we have been on earth, we find we are contemporaries of the Pharaohs, and man has been a fighting creature all that time!

“But only within our day have we really begun to penetrate the secrets of old mother Nature. See what has happened in the memory of the present generation! May we not, therefore hope? Must we not admit that notwithstanding the great war humanity's real outlook never was so bright?”

Now these were eloquent and encouraging words and they pointed out to this Government, as they did to other Governments, that along these lines there was nothing but the best to be considered; and that technical training could not be overtaken in this Province, as it had been in Germany, unless we had a technical college established on the lines on which the College was established in this Province. We are doing our bit, but we must do it well.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) would regret to see any Government in this Province place itself on record as opposed to the Technical College. It was said that the matter was one that the Dominion Government should take up and he (Hon. Mr. A.) quite agreed that before many years the Dominion Government would become convinced that it would be necessary to adopt some system of technical training along national lines, because it was a national problem. But we could not escape the conclusion that we must have central authority to carry out such a system successfully. This matter was not new. In 1909 or 1910, it was his privilege to lay the matter before this Legislature, in an address strongly

advocating this policy. He thought that the day would come to pass when the ambitions of our people would be fully realised, and that through some turn of events the Dominion Treasury would come to the support of the Province and co-operate with us in this work in response to our legitimate ambitions. He was encouraged to make this statement, and it supported his own ideas, from the recent remarks of the Hon. Mr. Rogers, made in the House of Commons, when he said, during a debate on this very subject:

"We are giving the question today the most careful consideration, and under normal conditions we would be coming down to this House with a recommendation for a large sum to assist technical education in the various Provinces. In view of this I trust that my hon. friend will not press his resolution, but that he will accept the statement that the Minister of Labour has made today, and the assurance which I add, that this Government acknowledge the principle and that we will at the earliest possible moment lend such assistance as we can in the public interest to the furtherance of the cause of technical education in the Provinces of Canada."

PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRINCIPAL SEXTON.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) was surprised to find his hon. friend making some unkind references to the Principal of the Technical College. He said that the Premier of the Province had been misled by this man, who had no sense of proportion and he denounced the whole system referring to the College, devised by Principal Sexton, as a stupendous error. He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not think that this language did the Hon. Leader of the Opposition much credit. If there was one man whom he (Hon. Mr. A.) regarded as an expert in connection with this subject, it was Principal Sexton. And notwithstanding the fact that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition gave utterance to these expressions, he should know that in all Canada, when the Federal authorities were looking for a man to map out a course of vocational re-training for returned soldiers, they adopted that outlined by Principal Sexton, of the Technical College, Halifax, and he was now engaged by the Dominion Government in effecting the scheme. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had taken occasion to refer to the attitude of hon. gentlemen opposite on some of these matters and he said that they were so circuitous in their attitude in respect to various questions, that a corkscrew was the only instrument by which you could follow them. He had here an article from the "Halifax Herald" which he would commend to their consideration, as taking issue with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in respect to the character and reputation of Principal Sexton. If his hon. friends opposite would turn to the edition of the Halifax Herald of Saturday, March 2nd 1912, they would find the following under the heading:

"SPLENDID WORK BEING DONE BY PROFESSOR SEXTON FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN NOVA SCOTIA."

"Whatever may be the merits of the policy of establishing a Technical College in Nova Scotia, and whatever question may arise as to the wisdom of the detailed expenditure therefor, there should be no

question as to the fact that Frederick H. Sexton, the professor of that college, is one of Nova Scotia's most valuable assets.

"Professor Sexton was one of the first to agitate and point the way for a system of technical education in Nova Scotia, and it has been to a great extent his energy, knowledge and executive ability which have brought about the realization of the project. From the first he brought to the task the most up-to-date knowledge and methods, sparing no pains to give the work of the college auspicious beginning.

"But his energy and interest were not confined to the working out of a system of higher technical training. The practical education of those who intend to follow the ordinary trades engaged his sympathetic attention, and by his attention and personal supervision, a system of technical classes has been established in the chief centres of the Province—a system which is largely corrective and largely supplementary—enabling those who, either by fault or misfortune, left school at an early age, to make good their losses along those lines of study of most direct value to them in their present pursuits of a living. These classes are attended by hundreds of people throughout Nova Scotia, recognizing their needs, hungering for the information imparted, and warmly thankful for the opportunities thus presented. If hereafter we have better carpenters, plumbers and mechanics, as well as better dressmakers, cooks and domestics, to Professor Sexton is the praise which is due. If our merchants and business men get more efficient clerks and employees generally than heretofore, then they can thank the Sextonization of the training received, and training which is already making our common school system more efficient.

"The Province is fortunate in possessing an educationist of his ability, training, thoroughness and enthusiasm. Larger spheres and bigger salaries always await such as he elsewhere; and since we know to our sorrow how more alluring opportunities have depleted us in the past, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves in obtaining and retaining the services of this past master of his profession, whose duties are ceaseless and manifold. It is no exaggeration to say that Professor Frederick H. Sexton is one of Nova Scotia's most valuable assets."

MR. TANNER said his hon. friend was aware that Professor Sexton, like some other distinguished individuals, might write these articles and send them in himself. He had some proof in respect to other men in his hand.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that most anything "might" be. The hon. member had the reputation of writing articles in the "Herald", which were not so complimentary to the individuals at whom they were aimed.

MR. TANNER said he had taken advantage of the columns of that great paper, just as his hon. friend did the columns of the "Morning Chronicle."

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had never taken advantage of the columns of the "Morning Chronicle" unless he signed his name to what he wrote. What he had just quoted was from the editorial columns of

the "Herald." He did not care who wrote the article. It was sufficient to know that the "Herald," whose reputation seemed to demand some special boosting at the hands of the Leader of the Opposition in this House, for what reason he did not know, admitted the article to its editorial columns and sent it broadcast over the Province. The "Herald" took the responsibility of publishing the article, and whether it was subsidized or not, the article was true, and the people of the Province would agree with it. And this opinion of the "Herald" he would especially commend to the attention of that ubiquitous individual, not on the floor of this House, but whose chief function seemed to be to prepare misleading reports of its proceedings for the Opposition press.

AUTOMOBILE MONEYS.

Now he proposed to take up the matter of the expenditure of the motor vehicle road improvement fund, of which much had been said, both in this House and in the columns of the "Herald." The Hon. Leader of the Opposition wanted to know whether he (Hon. Mr. A.) believed everything that appeared in the columns of the "Herald." In reply he would say that he believed what he knew to be true, but not what he knew to be false, and a falsification of the public records.

Some comments had been made with respect to the motor vehicle money, and one would infer from the observations made in the press, as well as in this House, that the fees collected in connection with motor vehicles, were to be appropriated to the roads of the Counties in which they were collected. The Act provided that the annual fees referred to in section one of the Act of 1912, were to be paid by the Provincial Secretary to the Provincial Treasurer to the credit of a fund to be known as the "Motor Vehicle Road Improvement Fund"; and it was further provided that the money was to be expended on the repair, maintenance and improvement of such parts of the main trunk highways as were in the greatest need of such expenditure, with a view to making them more suitable for through traffic. The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Corning) said that he (Hon. Mr. A.) had been recreant to the performance of the duties that he owed to the County of Yarmouth, because he had not expended in that County all the fees paid in. He (Hon. Mr. A.) held in his hand an article from a Provincial Conservative newspaper, which was not the Halifax Herald, but a re-echo of the Herald, the Amherst News:

"The County of Yarmouth, represented by Hon. E. H. Armstrong, who has control of this fund, had its road benefitted by this fund to the extent of \$9,022.20. Cumberland drew a blank."

This referred to the expenditure in 1915.

Did his hon. friend agree with that?

MR. CORNING said certainly he did not.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said this showed the **CHARACTER OF THE NEWSPAPER WARFARE THAT WAS BEING CARRIED ON IN THIS PROVINCE TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.** Either his hon. friend was wrong, or the Amherst News was wrong. It was said that the County of Yarmouth, in the year 1914, had over \$7,000 expended

upon its roads out of the motor vehicle fund. Did his hon. friend find that in the reports?

MR. CORNING said it was not necessary for him to find any such astounding figures. He did not know where they were furnished from.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that the Conservative press did not apply to him (Hon. Mr. A. for news. Its origin, like other items, was quite apparent. Then it was said in the year 1913 the sum of \$1,164.47 was expended upon the roads of Yarmouth County, making in all about \$18,000 which the County of Yarmouth took out of that fund during three years.

MR. CORNING asked how much was expended in Yarmouth County?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said the reports showed. He was merely pointing out now the evident deliberate determination to do a gross injustice, not only to the Government, but to himself.

It had been spread broadcast throughout the Province that the County of Yarmouth had received an unfair advantage in connection with this expenditure, and that this money had been gotten up through his (Hon. Mr. A.'s.) instrumentality.

MR. CORNING said he would like to know where he could find the record in the reports of the two fees he himself had paid last year, under the Motor Vehicles Act, one of \$10.00 and another of \$5.00.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was not dealing with the Provincial Secretary's report. He was dealing with the Motor Vehicles fees expenditure. Did not his hon. friend get a receipt.

MR. CORNING said he got his receipt, but the fees were not in this book.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had no control of the making up of the Provincial Secretary's report, and was not responsible. Some two or three years ago we had some discussion in this House as to what should or should not be placed in the estimates with regard to these special road expenditures, and the decision reached was that they should be voted. First, he wanted to refer to the estimates for the present year. On page 3, this year's estimates, the following appear: "Motor Vehicle Act, balance appropriated 1915, but not paid, \$6,906.17." On page 13 would be found "Motor Vehicle Annual Fees" paid since last vote, \$21,270.15, and if they added these two items together they would find his legislative authority for the present year, as to the expenditure of that money. He took the ground when this matter was debated that as these fees were appropriated by Statute, a vote of the amount in the Estimates was not required. This view met with opposition, and did not prevail. Consequently, his right to expend was fixed by the vote of this House. This year he was entitled to \$21,270.15, and the balance unexpended last year, or a total of about \$28,000. What were the facts?

