

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

(Continued From the First Page)

AFTERNOON SESSION.

House met at 3. Mr. McDonald resumed the debate on the resolution. He said that after 10 years, he was happy to say that it seems certain that the bridge will be constructed. It had been found useless for the Liberal party of this province to press it on the Conservative party who were then in power at Ottawa. The question of expenditure on the Southport ferry always brought up the question of spanning the Hillsboro. The efforts of the Conservative members at Ottawa at that time consisted of speeches void of purpose. This state of affairs continued until 1896, when Sir Charles Tupper came down here and promised the railway as a bid for votes. The Conservative party was defeated and the Liberals came into power at Ottawa. Sir Louis Davies said he recognized the importance of the subject and he would exercise his influence. He considered the railway to Belfast of little use without a railway bridge to connect the

existing railway with the proposed extension. It came up in the cabinet last year when he, ex-Premier Warburton and Hon. J. W. Richards went to Ottawa to present the question and they received the greatest encouragement not only from Sir Louis but from Sir Wilfred Laurier as well. They were advised however not to press the matter just then as the government's time would be taken up with a great many important measures and that it would be better to postpone it until this session. As a mark of their sincerity a survey was made and plans drawn up. There were three surveys in all. It will likely be located at the Gas House or McGill's shipyard. We have a plan of the bridge before us. It will be the largest bridge in the province. The federal government does not ask us to spend more than \$12,000 annually on the work. Having the interest of the province at heart they went to Ottawa and saw the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and they found out what it was to have a strong man as a member in the cabinet. Having seen the Leader of the Government and discussed the matter he pledged himself to the bridge providing the province did their part. The Dominion Government will not build a bridge for local purposes and it is only in connection with the railway bridge that they will build it at all. They saw the Minister of Railways and argued the matter with him and secured his assurance of doing his best to carry it through parliament this session. With that assurance what better position can we be in than we are at the present? There will not be a cent of additional taxation and there is no reasonable grounds for opposing the resolution.

He then took up the ferry system and the amounts spent in subsequent years by successive governments which were as follows:—

CONSERVATIVE RULE.	
1883	\$ 13,403.55
1884	8,852.00
1885	7,019.75
1886	13,560.41
1887	5,206.43
1888	8,742.14
1889	10,961.58
1890	15,072.70

Total for 8 years \$82,818.56
Average of \$10,352.32 with additional expenses on southport of \$1,000 per year not charged in above.

LIBERAL RULE.	
1891	\$ 15,605.69
1892	9,860.31
1893	14,795.33
1894	25,858.47
1895	27,514.24
1896	5,199.27
1897	9,999.08

Summing up he showed that for the past 15 years the Hillsboro ferry had cost this province on an average of \$12,776.73. In addition to their share of the \$12,000 the people on the south side of the river are compelled to pay in tolls nearly \$4,000 a year. He (Mr. McDonald) claimed that the average cost of \$12,776.73 for the fifteen years from 1883 to 1897 should be further supplemented by about \$20,000 for cost of the steamer Hillsboro, sometimes used in the service. The above expenditure includes the keeping in repair of the Southport and Prince Street wharves, the maintenance of the steamer Elfin and the first cost of the steamer Hillsboro. He showed also that if the present ferry service was continued a new boat will be required. The Elfin may not be allowed to run this summer. Both the Elfin and the Southport are 25 years old. In view of these facts was it reasonable that any member should oppose the building of the bridge? The federal government only require us to pay the interest on the extra money required to make the superstructure a traffic as well as a railway bridge. The Jacques Cartier receives from the government \$2,400 a year, two-thirds of which may be charged to the Orwell service. This amount would be saved as well as subsidies now paid to packets going around to the south side of the Island, in all about \$15,000 which might be avoided were the bridge built. We are asked to pass a statute beyond which we are not required to go. What we ask for is that power be given to the Lieut. Governor in Council. With regard to tolls he thought if justice were meted out the people on the south side should not be paying tolls. He hoped the opposition would join with the government. The vicinity will be enhanced and the bridge will be a lasting monument to those who advocated it. When the bill comes up he would say something more.

