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THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET WAS CONCLUDED YESTERDAY

The Questions of Public Interest Were Discussed By A Number of Members and House Then Went Into Committee of Supply With Mr. Hughes in the Chair.

THURSDAY APRIL 23. EVENING SESSION.

House met at 8.35 and resumed the debate on the motion to go into committee on supply.

Mr. MURDOCK McKINNON said the statement that prosperity was following Liberalism could not be reconciled with the resolution before the House a few days ago, when the Premier said we could not carry on our Government without more money. With general prosperity throughout Canada we would expect a surplus. The Honorable leader stated there was a surplus of \$365. The member from Bay View (Hon. Mr. Simpson) said a much longer surplus might be claimed. He could understand how such could be done—viz, by placing a much larger sum to Capital Account. In that account repairs to the asylum are charged to capital, and these repairs are in the new wing lately constructed. The superintendent says a new floor has to be laid because the old one has shrunk and become open. The windows will also require attention as they afford no means of keeping the patients from escaping. This is what the medical superintendent says and is in contrast to the statement that no flaw could be found in the institution. Rights of ways should not be put in capital account. The Premier said the Liberals saved \$155,000, but where have they got this money. The statement is not correct for they have spent \$550,000 by their own figures over what the debt was when they came into power. We are glad to see that the money due in the tax office is being collected instead of being allowed to run from year to year. During the past year the increase in administration of justice has been large. The Premier has told us little of the public debt of the Province. We have the public accounts of course but it is not a full report. It gives the increase in the debt as over \$9,000 while the decrease in interest is over \$40. This goes to show all the interest is not charged, as well as other items. We have not therefore a full report. Referring to the increased subsidy the Premier says we must get more, increase taxes or cut down expenditure. Why is this necessary if we have a surplus? We would like to see the Department of Agriculture well conducted and there is not great cause to complain. We had to wait for the report, however, and now when we ask questions about what is not in it, we cannot get our answers as the Secretary is in Halifax. The report does not tell where the stock purchased is at, present and we have no way of knowing. He had been told that a horse was offered to King's County with a reserve price on him and afterwards sold to another county at a lower price. The output in butter and cheese has decreased to the amount \$60,000; the department was not to blame but they would have taken credit if there had been an increase. Speaking of the Education department he referred to the large number of small schools and the remedy. A commission had been suggested and when searching for the cause of small schools what would it find. The original act does not permit the existence of so many small schools. A clause has been added allowing the whole country to be divided up as anyone with political pull wanted. Consolidation is now being suggested but at the best it will be hard to bring the Island to the former stage before these amendments were passed. All the inducements to encourage the teachers to do their best work had been taken away. It has been claimed that many schools are not doing good work but a clause in the act reducing their salary if good work is not done, has never been put into effect. The Premier has said as far as the reports show, the management of affairs is going on well; but it is what the reports don't show that we complain of. The member from Bay View (Hon. Mr. Simpson) had said the salaries were increased by the Conservatives. This was not correct for in stead they had been reduced.