On or about the first of August next, and between then and the first of October, 1916, we will have received farther in annual fees

twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars. What the hon. gentleman opposite did was to add that possible amount to the present amount and say I had \$48,000 to expend, whereas this House fixed the amount at \$28,000. The annual fees were not payable until after August 1st of the present year, and whether or not he had the right to spend these fees, his authority was curtailed by the Estimates fixing the sum so as to shut out fees paid after August 1st, 1916. After the first of August would be too late to lay out any work. Fifteen thousand dollars of fees were paid in last year between the first of August and the first of October, and the balance would be paid subsequently. That worked out that he had today \$28,176.42, which he had a right to expend. If hon. gentlemen turned to the Journals of the House for 1915, in the Estimates they would see that we had a balance of \$3,937.17 from the previous year. We had received up to September 30th, 1914, \$11,000 odd, making a total of \$15,928.47. The report showed that to September 30th, 1915, we had expended \$9,022.00. That left a balance of \$6,000 carried forward in the estimates of this year. The hon. gentleman said that we had misappropriated this money. What he (Hon. Mr. A.) said was, and the records would justify him, that during the year 1915, he had, voted by the estimates, \$15,928.47, he expended \$9,022.20 up to September 30th, leaving this balance of \$6,609.00. Out of that there had been expended since the first of October, 1915, some \$4,000.00, and there were obligations outstanding at the time this return was filed of \$2,497.00, making a total of \$6,653.00, so that the net balance unexpended out of the total appropriation for 1915 was \$253.00, and not \$28,000, as falsely stated by the "Herald." Now he could go back over the whole history of these appropriations, and he had the figures here showing how this money had been expended each year since this policy was adopted. Take the figures given in the Halifax Herald by his hon. friend; they said that for the year 1912, \$4,500.80 was received in annual fees. That was correct, but these annual fees were not received until after the first of August, and they had to be carried forward into the next year. Take the year 1913, we received \$7,945.45. Out of that \$6,075.00 were not paid in until after the first of August. It was not voted in the estimates, and could not be. But the practice was to vote for the expenditure of each year the amount actually on hand, adding to that the unexpended balance, at the end of the previous financial year. Take the year 1915, they say we received \$21,270.00. That was correct, as shown by the returns, but the reason it was not expended was that the greater portion of that was paid in after the first of August, 1915, and it was not included in the estimates because it could not be included in the Estimates until the cash was actually in the treasury of the Province. He (Hon. Mr. A.) proposed to submit this table for the information of the public:

RE MOTOR VEHICLE FUND.

Amt. available each year since Act came into force in June, 1913:

Available year ending Sept. 30, '13—

Fees paid to Sept. 30, '12.....	\$ 4,509.80
Expended	1,164.47
	<hr/>
Bal. unexpended Sept. 30th, 1913.....	\$ 3,345.33

Available Fiscal year 1914—

Balance from 1913.....	\$ 3,345.33
Fees received to Sept. 30, '13.....(a)	7,945.95
	<hr/>
Total voted per Estimates.....	\$11,291.28
Expended	7,359.11
	<hr/>
Bal. unexpended Sept. 30th, 1914.....	\$ 3,932.17

Available Fiscal year 1915—

Bal. from Sept. 30, '14.....	\$ 3,932.17
Fees received to Sept. 30, '14.....(b)	11,996.30
	<hr/>
Total voted per Estimates.....	\$15,928.47
Expended to Sept. 30, '15.....	9,022.20
	<hr/>
Bal. unexpended Sept. 30, '15.....(c)	6,906.27
Expended since October 1, '15.....	\$4,155.45
Obligations outstanding	2,497.64
	<hr/>
	6,653.09
	<hr/>
	\$ 253.18

Available Fiscal Year, 1916—

Bal. Sept. 30, '15.....(d)	\$ 6,906.27
Fees received do.....(e)	21,270.15
	<hr/>
	\$28,176.42
Halifax Auto Association	250.00
Bal. vide Public Acct., page 340 and voted per Estimates 1916	(e) \$28,426.42

- (a) of this amt. \$ 6,075.65 was paid in after August 1, '13.
 (b) of this amt. 8,190.05 was paid in after August 1, '14
 (c) of this amt. 15,054.45 was paid in after August 1, '15.
 (d) of this amount 4,155.45 was expended since October 1, '15.
 (e) From this bal. deduct \$2,497.64 for obligations outstanding, and
 \$4,155.45, amount expended since Oct. 1, '15, \$6,653.09.

That explanation was due to the members of the House to set this matter right, in so far as expenditure of this particular fund was concerned. We had expended up to the end of the year, practically the full amount which had been voted in the Estimates to be expended.

Any accusation that this fund was not applied, as provided by law, was absolutely untrue, and the same could be said of the statement that this money was not distributed properly. This was a Provincial tax to be expended on the highways of the Province, and never intended to be applied County by County. In the second place, it was to improve highways used for motor vehicle traffic or the main highways of the Province; and in the third place, it was the settled policy of the Government, ever since the fund was created, that this money should be expended irrespective of County lines. For instance, quite a large amount of money had been expended to improve the highway between here and the Town of Windsor. Every automobilist in the Province who wanted to make a trip from Halifax to Yarmouth, through the Valley, would use that highway. And he cared not whether the motorist was from Yarmouth, or Truro, or Ectou, or Sydney, if the roads were improved, it mattered not to him one iota whether the fees were collected in his County or not. The adoption of any other policy would prevent us from making useful expenditures for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the main highways of the Province. He recalled some expenditures on an important road between Shelburne and Liverpool, and Barrington and Shelburne. He had discussed the matter with automobile friends in Yarmouth, and these gentlemen were frank enough to say that the policy was acceptable. They preferred that we improve the highway between Barrington and Shelburne, making the roads more passable, than to spend the money in Yarmouth County on roads where it was needed less. We had spent a considerable amount in Queens during the past year or two, in fact more money than they had paid in, and he would leave it to his hon. friend representing that County (Mr. Hall) our wisdom in disregarding County lines. Our object was to improve the through route between Liverpool and Shelburne. A much larger sum had been expended in this County than had been paid in fees. But it was justifiable. Any other policy would be irrational. The same argument that we had heard might be applied to succession duties. His (Hon. Mr. A.'s.) attitude was to expend every dollar the Legislature voted. It was unfair to himself, unfair to the Government, to spread these misleading reports. The annual fee was regarded as a Provincial tax, and no one wanted to make cheese paring politics of a matter of that kind. So far as he was personally concerned, he did not intend to depart from the policy which we had adopted. You could not work out a thorough road policy on twenty-five thousand dollars. He would like to see the whole of the \$25,000 expended between here and Truro, if possible, which it was not; but we were endeavoring to take some of these trunk lines and deal with them so as to improve them for automobile traffic.

His hon. colleague (Mr. Corning) tried to make some petty partisan capital out of the fact that none of this fund had been expended in Cumberland. His purpose was too obvious to deceive any one, even that gentleman himself. The Department in working out its policy did not intend to discriminate against any County. In a general sense, having in view the main idea of bettering the highways, it mattered little from what source the money came. It was after all but one appropriation. As a matter of fact, there was about \$50,000 expended

last year on the roads and bridges of Cumberland County—about all the available foremen, considering, the short season could overtake. This was the largest sum probably ever expended in any single year.

HUN METHODS.

He wanted now to make reference to another matter which had been brought up the other day. The hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Zwicker) in a facetious way, with a view of making some political capital, directed attention to the fact that Kinleys Ltd. had been paid a large amount of money for drugs for use in the Victoria General Hospital. The facts were that two years ago, in the month of June, the Hospital advertised for tenders for the supply of drugs. This was not done through his (Hon. Mr. A.'s.) department, but through the members of the Commission, consisting of Judge Drysdale, of the Supreme Court, Judge Wallace of the County Court, and Mr. O. E. Smith, a merchant, and a prominent Conservative of the City of Halifax. The advertisement was inserted in three City papers. Tenders were submitted by the National Drug Co. and Kinleys Ltd., and the contract was awarded, after careful consideration, to Kinleys Ltd. The company obtained the contract simply because they were the lowest tenderers, and for no other reason. These were the facts. This was the only foundation for the vicious attack made by the hon. member for Lunenburg, upon a certain member of that company. The gentleman on the Commission, as he was advised, who had most to do with the awarding of this contract and with the analysis of the details, was Mr. O. E. Smith, a prominent merchant of this City, who was gentleman enough and non partisan enough, not to have anything to do with underhand work. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wished to say, further, that when this contract was awarded Mr. J. J. Kinley, of Kinleys Ltd., was not the nominee of the Liberal party in Lunenburg County, and, therefore, when the Halifax Herald said that the Murray Government paid the sum of \$8,819 to the firm of the Liberal candidate for Lunenburg County, for supplies for the Victoria General Hospital, for the purpose of drugging the electors of Lunenburg County, it was a reflection upon the electors of that County, and a statement that was absolutely untrue. In the year 1912 the Victoria General Hospital paid to the National Drug Co., for drugs and medical supplies for the hospital, \$9,466; in the year 1914 they paid to that same company, for medical supplies, \$8,218. Last year his hon. friend said that they paid to Kinleys Ltd. \$8,819.61. He should have added that every dollar of that sum was paid under contract, at prices fixed by contract, and that the orders were given to the company not through his (Hon. Mr. A.'s.) department, but through Dr. Puttner, the pharmacist of the institution. He (Hon. Mr. A.) from his remarks supposed that his hon. friend's idea was that they were running a boarding house and not a hospital, and, therefore, required more meats and groceries, and less drugs. Neither was it true, as he had showed, that it was the largest order ever placed with any firm, exceeding the items for meat and groceries, which amounted to over \$30,000. The Government was not buying the drugs, and such a cheap fling little became any hon. member. But whatever

his idea might be, it was an unfair, an untrue and a slanderous statement, because the intimation was that the contract was given for the purpose of assisting Mr. Kinley as the Liberal candidate for the County of Lunenburg, when the fact was that at the time the contract was awarded, Mr. Kinley had nothing to do with being a candidate for Lunenburg. Since then the price of drugs had advanced to such an extent—in some cases as much as 200 per cent—that no man who made a contract in 1914 could possibly carry it out and make a living profit. His hon. friend seemed to think that this was fair play, and justified himself, he assumed, on the principle that everything is fair in love and war. He (Hon. Mr. A.) hardly knew what to say about a gentleman who took that attitude. If there was anything wrong in being awarded a contract at the lowest figures, he could have some faint idea of the hon. gentleman's notions of morality.