The resolution was carried and the House went into committee with Mr. McWilliams in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Gordon regretted that pledges had not been received by the Local Government as to the erection of a bridge. He was prepared to vote for both works, but he wanted to know whether we had any guarantee as

to whether it was going to be carried out. He referred to the Cardigan ferry and the want of a boat, on that route. He claimed there did not seem to be any desire or there would be a pledge. He did not think he could give his vote as it stood now. When it is brought before the House in a proper form he would vote for it.

Hon. H. C. McDonald considered that they had plenty of proof and are not trying to hoodwink the people, particularly since there is not an election pending.

Hon. Mr. Gordon submitted the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Shaw:

Resolved, that in the opinion of this House the question of contributing a sum of \$12,000 per year towards the construction of a bridge on the Hillsborough River is premature, inasmuch as no official estimate or data whereon to form an opinion of the practicability of the said proposed undertaking has been laid before this House.

Mr. Shaw rose to second the amendment and was speaking when the House rose.

House adjourned until 10 o'clock to-day.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS, 1898.

Dominion Subsidy.....	\$181,952.95
Public Lands.....	14,273.88
Commercial Traveller's Licenses.....	4,860.00
Incorporated Companies.....	4,275.00
Ferries.....	5,740.00
Prothonotary Offices.....	2,029.31
Registry Offices.....	4,745.50
County Courts.....	1,154.77
Provincial Secretary's Office..	738.20
Peddlers' Licenses.....	720.00
Hospital for Insane.....	917.84
P. of W. College Fees.....	1,280.00
Fines and Penalties.....	461.61
Casual Revenue.....	224.18
Private Bills.....	140.00
Succession Duties.....	213.75
Provincial Land Tax.....	30,084.48
Income Tax.....	5,556.74
Debentures Sold.....	18,094.77
Total Receipts.....	\$277,462.98
Less Prince of Wales College fees placed to Debenture Sinking Fund Account....	1,280.00
	\$276,182.98

EXPENDITURE FOR 1898.

Administration of Justice....	\$ 17,022.68
Boards of Health.....	35.25
Coroners' Inquests.....	177.62
Dairy Associations.....	230.00
Dep't of Agriculture.....	462.11
Executive Council.....	488.94
Education.....	129,817.81
Elections.....	414.92
Hospital for Insane.....	19,735.15
Interest.....	18,558.80
Inspectors of License.....	600.00
Legislation.....	7,789.43
Legislative Library.....	307.60
Miscellaneous.....	4,243.65
Paupers.....	3,484.35
Poor House.....	3,449.14
Postage.....	492.95
Public Lands.....	1,361.81
Prov. Sec'y. and Treas.....	4,635.93
Provincial Auditor.....	1,197.70
Provincial Building.....	1,302.45
Registry Offices.....	4,047.81
Telegrams.....	22.38
Stenographer and Typewriter.....	1,155.50
Public Works—	
Expenses of Department.....	4,056.09
Wharves.....	3,376.29
Ferries, incl. Ferry Stairs.....	19,749.35
Packets.....	3,292.00
Rights of Way.....	2,781.50
Roads.....	14,712.40
Suprs. Salaries & Comm's....	2,716.69
Bridges.....	15,137.42
Miscellaneous.....	2,549.32
Government House.....	276.81
Debenture Sinking Fund.....	2,775.00
Prince of Wales College....	8,378.00
Hospital for Insane.....	365.00
	\$301,699.75

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5 PRESENTS OF \$5.00 EACH	25.00
10 " " 2.50 " "	25.00

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CONDITIONS:—Essays to be written with pen and ink, signed with name and address, also statement of age of the writer and that the essay is his (or her) unaided work, name and grade of school attended, and name of teacher, this statement to be certified to by one parent or teacher.

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