\$70,000 a year increase together with what is spent for administration of justice, which is claimed should be paid by the Dominion would allow us to fund our debt and pay it all off. He was surprised to hear the Leader of the Opposition say that insanity was due to tobacco and black tea. He had travelled over the globe and found Prince Edward Islanders everywhere. This teaches us that the insane represent a population, not of 112,000, but of perhaps half a million all over the world. Dealing with the representation question he said we must do all we can to maintain our rights. The question of education had been discussed warmly but he would like to see the opposition vote they in power close up the small schools in the province. No government would attempt such a scheme. Some radical change must take place and the consolidation of schools appears to be the only remedy. A gentleman was in the province now to establish improved schools in Tryon, Emerald, Seartown, Kensington and Bedeque. Our real genuine claim is that the Dominion is collecting from this Island much more in taxes and excise duties than in previous years. He referred to the improvements in the Ayrshire cattle at the Stock Farm and contended that many of the animals sold, should not have been sent out to the country. The previous speaker, though not a lawyer, had quibbled over the question of prosperity. The leader referred to the prosperity of the people—not of the Government, but one will follow the other. The surplus is not a bogus one, even with the capital account payer have we come nearer to making ends meet since the time of confederation. The \$155,000 said to have been saved, the Leader pointed out had been saved from what the Conservatives would have spent had they been in power. Mr. CURRIE said the Liberals increased the Land tax and also the Road tax. The country people find fault because taxes would not be taken in the Tax Office but had to be paid to Deputy collectors, though living near the city. Though the Liberal Government have cut down expenses to save money they had opened up a large number of new small schools which are a detriment to the Province. The Commissioner of Public Works had said the roads in West River District were not in a bad condition. The North River Bridge is in a dangerous position and he had been told that Oyster Bed Bridge was also in bad repair. When the Premier referred to Morell Bridge he was hoping he would refer to the new North River Bridge. The Bridge could be built for a much less cost than what had been estimated. He was sorry his colleague, Dr. Douglas had not backed him up in his plea for West River. He reiterated that, though the contractor was an excellent man, the steam communication on that route was most inefficient. The public wharf is a disgrace. There is no rail and in stormy weather with spray blowing over the pier he had seen people crawling along on their hands and knees to gain the boat.

tended that notwithstanding the amount of money being spent, the roads in many places were never in a worse condition. Many pedlars traversing the Island do not pay their license and are a great nuisance to the country people. The matter should be taken in hand and such unwelcome immigrants prevented from flooding the country. Commercial travellers representing reputable firms and a benefit to the country are taxed twice as much. Dr. DOUGLAS defended the Hooky Point Ferry and maintained that the condition of the wharf had been exaggerated. In Conservative times two men had lost their lives because of the bad condition. The Government are preparing to make repairs to the wharf. He had pressed for greater facilities than ever his colleague had done and he hoped soon to see a waiting house on the wharf. West River in the past had been true to the Liberal party and at next election if untoward circumstances did not occur, they would return two members. Repairs had been made last year to the West River Bridge as well as the North River Bridge. The roads were also in good shape until the present spring when the freshets had done great damage in every part of the Island. He thought it might be wise to put a larger tax on pedlars. The members from Murray Harbor (Mr. McKinnon) had criticised the removal of the supplement clause from the act but he knew its abuses in former times. The Government had conducted all the departments well and the people were satisfied. Mr. KICKHAM had time and again asked for repairs in his district which had been refused. The Government might as well as not treat his district right and build up their characters there also. He claimed that the Government should complete the road; where they had purchased rights of way in part. At eleven o'clock Mr. KICKHAM moved the adjournment. FRIDAY FORENOON. Mr. KICKHAM concluded his speech. He referred to the injustice that had been done his district in the efforts to defeat him, and made a plea for greater justice to the part of the Province of which he was a representative. Mr. IYING congratulated the Government upon the excellent showing of the year in contrast to the deficits of the past years which if continued would be to the ruin of the Province. With continued prosperity throughout Canada it was but fitting that Prince Edward Island should share. The House then went into committee of supply with Mr. Hughes in the chair.

ALMOST IN DESPAIR

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Mr. GALLANT said he did not wonder the opposition had talked as they did when they faced the first Government that had come out with a surplus. The country will not ask more of any Government with the present conditions. Our roads, bridges, and other public works are in better condition than ever before with a saving effected also. He hoped soon that we might have even more money to spend on our public works. The opposition were courageous in attempting to criticise the Government who had done so well. Liberal Governments were having surpluses on every hand and still the opposition will say the country is not in good hands. Mr. ARSENault criticised a promiseous increase in salaries at the expense of some of the public departments. He would like to see a larger salary for the Inspector of French schools. He understood that the present French professor in Prince of Wales College was not fitted for the position. In all fair play he thought Professor Arsenault should have been given the position of French professor in the college. In discussing the Public Works he con-

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Mr. GALLANT spoke humorously of the remarks by the Leader of the Opposition. He would point out that our