MR. ZWICKER said how else could it be found out. The Government had it secreted away.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that he brought down the contract for the hon. gentleman's inspection. The hon. member knew that the contract was kept at the Victoria General Hospital, and that as far as he (Hon. Mr. A.) was concerned, he had no more to do with it than the hon. gentleman himself. The Commission was an independent Commission, and submitted to no interference. He appealed to the hon. gentleman whether he had ever refused him any information for which he asked.

MR. ZWICKER said he admitted that.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that a gentleman of the standing of Mr. J. J. Kinlay, and with his business reputation—

MR. ZWICKER asked whether he questioned it?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said it was not a fair statement to make.

MR. ZWICKER asked whether he made it?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said yes, and he had not the manliness to withdraw it.

MR. ZWICKER said it looked suspicious.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said his hon. friend had better develop his suspicions in regard to other transactions, which were not let by tender and contract, by his own party friends.

MR. STANFIELD said it looked suspicious for a retailer to be able to compete with a wholesale concern. It might be a question of quality, and he ventured to say that the quality was not being tested.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he knew nothing about the quality of the drugs, and he knew as much as the hon. member for Colchester. Dr. Putner, the Pharmacist at the Hospital, would attend to that, much better than either of us.

MR. STANFIELD said he knew there was a lot about the quality.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said the suggestion was that the contract was awarded with direct reference to an election in Lunenburg County.

MR. ZWICKER said he was only questioning the \$8,000 transaction, and what he had said he stood by.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said the hon. gentleman then stood by the statement he made. In the course of the war in Flanders our brave boys who went from this country, while on guard in the trenches, heard coming, from the German lines, a sound like that of steam issuing from pipes or tubes under pressure. For a moment it was a surprise to them; but soon they saw rolling over in their direction a cloud which proved to be deadly, poisonous gas, so noxious that when our gallant heroes inhaled it, they were killed outright, or suffered untold agonies. Those who survived were taken to hospitals, and begged in the name of God that their lives be taken away from them, to end their sufferings. That was what the Huns called fair play; but in the civilized world it was known by another name. It was known as one of the most hellish inventions ever devised for taking the lives of human beings. His hon. friend from Lunenburg was in somewhat the same position. He prepared the pipes and put the pressure on, and the Halifax Herald supplied the noxious gases. If his hon. friend thought that this was fair warfare and a fair way in which to treat a political opponent, he was welcome to his opinions in regard to what he considered the propriety of public discussion in this House. His hon. friend knew Mr. J. J. Kinley, and he knew that in this House, surrounded by the privileges afforded him as a member of this House, he could venture to make statements that he would not venture to make elsewhere, where he was not so protected.

MR. ZWICKER said he would make his statements before any man, inside the House or out of it.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was glad that his hon. friend confirmed his statement. He would hear more about it.

STANFIELD AND V. G. HOSPITAL.

The hon. member for Colchester also had something to say about the Victoria General Hospital, and among other things he proposed, that the cost of maintenance of that institution should be decreased to the extent of \$75,000 a year, and that that amount could, in some unexplained way, be saved to the Province. Last year the hon. member took the position that the hospital should be made self-sustaining, or that it should be sustained by the municipalities. This year he took the attitude that the hospital should be transferred to the City of Halifax, and that the City should be compelled to maintain it. He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not know which attitude hon. gentlemen wished to take. If they meant either, let them say which; were they prepared to adopt the platform that the City of Halifax should assume all responsibility for the maintenance of the Victoria General Hospital? Let him submit that to the recent Tory ticket in this City.

MR. STANFIELD said that he never said any such thing. He said that the Counties outside of Halifax has as much right to have their hospitals supported by the Government as the City of Halifax had.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG asked the hon. member what his policy was?

MR. STANFIELD said it was that Halifax should pay its share.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that had been the law ever since the hospital was organized, and it had been laid down in the Statute for years. If a person applied for admission, who was unable to pay, he was entitled to get free attendance. What would his hon. friend say about that policy? It was the same for every citizen of the Province, Halifax included. That was no new policy.

What would our friend now say about his policy?

MR. STANFIELD said the City of Halifax should pay its share.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG: The City of Halifax,—How?

MR. STANFIELD said the same way as they did across the water.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said patients in the Victoria General Hospital were not paupers. He wanted to find out what his hon. friend's policy was. His policy then was that we should treat the inmates of the Victoria General the same as we treated the patients at the Insane Asylum, that is, that they should go in as paupers to be maintained by the municipalities. Now we have something more definite. The hon. gentlemen on the other side were hardly consistent. One gentleman deplored the fact that the Government was compelling the municipalities to pay the salaries of the registrars of births and deaths, and now here was another gentleman who said that we must take \$100,000 and impose it on the municipalities for the maintenance of patients in the Victoria General Hospital. His policy was not to hand it over to the City of Halifax, but that we should maintain the Victoria General precisely the same as the Nova Scotia Hospital. Who is proposing direct taxation now?

MR. STANFIELD asked if his hon. friend could tell him of any other Province in Canada maintaining a hospital in the same manner as we maintained this Victoria General.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that was an attempted diversion. We were not taking any second place to any Province in Canada, and thank goodness Nova Scotia had made ample provision for the protection of the wards of this Province, and he cared not what other Provinces did.

MR. STANFIELD asked why not take over all the other hospitals?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said his hon. friend said you must treat patients the same as in the Nova Scotia Hospital.

MR. DOUGLAS said he did not think the hon. gentleman was inclined to be unfair. In referring to the registrars of births and deaths, he might have gone further and stated that the registrars though paid

for by the municipalities were not appointed by them, but appointed by the Government.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that was true, but he was not talking about the routine, he was talking about the general attitude of the Opposition against placing on the municipalities any other burdens. You could not make admissions to the Victoria General on the same conditions as those to the Nova Scotia Hospital where they were brought in on the certificate of two medical men and warrant of commitment. There was a time in the history of this Province when the Victoria General Hospital was practically under the control of the City of Halifax, and it was taken away from them and placed under the control of the Province. He would not enter into a history of the matter, but it was sufficient to say that the late Sir Charles Tupper took a very prominent part in organizing the Victoria General on the lines which now prevailed. When it belonged to the city it was not satisfactory, and at the time of reorganization there were no County hospitals. It was the only large institution of the kind that would command that respect and confidence necessary. The hon. gentleman said each County maintained its own hospital, and so it did, at a great deal of sacrifice, and they were doing splendid work, in which the Government was assisting, but nevertheless today, so far as the Victoria General was concerned, there was absolute need of 100 more beds at least. It performed work in this Province that no County institution could possibly do. It was situated in Halifax, and on its staff were some of the ablest physicians and surgeons in the Province giving their work gratuitously. Moreover, the hospital was doing admirable work on the lines of education. The Medical College was situated in the city, and could not be the success it was unless you had some large hospital of this character for the student. It was not fair to the city to say they were doing nothing. He thought he could say without fear of contradiction that the City of Halifax did a very great deal in support of charitable and humane institutions. They had infirmaries and private hospitals, a children's hospital, and other institutions of a like character dependent on the public for support to the same extent that applied in other counties. It was therefore unfair to charge the Government with doing for the city that which they were not doing for themselves.

CHEAP SCHOOL BOOKS.

Just one word with regard to the question of the school books. He did not know that any other gentleman except the hon. member for Colchester made any allusions to that important subject. When that hon. gentleman referred to this matter the other day, he asked the hon. Premier if the T. Eaton contract would be cancelled. The hon. Premier said no. He understood the hon. gentleman to say he was sorry. He (Hon. Mr. A.) regarded this contract so far as school readers was concerned, as a matter beyond political dispute. He had extracts from Conservative papers approving of the bargain and laying claim to whatever glory attached to this matter. The matter was debated at the opening of the House and he himself made the statement then, that the favorable contract we were enabled to make with the T. Eaton Company was by virtue of the fact that they were large wholesalers, bookbinders

and book printers. They had one of the largest bookbinding and printing plants in America. Their catalogues do not advertise the Nova Scotia School Reader. The hon. member for Colchester made the statement that the books were different from other books in that they had the name of the publisher on them. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had under his hand three of these books. His hon. friend said that the price was marked out, and a new price put on them. That was true only of the first edition. Before the School Book Bureau was decided on, the Council of Public Instruction made the contract with T. Eaton & Co. to supply us with the necessary readers for the season of 1915, and the price printed on the cover was 2 cents less than that decided on at a later date, and after the Bureau was established. That was the only reason why the price on the cover was different from the retail price charged. That edition was entirely exhausted, and all the books now handled by the Bureau had stamped on the cover the actual price at which they should be retailed at every possible point in the Province. Some of the dealers had made some criticism on account of the explanations required as to the reason for the difference between the printed price on the book and the selling price. This was regrettable but it had now been finally remedied.

So far as the imprint on the outside, it was not more than any large publishing concern did in that connection. He had books here to prove this in the case of Morang's, Mackinlay's, McMillan's and other publishers.

MR. TANNER asked what charge the Government made for the Primer?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that they bought for 4 cents with 20 per cent. off, and after going into the matter very carefully the additional 2 cents for postage did not make the cost whole to the Government. The Government was now bearing a certain portion of the cost of distribution and sale of this book at the price printed on the cover.

MR. TANNER said he asked some questions and the department was unable to get the transportation per book.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said we had the price here, it was purely a matter of weight. He would furnish his hon. friend with the official circular sent to the different dealers.

MR. TANNER asked what advantage there was in this contract to a man in Nova Scotia who wanted to buy school books to be obliged to come to the Bureau here, why not be permitted to buy in Toronto?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said there were two reasons. The Province could not embark upon any general scheme of supplying school books at a uniform price unless they had control of two situations. First, they would want to know the possible consumption of books. We had to agree to make a certain number of books and could not open a Bureau unless we were certain that the control of these books was in our hands. In the second place, we could not very successfully carry that on unless absolutely certain that we could control the price. No

person could send to T. Eaton & Co. and purchase a Reader more cheaply than the Government could sell it.

MR. TANNER said if the Government had not installed this Bureau the people would have been able to buy more cheaply from T. Eaton & Co.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said no, we could deliver the books to the buyer in this Province at less than he could procure the same books from T. Eaton & Co. The actual cost of postage on the Primer was 4 cents, on the First Reader 4 cents, on the Second 6 cents, on the Third 9 cents, and on the Fourth 10 cents. It would be seen that the Bureau charged 2 cents instead of 4 cents, 3 cents in place of 6 cents, 4 cents instead of 9 cents, and 5 cents in place of 10 cents—practically 50 per cent. of the actual cost for postage. A man might send to Toronto for a Primer by mail, the Primer sold here in the retail stores for 6 cents, and the man who sent away for it would have it sent back, but it would cost him at least 11 cents. He would send his 4 cents to Toronto, at a cost of 3 cents postage, and it would cost 4 cents to return it from Toronto, a total of 11 cents. He can buy the same book at any of the retail stores in the Province for 6 cents.

MR. TANNER asked the cost of a set in Nova Scotia?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said it was 59 cents.

MR. TANNER said he could send to Toronto and get it for 49 cents.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said no. T. Eaton & Co. would not sell them, and if they did the purchaser would have to pay postage both ways to be added to the cost in Toronto, so that they would cost more than if bought here. It was sold to the dealer here at a lower price than he could get it from Toronto, even if he could get them. With respect to the name of the publisher being on the books he had here a copy of the Ontario School History, published by the Morang Educational Publishing Co., and it bore upon it in bold letters the name of the publisher. Therefore he thought there was little ground for the complaint that the Government here were permitting the publishers of these books to do differently from any other publisher. The T. Eaton Co. were just as bona fide publishers as A. & W. Mackinlay, or the Morang Co., or the Nelsons, or the MacMillans. Furthermore the T. Eaton Co. did not know to whom the books were sold, because the readers were shipped from Halifax to the buyers and the T. Eaton Co. had not a copy of our shipping lists. Someone asked the other day why the Government did not publish the books themselves. It had been urged over and over again in the past that the Government and the Education Department were putting the publication of school books into the hands of local monopolists. The present plan removes that objection. He (Hon. Mr. A.) undertook to say that no Government and no publishers in the world could supply these readers to the Province of Nova Scotia in the quantities in which we were purchasing at a price to compete with the prices we were paying. Take the No. 4 Reader, for instance, which he held in his hand. Representatives of the Nelsons and representatives of MacMillans who came here could not touch the price at which these books were obtained from

the T. Eaton Co., and they admitted it. The selling price of that book, at 18 cents, would defy competition. No matter who was entitled to the glory of it, the Government were furnishing school books to the people of the Province at prices never dreamed of a few years ago.

S. O. S. SIGNALS.

The hon. leader of the Opposition had something to say on the subject of the roads and again repeated the old story that the roads of the Province were in a pitiable condition. That was about as far as the hon. gentleman ever got with the expression of his policy. He (Hon. Mr.) would not refer to this question if he were not disposed to call in question some of the statements made by the hon. leader of the Opposition which he thought should not be allowed to go unchallenged. One of the hon. gentleman's statements was that we had in this Province a highly paid Road Commissioner, in receipt of a salary of \$6,000 a year. He (Hon. Mr. A.) could understand some person in the back benches, not far from the front, not being better acquainted with the facts, but when the hon. leader of the Opposition undertook to say that Mr. Donkin was in receipt of a salary of \$6,000 a year as Road Commissioner he was deceiving the House and the country, because Mr. Donkin did not receive a salary of \$6,000 as Road Commissioner, but as Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, and he had been receiving that salary ever since he became Deputy Commissioner. When he undertook the additional duties of Road Commissioner he did not receive one dollar additional for the performance of those duties. The hon. leader of the Opposition should not make statements of that kind, and he (Hon. Mr. A.) felt that he would not be doing his duty if he did not call attention to this distortion of the facts. It seemed that hon. gentlemen opposite were adopting Hun methods, one of which was to cover their attacks by sending out a cloud of poisonous gas, but if they were not more careful some of these clouds would return and they would become victims of their own methods.

The hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Zwicker) admitted this afternoon that he (Hon. Mr. A.) furnished him with any official information he desired in connection with his department. But with some of his friends opposite he was evidently getting "suspicious," too. Some further efforts must be made to save them from the sinking craft, so he resorted to distress signals. He and his colleagues conspire together. Sitting down in their caucus room in the Dennis Building across the way, surrounded by clouds of fragrant tobacco smoke, amid the popping of ginger ale bottles, and to the tune of the clickety-click, clickety-click of the typewriters, they start a campaign of procuring information by asking questions, and generally arranging for one of the biggest fake campaigns ever put on in this country, hoping to impress the public. And so they use up reams of paper sending them out to the public—the country paying the bills, of course. Here was a specimen.

MR. TANNER said his hon. friend must have pimps who came over to the rooms to spy.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had heard stories before about pimps, in connection with entering Premier Murray's room during the Antigonish by-election. Just wait and hear it.

MR. TANNER said surely the rooms in the Chronicle Building occupied by the other side cost as much.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was not quarrelling about the cost.

MR. TANNER said his hon. friend appeared to have someone who came over there to pimp and carried stories to him.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that if the affairs of the Conservative Party were as open as they should be they should not be alarmed even at a pimp. But this letter did not come from a pimp, but from a reputable citizen of the Province of Nova Scotia, and he had a number of them.

MR. TANNER asked for the name?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that was another question. The letter to which he referred read as follows:—

Halifax, N. S., March 22nd, 1916.

Dear Sir:—

In order that the Conservative members of the Legislature may be provided with accurate and reliable information about the expenditure of road and bridge monies during 1915, I am enclosing some blank sheets and will thank you very much if you will be good enough to give information on any Government expenditures that were made in your district.

Please fill in a separate report in respect to such expenditure and be good to send it to us at as early a date as possible.

We would like to have as full details as you can give and any suggestions and advice you can give on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. C. ZWICKER,

Chief Whip.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) thought that this letter was worthy of publication. Not content with getting information here hon. gentlemen opposite must write to all sorts of persons, responsible and irresponsible, to give them something which they could make use of in the Legislature, and promising to suppress the names of the persons giving the information. Hard up for facts, they are crying for help. All he had to say was that the result of these inquiries would be to elicit some facts and some fictions, but not much of either. The Opposition would get little comfort. He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not get this letter through any such pimping process.

MR. ZWICKER said that this was not a pimping process.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said if it was not he would like the hon. gentleman to give him its true name.

MR. TANNER asked what fault his hon. friend had to find with the document?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had no fault to find with it. His hon. friends evidently were of the opinion that they must procure more information, whether the source of it was authentic or spurious, and provided it supplied them with literature which they could spread in the columns of the Halifax Herald and make it look as if they were really an Opposition and something in the story, instead of the biggest fake ever put upon the country.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG moved the adjournment of the debate.
The debate was adjourned.

House adjourned until 8 o'clock p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

INSINCERE FEDERAL HIGHWAY BILL EXPOSED.

When the House adjourned he was making a few observations on the question of the Roads. The only matter that he thought called for comment beyond what he had said this afternoon was an observation of the hon. leader of the Opposition with regard to Federal Aid for Highways. Just how that was relative to the discussion of the financial situation in this Province was not apparent. If he understood his hon. friend, he stated that Hon. Mr. Cochrane, who had charge of that Bill and charge of the department proposing to make the expenditure, had approached this Legislature and Government in some way, either directly or indirectly, and that we said "Don't you dare come in and spend one dollar on the highways of this Province." No such attitude was ever taken by the Minister of Railways or the Dominion Government in any form or shape or manner. And no such request was ever refused.

Now the hon. leader of the Opposition had fully opportunity to apply to the Federal Parliament or the Minister of Railways and ascertain either by correspondence, interview or suggestion any method by which this Province could secure the benefit of the \$62,000 in any one year. Has he done so, and when and how? The hon. gentleman said further that we said to Hon. Mr. Cochrane "We won't have this money." This Legislature never took any such attitude, and there was no foundation for this somewhat positive statement about a matter which had no historical or political accuracy.

We all knew the origin of this Highway Bill. Sir Robert Borden when appealing to this country in 1911, placed a promise in his platform and in his manifesto to the people of the Dominion made use of the words (No. 7):—"The granting of substantial assistance towards the improvement of our public highways." Just what that meant no one knew. After the return of the Conservatives to power Bill No. 7 was introduced into the House of Commons, and the statement was made by Premier that the Bill was imperfectly and hastily drawn and he hoped to have it improved. A similar Bill was introduced the next session in the self-same condition. It was a fair proposition that if that Bill introduced in 1912 was in an imperfect and temporary form, the time to have

made it more perfect and to have fairly considered its provisions was at the second session when it was re-introduced the following year. But although a year had elapsed, the same imperfect and hastily drawn Bill was re-introduced in 1913.

MR. HALL asked where and when this statement of the Premier was made.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said it would be found in the debate of 1912, page 3713. He was merely giving the purport of what was said, and the same statement he believed was made by the introducer of the Bill, Hon. M. Cochrane. His reference might be to the unrevised edition. It was quite clear from the record and the public declarations of Sir Robert Borden himself that he had no clearly well defined policy in regard to this important matter. On February 8th, 1912, he met a delegation at Ottawa, and this was what he was reported to have said:—

“A difficult problem to define just what the Dominion Government could do. It certainly could not enter on a policy of maintaining Provincial roads, but it would be willing to co-operate with the various Provinces in a movement which would aid in the improvement of the highways, just as it proposed to co-operate with the Provinces in aid of agriculture.”

In a general way that was fair and sounded well, and if such a policy had been put into operation there could have been no objection to accepting any such aid. The legislative subsequently introduced and known as Bill 77 did not carry out that view. The Bill passed the House of Commons in an unamended form and went to the Senate. His hon. friend had indicated that this Government interfered with the passage of the Bill through the Senate. Such a statement was altogether incorrect. If the Bill had any merit, this Government had no influence with the Senate of Canada.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) asked his hon. friend to produce a mass of evidence to show that the Government opposed the passage of that Bill through the Federal Parliament. There was a negro in existence who ultimately disclosed himself. Soon after Bill 77 had been introduced in the House of Commons there was a by-election in South Renfrew, and he was elected to fill a vacancy in the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Graham was contesting that constituency as a Liberal, and just as soon as he began holding his meeting Bill No. 77 was herded from every platform by Conservative speakers in opposition to Mr. Graham. It was perfectly apparent that the whole object and purpose of this Bill was to influence not only the electors of South Renfrew, but the electors of Canada.

Now the Bill went to the Senate after having passed the House of Commons. What did the Senate propose to do? They proposed an amendment to section 3 of the Act. Section 3 said this:

The Governor-in-Council may, in any year, and upon such terms and subject to such conditions as are prescribed by Order-in-Council, grant to any Province in aid of the improvement of existing highways or the construction of new highways in such Province, or for both such purposes, a subsidy not exceeding such sums as may in such year be voted by Parliament for that purpose.

The Senate said that that was not in accordance with the public utterances of Sir Robert Borden, nor was it in accord with the official statement of Hon. Mr. Cochrane that this highways aid was to be distributed according to the population of the various Provinces. The Senate made this amendment to the Bill:

"The sum of money to be voted in any years to be expended under this Act, shall be apportioned among and paid to the several Provinces of the Dominion in proportion to the respective populations of such Provinces as shown by the next preceding census."

He left it to the good judgment of hon. members whether or not that clause was not a fair one. And he would maintain that the full responsibility was upon the House of Commons and the Dominion Government for the defeat of the Bill, when they deliberately declined to entertain that very fair amendment of the Senate, in view of the fact that this amendment was designed to carry out the ostensible purpose of the Bill as stated in the public assurances of the Premier. There must have been an undisclosed reason for declining to approve of that amendment.

MR. HALL asked if his hon. friend contended that it would be necessary for the Dominion Parliament to obtain legislation from the Provinces before entering into a Province to spend money there?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said no. He was not quite satisfied about that. But he thought that public highways and public works of a purely local nature within the Province were matters that the Federal Government could not properly undertake to maintain and repair without the consent of the Provinces. The Senate amendment did not interfere with that attitude.

MR. HALL said if we held that view, the money under the amendment would have to be spent in a Province whether they obtained supplementary legislation or not.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he did not think such reasons were urged. Under the Federal Appropriation Bill, Chapter 3, Acts 1912, \$68,576.90 was to be spent in Nova Scotia under the terms of the Highway Act. He had read the different addresses in the debates in the Senate and the previous debate in the House of Commons, and there was nothing ever stated in the Senate or during the discussion in the other chamber to show any substantial reason why that amendment should not have received the assent of the House of Commons provided there had been a sincere desire to assist the Provinces in this matter of highway construction.

MR. TANNER asked if his hon. friend did not know that under that Bill there was no sum proposed to be expended for roads but that it had to be voted in the House of Commons subsequently.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said it was voted in the supply Bill.

MR. TANNER said and separately to each Province and the same thing was done in 1914.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said quite so, it was there and he knew of no reason yet why that money was not available for the Province of Nova Scotia.

MR. TANNER said surely his hon. friend knew that at Ottawa all supply Bills lapsed at the end of the fiscal year.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said they did not need to have a Bill, there was the Appropriation Bill.

MR. TANNER asked whether his hon. friend ever asked the Federal Government to expend the money?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had just told his hon. friend, and he did not wish to repeat. The hon. gentleman stated that this Government refused the money, or, he rather gathered from his attitude that this Government positively declined and had forbidden Hon. Mr. Cochrane to come into this Province and expend his money here. He had stated that if the Federal Government ever had any bona fide intention of expending the money they not only made no request, but killed the very Bill to provide the money.

MR. TANNER said the Government said they would not allow him to come in. In the session of 1912 there was a debate on the subject, and the hon. leader of the Government on that occasion took the ground that it would be a breach of the constitution for the Federal Government to come in here and expend road money.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said "Without the consent of this Government."

MR. TANNER said "Yes."

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that under the Constitution that appealed to him as right. But we never got that far and his friends at Ottawa did not want us to get that far. But to get to the concrete question. In the year 1913 the Federal Government, so hon. gentlemen opposite say, provided for the expended of \$68,576 on 18,000 miles of road in this Province without making any provision for organization. The next year they provided for an expenditure of \$102,000. Imagine that amount of money put into the hands of Colonel John Wesley Allison, "the patriot" and "soul of honor," to be let in highway contracts, even though he charged nothing for his services, as in the "fuse" contracts!

MR. TANNER asked whether the hon. gentleman did not know that the Ottawa Government had a Department of Public Works and that it had competent engineers in Nova Scotia?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that these engineers did not work for nothing, and apart from that, it was never proposed that this expenditure was to be made under the direction of the Department of Public Works; it was to be made by the Department of Railways and Canals. This only went to show that the suggestion that the Dominion Government wanted to assist in highway construction was a delusion so far as the Province

of Nova Scotia was concerned. His (Hon. Mr. A.'s) opinion was that the work should be undertaken by the Provincial Government, and that the money should be provided in the shape of additional subsidy. There was no Province in Canada that had a more competent man for such work than Mr. W. L. Bishop, who was a Conservative. And it would have been no violation of the principle of party patronage to have entrusted him with the expenditure of the money, if that was the reason the Bill was defeated. He (Hon. Mr. A.) thought that the people pretty well understood the object and purpose that was behind the suggestion of Federal aid to highways in this Province, and it was only fair to point this out.

OPPOSED TO WHITNEY LEGISLATION.

Now he wanted to discuss for a moment a few matters in connection with the coal question. He was at a loss to know where hon. gentlemen opposite stood upon this subject. There had been a disposition on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to raise issues which would strike a blow at this industry and its importance to the Province of Nova Scotia. If he (Hon. Mr. A.) understood the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. O'Brien) he said it was the function of this Government to control the price of coal, and that the Government should exercise its jurisdiction for that purpose.

MR. O'BRIEN said that he never used the word "jurisdiction." What he said was that the Government might exercise some influence.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG asked, with whom? Is it influence without jurisdiction?

MR. O'BRIEN said, with the companies, over which the Government surely had some control.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was afraid it would be confined to what his hon. friend would call "political influence."

MR. O'BRIEN asked whether it was not the duty of the Government to use its influence to control the price of coal in Nova Scotia? The Government made an agreement with the Dominion Coal Company under which they handed over to the Company, for a period of 99 years, the coal areas now in possession of the Company. If they did not at that time safeguard the interests of the people of the country, they should have done so. If the Government were not in a position to exercise some control over the coal operators, and if they were not in a position to safeguard the interests of the people of the Province, it was their own bungling incapacity that was the cause of it. The Government should be in a position to safeguard the interest of consumers and see that men in the city of Montreal could not buy coal for \$1.85 a ton, at the mines in Cape Breton, while the consumer must pay \$5.50 for it at his own door.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG asked whether, as the hon. member was opposed to coal being sold in Montreal for less than it was sold for in Nova Scotia, if he could tell at what price it was sold in Montreal?

MR. O'BRIEN said he did not say anything about the price of coal in Montreal? It did not interest us what the price in Montreal was; it was that Montreal men bought in Nova Scotia at prices less than Nova Scotians could buy for.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said his hon. friend did not care what they sold it for in Montreal. He asked the hon. member what they sold for in Montreal, and he said he did not know.

MR. O'BRIEN said if the hon. gentleman was asking for information he could have it, but if he was asking to catch him (Mr. O'B.) he was not going to do it.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG asked whether the hon. member knew what the Montreal men were paying in Nova Scotia?

MR. O'BRIEN said his information was \$1.85. He might be wrong.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said his hon. friend was putting up a serious argument, and he took the attitude that Montreal men could buy coal in Nova Scotia for \$1.85 a ton. He (Hon. Mr. A.) said he could not.

MR. TANNER said that the hon. gentleman could not disprove it.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that he made the statement. His hon. friend did not know the figures and he (Hon. Mr. A.) took the responsibility of saying that Montreal people were not buying coal in Cape Breton for \$1.85 per ton. Further than that, he said that the more coal we could ship to the Montreal market and sell in competition with American coal, the better for Nova Scotia. The effect of the Whitney legislation was to develop our export trade, and the more coal we exported the better. If it were not for the St. Lawrence trade and outside shipments, which took two thirds of our coal output, the coal mines of Cape Breton would be closed the whole Winter. Through that trade our miners were provided with employment, and he was amazed that hon. gentlemen opposite should contend that the prices of coal should be controlled by the Government when they must see that the obvious effect of such action would be that the operators would not be able to sell in the Montreal market and the miners would be deprived of employment. Some hon. members said that American coal could be brought into the Montreal market and sold cheaper than our own coal. It was stated that on a large contract for the supply of coal to the city of Montreal, the Americans won out over the Dominion Coal Company by 31c on every ton. If this were the fact, it must be recognized that operators here had a serious struggle to hold their own in competition with American coal in the Montreal markets. But in the face of this competition, they had been able to go into the Montreal market and develop that trade to an extent that few people, years ago, realized was possible. As far as the coal trade of this Province was concerned, the Government did not control the price, and it was unfair to suggest that we could do so. He (Hon. Mr. A.) was anxious to see the price of our coal as high as was consistent with legitimate competition. Our coal was protected by a duty against American coal, but

in the Montreal market our producers had to compete with easy and cheap railway transportation, and if our coal was sold there cheaper than it was elsewhere, it was in order to afford higher wages and constant employment to the miners of this Province. He would be astonished if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would go into the County of Picton, which was a coal producing County, and take the same position that the hon. member for Antigonish took in this House. The hon. member for Antigonish referred to the effects of the Whitney legislation. He (Hon. Mr. A.) understood that there was very little Cape Breton coal imported into the County of Antigonish, and that the most of it came from the County of Pictou, from the Drummond mine, in Pictou County, which did not hold a 99 year lease, but a 30 year lease. Then what had his attack to do with the price? Some of the leading Conservative papers had expressed themselves quite emphatically as opposed to this kind of criticism. A few years ago the "Sydney Post" was discussing Mr. C. H. Cahan, a former leader of the Conservative party in this House, who distinguished himself by very unsuccessfully opposing our coal legislation, in 1893, in much the same way as some hon. gentlemen opposite are now, still doing. The Post said:—

"Mr. Cahan is tilting at windmills, and in that respect he out-
 "does the ancient Don Quixote, because he has to imagine the wind-
 "mills. Some nineteen years ago he did the same thing in Nova Scotia
 "when he conjured up all sorts of evils that were to befall this Pro-
 "vince from the formation of the Dominion Coal Co. He then saw
 "a vision of a Yankee fleet coming in and taking possession, and he
 "even carried his protest to the Federal Government, asking for the
 "disallowance of the act. This feat of his in 1893 might be properly
 "attributed to the exuberance of youth."

He cared not whether it was the National Policy or the Whitney Legislation that led to the splendid development of our coal mines. He wanted to say, however, that he regarded the Whitney Legislation as one of the most progressive and necessary pieces of legislation ever introduced into this Legislature. He did not have to theorize whether it led to the development of mines. The facts were self evident.

Take the Mines Report and look at the revenues from coal. Immediately after this legislation they would show that production began to go up, and the revenues to increase. But if you took the intervening years after the National Policy, you would find that the increase in production, between 1878 and 1895, was small as compared with the increase after the Whitney legislation. When he (Hon. Mr. A.) read that article in the "Post" it occurred to him that his hon. friend from Antigonish (Mr. O'Brien) should be put in the same class, as Mr. Cahan, he is imagining windmills, and seeing visions.

MR. HALL asked if the Dominion Coal Co. was selling to consumers in Montreal more cheaply than to Nova Scotians at the mine?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he had no personal knowledge, but he had no doubt it might be so. It was the natural conclusion to come to that where the Company were selling coal in the Montreal market for less than in this Province, it was because they sold in very much larger quantities. Large contracts were made in advance, and as the

shipping season was short, the coal was banked during the Winter. Transportation to Montreal was cheap by water. They must keep their equipment up, and they would be able to do so by virtue of the fact that they would keep control of the Montreal market. If they did sell cheaper, it was good business—it increased the revenues of the Province and gave minters steady employment at the highest rate of wages, which was most desirable.

Now something was said about closed mines, by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who made special reference to Westville, Thorburn, Port Hood and Mabou. But after he had completed his criticism he was driven to the only possible conclusion that "he did not know whether the Government could do anything."

MR. DOUGLAS said before leaving the matter of the Whitney legislation he had one question to ask. There were tables published in the Mines Report, showing the increase of production of coal every 10 years, from 1812. And taking the increase since the Dominion Coal Co. had been in existence, and the amount of coal estimated to be in their workings, was his hon. friend the Commissioner prepared to say what period of time would elapse before the coal now established in the working was thoroughly exhausted?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was sure his hon. friend did not expect him to answer that off hand.

MR. DOUGLAS said from information in the Mines Office, in about 80 years, the present workings would be exhausted, and that would be about the time the Whitney lease expired.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he imagined there was considerable speculation about that. He personally would be willing that the Liberals go along and administer the affairs of the Mines Office during the currency of that lease, and after its expiry, he would be glad for his hon. friend, if he happened to be Commissioner of Mines, to take up what was left.

With regard to the closed mines everyone regretted this, for many reasons. It took away from the locality where the mines were, employment, broke up communities and social circles, and disturbed the coal situation. But he wanted to say that there was no coal mine closed in the Province today by reason of anything which could be, directly or indirectly, chargeable to any fault or neglect, so far as the Mines Department of this Province was concerned. The whole matter of the closing of the Thorburn Mine had been submitted to a Commission. He had not yet seen their report, but his hon. friend opposite knew as well as he did the special reasons that led to the abandonment, for the time being, of the Thorburn Mine. He knew of no mine in Westville closed at the present time, except the Acadia Slope, which was in a way suspended. Conditions there had been peculiar, and we grappled with the situation in a very aggressive way, and came to the rescue by a guarantee of the credit of the Intercolonial Coal Co. to the extent of \$100,000. This action on the part of the Government had kept the Town of Westville intact, had saved whatever coal they

had, in connection with the Acadia Slope, and had placed the Inter-colonial Coal Company in a position for future development. The present prospects for that colliery were extremely hopeful.

The matter of the Port Hood and Mabou Mines had been the subject matter of discussion in this House many times before. He could offer nothing new, and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had offered nothing new. He (Hon. Mr. A.) thought the House could pretty clearly understand the real situation. Both these mines were flooded by unfortunate accidents, and still remained unwatered. The owners, and those who had invested in them, had lost thousands of dollars. But we are still hopeful that the day may soon arrive when sufficient capital can be again secured to re-open both these valuable coal properties. It might or might not be necessary to unwater the present slopes.

If one were to seriously regard what was said by members opposite, he was afraid that the idea existed that the coal mining industry should be treated differently from many other industry of our Province. The hon. gentlemen opposite seem to think that a coal mine must be worked, whether the coal was there or not, and whether it was filled with water or not. Seemingly no regard was to be had as to whether the coal operator could pay fair wages and a dividend, or not. He did not know why coal operators should be stigmatised in every instance as "Coal barons." Very few of the operators, under existing conditions, with the increased cost of labor, increased cost of raw material, and taking into consideration the distance the coal had to be drawn to the bankhead, and the general cost of winning coal, could prove that they were making much money or paying fat dividends on either the actual or authorized capital. It may be all right to criticize the Government, or the owners, for not unwatering the Port Hood mine, but surely they do not expect either the Government or the owners to pump out the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Some of the mines were not being worked because the coal had been exhausted. Hon. gentlemen opposite criticized the closing down of such mines. Take the case of the Broughton Mine. Every person knew the occasion for its closing down. The Department had no control. Last year we passed special legislation with the object of assisting them, after the Company had put themselves in a position to avail themselves of it. And so he might refer to many other criticisms, equally without merit.

When discussing this matter of coal mines he (Hon. Mr. A.) thought sometimes hon. gentlemen had better direct their attention to the Federal authorities, because a great deal of this information, which they thought ought to be in the Mines Office here, was information recorded in the Department of Mines at Ottawa. In 1907 there had been established a Department of Mines at Ottawa, whose duties, among other things, were:

- (a) To collect and publish full statistics of the mineral production and of the mining and metallurgical industries of Canada, and such data regarding the economic minerals of Canada as relate to the processes and activities connected with their utilization, and to collect and preserve all available records of mines and mining work in Canada;
- (b) To make detailed investigations of mining camps and areas containing economic minerals or deposits of other economic substances, for the purpose of determining the mode of occurrence, and the extent

and character of the ore-bodies and deposits of the economic minerals or other economic substances;

(c) To prepare and publish such maps, plans, sections, diagrams, drawings and illustrations as are necessary to elucidate the reports issued by the Mines branch;

(d) To make such chemical, mechanical, and metallurgical investigations as are found expedient to aid the mining and metallurgical industry of Canada.

Now these were the functions that were expressly relegated to that department at Ottawa. When hon. gentlemen opposite talked about statistics, why did they not turn their attention to that quarter and obtain some of the information they were seemingly so anxious to procure?

MR. TANNER asked if his hon. friend, as administrator of the mines of Nova Scotia, had no obligation in that regard?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was filling that obligation fairly satisfactory, and he did not know anybody that had a better right to be satisfied. He fully recognized his obligations. His hon. friend from Colchester had said the miners were dissatisfied, the operators were dissatisfied, and also the consumers, and one would get the impression that the mining industry of this Province was in a most deplorable condition. He had under his hand the last number of the Labor Gazette. That was a publication over which he had no control. It stated that the conditions of coal mining in Nova Scotia were very favorable, and that the industry was being carried on with a most gratifying activity. He preferred evidence from this independent and reliable source to that of the hon. member.

That hon. gentleman apparently still had some prejudices against the coal operators. Why, he did not know. He (Hon. Mr. A.) knew of no reason why the man who had coal to sell in the open market, should not sell it, so as to secure a living profit, on equal terms, as the man who had "unshrinkable" or any other commodity for sale. There was no sane reason or excuse for this hue and cry that the coal barons, so called, had any special facilities for increasing the price of coal, that were not possessed by other operators. If hon. gentlemen still thought there was, let them advocate a removal of the duty, and be consistent.

MR. HALL said that it ought to be remembered that in the case of our coal mines, the Government owned the raw material.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG asked if his hon. friend meant to say, after having given a least, that we should stipulate that the coal be sold at a certain fixed rate, such a course would demoralize the whole coal industry within 24 hours. We own the coal, but we lease it. Would you apply the same policy to timber on leased Crown Lands?

MR. HALL said that if the Government leased coal areas in such a way as to permit of the establishment of a monopoly, without something to control the price of coal to the consumer, it was responsible.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that the subject of a coal monopoly had been threshed out again and again. The suggestion that prices were increased by the leasing of large areas to one corporation was without foundation. As far as the cost of fuel in Nova Scotia or in Canada was concerned, there had not been as large an increase in the cost of the item of coal as there had been in the cost of other commodities. If there had been an increase in the cost of coal, owing to local conditions in this Province, it was owing to temporary local conditions, now abnormal. If there had been any general advance in the prices of coal in Nova Scotia, they only advanced in harmony with those in every other country where coal was produced. The hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Douglas) had made statements in regard to the coal industry and the management of the coal mines of this Province which he (Hon. Mr. A.) thought were not warranted by the facts. One of his statements was:

"Commenting on the fact that the Commissioner's report said that 41 per cent. of the fatal accidents in the mines were due to falling roofs, the member for Cape Breton claimed that this was the largest percentage of accidents from this cause in any collieries in the world, barring those in South Africa, where coolie labor only was employed."

He (Hon. Mr. A.) took issue with the hon. member, and he was in the judgment of the House and of coal mine managers, when he said that there were no better managed mines anywhere in the world where coal was produced. All our large mines were managed by competent men of first-class standing, and there was nothing left undone in the way of appliances to ensure the safety of the men. In no country in the world, of which he had any knowledge, was there a better set of mining regulations than we had in Nova Scotia. He would say further, that in no country in the world was there a better system of examining miners, managers, underground managers and overmen than we had in Nova Scotia. He would say further, that the men here who acted in the capacity of deputy inspectors were second to none. They were capable, honest, practical and careful men, and there was no one familiar with the mining situation who would not corroborate every word he said. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted to put this on record in justice to these men, and the reputation they had earned. The hon. member for Cape Breton referred to accidents in our mines resulting from falls of roofs. He (Hon. Mr. A.) desired to submit the following figures in reference to fatal accidents in the coal mines of England, where conditions were ideal, and where the natural conditions were much less dangerous than in our mines. The table was from the *Colliery Guardian*, January 1st, 1916. It was based on a different principle than our own tables, but clearly showed the injustice of the hon. gentleman's statement. Our seams are higher, and our production per man is far in excess of the English production per man. They require more men in England, both above and below, to produce a thousand tons:—

	Explo- sions.	Falls.	Shafts.	Below ground	Above and below ground
1903.....	0.02	0.84	0.10	1.35	1.27
1904.....	0.03	0.75	0.12	1.34	1.24
1905.....	0.26	0.75	0.09	1.49	1.35
1906.....	0.08	0.78	0.10	1.42	1.29
1907.....	0.06	0.76	0.13	1.46	1.32
1908.....	0.16 1.00	0.74 1.67	0.10 0.10	1.46 3.32	1.32
1909.....	0.28 0.00	0.47 2.00	0.10 0.10	1.61 2.81	1.43
1910.....	0.59 0.00	0.75 2.08	0.10 0.00	1.91 2.81	1.69
1911.....	0.04 0.8	0.71 1.00	0.11 0.00	1.29 2.81	1.19
1912.....	0.14 0.00	0.64 1.72	0.08 0.00	1.25 1.26	1.17
1913.....	0.51 0.08	0.68 1.17	0.11 0.00	1.74 3.51	1.55
*1914.....	0.03 0.00	0.65 1.16	0.07 0.00	1.19 2.53	1.08

*From January to July inclusive.

In Nova Scotia for the years 1908 to 1914, the fatal accidents from all causes per 1,000 men employed, averaged 2.9. In the United States for the same period the average was 3.63. The hon. gentleman's statement, therefore, was not accurate, but an unfair statement to make, and it was not just to the coal mine management in this country.

MR. DOUGLAS said the per centage of loss in our mines, attributable to falls of roof was not 41 per cent., but 75 per cent.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said the total fatal accident, from all causes in 1915, was 41, and those from falls of roof 17. There was 40 per cent. of these fatal accidents, but not 41 per cent. of all fatal accidents. The hon. gentleman was again wrong when he said it was 75 per cent. The hon. member represented that he had quoted from the Mines Report and his words were subsequently published, and he allowed the statement to go broadcast all over the country and into every coal mining district, and his statement had remained uncontradicted down to this moment.

MR. DOUGLAS asked whether it seemed any worse to have it go at 41 per cent., which it was not, than 75 per cent., which it was?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he repeated that this was incorrect; he was merely giving the hon. member a dose of his own medicine. If he wanted to bring this matter up on another occasion he could do so. The facts were there, and the hon. gentleman could not escape them.

MR. DOUGLAS said the newspaper was wrong. 75 per cent. of the accidents, in the year 1915, were due to falls of roof and stone.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he was glad the hon. member repudiated what appeared in the Halifax Herald. There was the statement and the Mines Report would bear it out. The hon. gentleman represented a mining constituency, and he must be answerable for the statements he made. He went on to say that as mines were sunk deeper more pit props were required, and he inferred that there was a shortage of pit props used in the mines. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had here a record of the number of pit props used, so far as the collieries of the Dominion Coal Co. were concerned, in comparison with the production of coal, which showed:

ALL COLLIERIES.

Tons Per Prop, 1905 to 1912.

Year	Output for Year.	Props Used.	Tons per Props.
1905.....	3,362,821	495,145	6.6
1906.....	3,618,440	556,629	6.5
1907.....	3,582,148	705,303	5.1
1908.....	3,529,321	715,060	4.93
1909.....	2,737,641	556,469	4.83
1910.....	3,529,699	821,273	4.38
1911.....	3,844,633	877,466	4.38
1912.....	4,332,320	973,676	4.45
1913.....	4,719,614	1,111,081	4.25
1914.....	4,545,068	1,052,858	4.32
1915.....	4,321,548	1,047,447	4.13

STATEMENT OF PIT PROPS USED BY FOLLOWING COAL COMPANIES IN 1915.

	Output	No. pit props used.	Tons of Coal per pit prop.	Lineal feet of pit props used.	Tons of coal per lineal foot of pit prop.
.....	4,321,547	1,047,447	4.1	7,801,956	0.55
.....	576,381	311,191	1.9	1,808,986	0.32
.....	406,812	238,652	1.7	1,696,139	0.24
.....	324,479	78,464	4.1	662,123	0.49
.....	160,483	9,236	17.4	55,486	2.89
.....	233,259	145,017	1.6	1,015,119	0.23
.....	189,818	249,320	0.8	1,994,558	0.09
.....	57,208	21,499	2.7	127,729	0.45
.....	82,056	160,296	0.5	605,313	0.13
Totals and averages.....	6,352,043	2,261,122	2.8	15,766,491	0.4

Average length of pit prop, 7 feet nearly.

Total lineal feet of Pit props, Room and Sleepers, 20,490,000—3881 Miles.

These figures showed that in ten years, instead of reducing, they had increased, the number of pit props per ton used.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) had also a statement showing the quantity of timber use dunderground in all the collieries of the Dominion Coal Company as well as the Nova Scotia Coal and Steel Company and in the Springhill Mines, which showed that in all these cases there had been a substantial increase in the number of pit props used for the purpose of preventing falls of roof and stone, and in justice to the Department and the Inspectors he thought it right to submit this statement to show that what had been said by the hon. member for Cape Breton was not borne out by the facts. In Great Britain the average was one ton of coal to the lineal foot of props; in the collieries of Cape Breton the average was one half per ton per lineal foot.

MR. DOUGLAS said that before the Hon. Commissioner of Works and Mines concluded his discussion of the subject of the mines, he stated in reply to the hon. member for Colchester that there was dissatisfaction among the workmen. Perhaps he was in a position to make a statement with regard to the labor difficulty that existed between the Nova Scotia Coal and Steel Company and its workmen. He (Mr. D.) understood that the men demanded a twenty-five per cent. increase.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG replied that that matter was engaging the attention of the Department of Labor at Ottawa, and no doubt it would be determined in due course, and after proper investigation.

WHERE THE CONSERVATIVES STOOD IN WESTERN LANDS.

He wished now to refer to the question of the Western Lands. This was another question that was foreign to the discussion, but as it had been brought up by hon. members opposite, and as a good deal had been said about it, some reference should be made to it. This question of the Western Lands had been urged upon the Federal Government by representatives of the different Provinces concerned. His hon. friend had quoted from the Debates of 1908. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wished to put against his statement the official record showing the position of the Liberal party. The discussion that occurred in 1908 was in connection with a resolution, introduced by the hon. member for Kings, N. B., dealing with the subject of the Western Lands. The hon. member for Kings, N. B., made some observations in connection with the resolution, but he did not think any vote was ever taken. It was a mere Academic discussion.

In the year 1912 the matter came up again, when the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba was under discussion. It was then a practical question. The rights of the Provinces were then to be considered and protected, if possible. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on behalf of the Liberals, submitted the following resolution, which the Liberals supported:—

“That this Bill be not now read a second time. but that it be resolved, that while this House is favorable to the extension of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, it is of the opinion that the terms under which it is proposed to make the said extension, as set forth in this Bill and in the Order-in-Council of the 20th February, 1912, are unfair and unjust, both to the people of Manitoba as well as to

the people of the other Provinces of the Dominion."—(Hansard, 1912, p. 4735).

This was the first occasion when, in his judgment, there was a full discussion of the question of the rights of the Provinces. What was the attitude of the Conservative party on that occasion? He (Hon. Mr. A.) found that the member for Colchester—the brother of the hon. member for Colchester in this House—voted against that resolution. He found that the member for Lunenburg, Dr. Stewart, voted against it. He found that the member for Digby, Mr. Jamieson, voted against it. He found that the member for Halifax (Hon. Mr. Borden) voted against it. He found that the member for Queens-Shelburne, Mr. McCurdy, voted against it. Every Conservative member from Nova Scotia present voted against this resolution. That was where the Conservative party from Nova Scotia stood on this subject. It was instance of the absolute inconsistency and insincerity of hon. gentlemen opposite, on even an irrelevant question.

Every Conservative at Ottawa opposed that suggestion of Laurier, that the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba were unfair to the Provinces, and at the same time unfair to the Province of Manitoba itself. The hon. gentlemen opposite complained that a return had been brought down here lacking the names of those who signed the recommendation. That was not a very serious matter, because all they wanted was in the body of the report. Was that any reason why this matter should not be dealt with by Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues? He was bound by pledge to restore to the Western Provinces their lands, he had given a guarantee without much assurance of its being carried out.

KNOCKING THE H. & S. W.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) had some observations to make about the H. & S. W. matter, but must apologize for the time he had already occupied, and would be obliged to pass that over without any comment, because we would probably have another opportunity of discussing some phases of the matter. He only regretted that hon. members opposite found it necessary, year after year, to use their efforts to minimize the importance of railway construction and extension on the South Shore. There was no justification for this criticism, because it was a public service of great importance to the people along the South Shore, and ought by this time to be thoroughly appreciated by them. One of the hon. gentlemen opposite stated the other night that we never should have built it, that the Dominion Government should have built it. The Dominion Government could come in and take it over now, they owned 40 per cent. of the common stock. They have guaranteed a large amount on the stock and bonds of the railway, and there was nothing to prevent them negotiating with the owners of the Canadian Northern. It was not a matter over which this Province could exercise jurisdiction.

There was some criticism about the H. & S. W. Ry. affording only a 5 day service per week between New Germany and Caledonia, and not a 6 day service. They seemed to think that if it were taken over by the Dominion Government they would have a much better service. Don't be too sure. On the Transcontinental, now operated by the Dominion Government, a train was run every other day. The Dominion

Government was operating a line of railway between Dartmouth and Musquodoboit. It passed through a well settled country, with a larger population per mile than that between here and Yarmouth on the South Shore, yet the Dominion Government was giving a tri-weekly service only. Some person made the observation, the other day, that the Government should have insisted when they made the bargain with the H. & S. W. that McKenzie & Mann be held personally responsible. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wanted to know why it was that the Dominion Government, when they advanced \$45,000,000 to the Canadian Northern, did not insist on a personal guarantee from McKenzie & Mann; if the argument was good in one instance, it was good in the other. The hon. member for Queens made the statement that the mortgage was far in excess of the cost of the railway. He must take issue with that statement, but he would at the same time point out that there was no good reason to be served by saying that the Province furnished more money than the original cost.

MR. HALL said he was speaking of the right-of-way, the only thing that the mortgage covered. There was no security on the rolling stock.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said that he was satisfied that the mortgage covered the rolling stock.

MR. HALL said that they did not have any.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he did not admit that, but if true, and it belonged to the Canadian Northern, we were in a better position today than before the guarantee was given. The railway was now a part of the C. N. R. It was no use to decry the Canadian Northern system. It was a big system, closely identified and linked up with the most vital interests of this country, and the financial backing of that project by the Dominion Government was so substantial that the Government of Canada could not afford to let it go into bankruptcy. What had happened to the Canadian Northern had occurred since the Conservatives came into power, since 1911. They encouraged them to go on with the construction of the Western or Pacific end of their system. Prior to that they had had a paying system, but when they undertook this further project he (Hon. Mr. A.) thought, financially, considering all the circumstances, they made a mistake. The cost of construction of extending the C. N. R. from the West to the Pacific was enormous. This was done since 1912, by virtue of the guarantees and grants since 1912, and if any mistake had been made it was since 1911. The Dominion Government had undertaken to give them \$45,000,000, and may have to give them more. He had here a citation from the Railway & Marine Journal for April, which showed that the net earnings of the Canadian Northern, during the last six months, had increased in a substantial way. This indicated a state of affairs showing that this Company was even yet far from circumstances that were alarming.

MR. HALL asked if the \$45,000,000 was for the Pacific branch?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he would not say the whole of it or how much.

MR. HALL said they were in a hole before that.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he would not admit that they were in a hole. He would say that the one thing more than another that made it difficult when hard times came to this country, after 1911, and made it difficult for the Canadian Northern to float its securities, and meet its obligations, was the tremendous task which they undertook when trying to extend their line across to the Pacific Coast, making a third trans-Continental railway. The cost was enormous, and the rates so small that they never could have undertaken it if they had not received guarantees from the Dominion Government, and guarantees as well from British Columbia.

MR. HALL asked if that was since 1911?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said yes. In 1912 they gave \$6,300,000 cash, in 1913 another \$15,600,000, and in 1914 the \$45,000,000.

MR. HALL asked if it was not a fact that previous to that they they had \$68,000,000 on obligations?

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said he did not know; but it was considered among financial men that probably the mistake was made when the Canadian Northern undertook to extend a third line to the Pacific Coast.

GREAT RECORD OF LIBERALISM.

He did not propose to detain the House at any further length, and was sorry that the numerous interruptions had to some extent prolonged the course of his argument, in trying to deal with some of the questions raised by hon. gentlemen opposite. He had not taken the time of the House, because the Liberal party in this Province was called upon to make a defence of its policy and record. When Lord Bryce prepared his able pamphlets on the causes of the present war on what England had done to defend the outraged Belgians and exposed the German atrocities, his purpose was not to defend the action of England, but to acquaint the civilized world with the facts, that civilization might draw its own conclusions. There had been, and was being circulated throughout this Province, most unfair, untrue and most exaggerated statements as to the conduct of public affairs in this Province by the Liberals. The attitude of the Liberals in this House had been grossly misrepresented. A campaign for the destruction of that party was being systematically pursued. Much, indeed most, of this literature, was not based on the truth. The Halifax Herald declined and refused to honestly or accurately represent the proceedings of this House, in so far as members on this side of the House participated. When that paper received \$7.00 per column, the public were appraised of the facts. And as an example of its THEN and NOW attitude, he proposed to read Mr. Dennis of the Herald's appreciation of Premier Murray, in order that the style of its present campaign may be fully understood.

"Hon. George H. Murray has been Premier and Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia since the retirement of Hon. W. S. Fielding, in 1896.

Previous to that time he served in the Legislative Council, and also, unsuccessfully, opposed Sir Charles Tupper in Cape Breton County. **FIELDING'S ADMINISTRATION WAS A STRONG ONE, MURRAY'S HAS BEEN EVEN STRONGER.** He is a lawyer by profession, a logical, convincing and at times an eloquent speaker. A man of splendid physique, straightforward in his dealings and possessing a loveable personality and clean record, the cause of his success is readily seen. George H. Murray is a Cape Breton Scotchman, utterly devoid of 'side,' yet gentlemanly and courteous to even his strongest opponents, so much so that **HE COMMANDS THE RESPECT AND ESTEEM OF THE CONSERVATIVES ALL OVER THE PROVINCE.**

"Murray has given the Province Technical Schools. His Government has given the Province a Provincial Prohibition Measure, a Juvenile Court Act, Workmen's Compensation Act, a Forest Conservation Act, and many other good things."

If this was also a "paid for" contribution, the writer deserved to be well paid. He had, therefore, felt it necessary to lay bare some of the facts, by way of explanation and information. For, rest assured, despite the misstatements made and reiterated in the party press of the Opposition, the public can be enlightened.

Since 1867 to the present time we have had in this Province four successive administrations. In all that time we have had 45 years of Liberal administration, **THIRTY-FOUR OF WHICH IS TO THE CREDIT AND HONOR OF THE PRESENT LIBERAL PARTY.** It is many years since we had a Liberal Conservative Government in charge of local affairs, for a term of four years only. They were tried by the people and found wanting. But their then leaders stood for something, and had views which as a party they enunciated. Today if you were to visit the successors of that once well known party, and searched for its views, its principles, its policy for the future, its promises of performance if given an opportunity to administer the affairs of this Province, you would find written over the portals of that party, Ichabod!

On the other side we have had also the record of the Liberal party, a record of which no one need be ashamed, but of which we were justly proud. It was a record, as he had already said, which has not been called upon to defend. It was the record of the people of Nova Scotia for **NEARLY HALF** a century of the **golden age of our history and development.** But when the Conservative press goes so far as to exclude from its columns what fair newspaper enterprise would willingly publish as a matter of public information and news, there must be found other means of placing the facts before the public. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had laid bare the position that the Conservative party in this Province took, and the position that it refused to take on some of the important questions which concerned the people of this Province. On the question of **roads and bridges** they stood, **nowhere.** On the question of **education** they stood, **nowhere.** They had no policy and no attitude except that they were diametrically opposed, as shown by their attacks, to the continuance of the Technical College. He (Hon. Mr. A.) had tried to get an expression of opinion from the hon. member for Colchester with respect to public institutions, and all that he was able to secure was an expression of opinion that the Victoria General Hospital should be maintained on the same lines as the Nova Scotia Hospital or trans-

ferred to the City of Halifax. The Liberal party had done much for the improvement of the conditions of the laboring people by its useful legislation; but where does the Conservative party stand, so far as labor and kindred matters of social reform are concerned? Where do they stand with regard to the agricultural policy that had done so much for the development of agriculture in the Province? It was only now that they were being gradually won over to approve of that splendid institution, the Agricultural College, at Truro. Then, take the subject of railway construction. One member of the Conservative party takes the position that the Government should never have built the Halifax and South Western Railway. Another said they should have built it long before they did. Another said that it was no good. He (Hon. Mr. A.) challenged hon. members opposite on all these questions to say where they stood. Their whole attitude was that of mere negative criticism—suggest nothing—assist nothing. **NEVER CONSTRUCTIVE, ALWAYS DESTRUCTIVE.** These matters had been discussed time and again, and public opinion was formulated through the debates in this House, and through the reading of the newspapers. Was he (Hon. Mr. A.) to be told that during the long period of forty-five years the people of this Province had voted regardless of a desire for sound, honest, progressive administration; or that they had not discriminated between the Liberal party and the Liberal Conservative party? He would not, and could not believe it. He had more faith in the integrity of our people. We had had great political leaders in this Province—such men as Howe, Tupper, Johnston, Fielding and Murray. They were leaders of public opinion, and the people had confidence in them. They were wise men; they were great men; they were men who had vision—men of faith in our Province and its possibilities.

Three of them, who had served the people of this Province longest, and, let me say, best, were Liberals—Howe, Fielding and Murray. They were leaders in whom the people had confidence, who trusted the people because they trusted the people. Howe was a man beloved by the people—a man without an equal and a great leader. His nearest successor was the Hon. W. S. Fielding, as broad minded, as honest and as progressive a public servant as ever graced the Legislative halls of any country. He in turn was succeeded by the Leader of the present Government, Hon. Mr. Murray, who had a record for progressive and useful legislation of common knowledge to all of us.

Hon. gentlemen opposite spoke of this Government as a “do nothing Government,” of being an “arm chair Government,” of having “no initiative.” Go to the statute books of any country and he (Hon. Mr. A.) would defy them to show more beneficial legislation, or legislation that was more in the public interest, or legislation more calculated to develop the industrial interests of the country, than that of the Murray Government. Let hon. gentlemen opposite make no mistake. Public opinion was not to be misled by concealment of facts by the Halifax Herald, or by reckless misstatements from the other side of the House. There was an old saying that you may fool some of the people all the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people, all the time. So far as the Liberal party were concerned, no matter when an appeal was made to the people, he

had confidence as to the only result. The Liberal party would make their appeal to the people on their record of the past, and on the record of what they had done in giving the people of the country honest and progressive administration. They had a record of consecutive administration exceeded by no country. They had been led by broad-minded, energetic, able men—men of big heart—men who believed in the Province—men who had the confidence of the people of the Province—men who took the people of the Province into their confidence, so that the people followed them, as he believed they would follow them again. They were not "little Nova Scotians." He (Hon. Mr. A.) did not make these statements in defence of the Murray Government, but in explanation of facts which the people would appreciate. The leaders of the Liberal party had been surrounded by men of true worth—men who would not countenance anything in the nature of graft or maladministration. In other Provinces transactions had been revealed that were reprehensible; but in the Province of Nova Scotia the public business had been conducted on sound lines, and for this the people had to thank their leaders, who were honest and faithful. The leaders of the Liberal party had the full confidence of their supporters and a great deal of credit was due to the supporters of the party for standing behind their leaders in the way they had done—a source of strength and confidence. The leaders of the Liberal party took no mean or ignoble stand with regard to the possibilities of the Province, but would continue in the future, as in the past, to so administer Provincial affairs as to respond to the ambitions of a loyal and patriotic people.

In conclusion, all he wished to add was that what he had said, although lengthy, had been said for the purpose of explaining matters, upon which he thought the public mind may have been somewhat confused by the campaign to which he had referred.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS—COMMITTEE.

On motion, the House resolved itself into committee on bills, Mr. Irvine in the chair, when a number of bills were read, clause by clause, and passed. The committee adjourned when the bills passed in committee were reported up, and ordered to be read a third time on a future day.

House adjourned until 3 p. m. tomorrow.

