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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

MR. SHAW'S SEVERE ARRAIGNMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Comparisons of Records—Where Has the Money Gone?

THURSDAY, April 29.

When the House met this afternoon Mr. Shaw submitted the following resolution:—

Whereas, the present Government gained power at the election of 1893 by leading the people to believe that the days of taxation were far off and by promising through economy and reform to make revenue and expenditure meet.

And Whereas, that by certain resolutions submitted during several sessions of the Legislature, and by the declarations of Liberal and Local, the people were given to understand that Free Trade with the United States in the products of the soil would be obtained by the return of the Liberals to power at Ottawa.

And Whereas, owing to the most reckless waste, and extravagance in the various departments of the public service, they have seen fit to enact a system of taxation that is unfair and unjust, and bears most unevenly on the people of this Province.

And Whereas, that notwithstanding the enormous amount collected in taxes during the past 3 years, the yearly receipts have not been equal to the expenditure, and as a consequence a public debt of an alarming magnitude has been rolled up that threatens to jeopardize the future interests and well-being of this province.

Therefore Resolved, That the present Government having violated the pledges made to the people previous to the election of 1893, and by their extravagant and reckless expenditure largely increased the burdens of the people, have therefore forfeited the confidence of the electorate of this Province.

Mr. Shaw supported the resolution in a speech of about four hours' duration. He explained in opening that his object was to clear up some of the statements made in the Leader's Budget Speech. That speech, he pointed out, instead of being a defence of the Government's policy was simply an apology for their strained circumstances. He (Mr. Shaw) then proceeded to refer to some of the savings claimed by the Leader of the Government.

He first dealt with the saving claimed in the matter of the administration of justice, pointing out that credit should have been given the Sullivan administration for effecting a saving in the jury system. The Leader, in his Budget Speech, claims that he and his Government are entitled to all credit for reductions in the administration of justice, but towards the close of the debate he lets the cat out of the bag, and intimates that the expense is uncontrollable. He quoted from the Patriot's report of the budget speech to prove this.

Mr. H. C. McDonald, at this juncture, rose to a point of order. He claimed that the hon. member was out of order in reading from the Patriot the report of the budget speech and discussing the same, claiming that he had no right to refer to a debate that had taken place earlier in the session. He quoted Bourinot in proof of what he said, and pointed out that the proper time to have discussed the budget was when that debate was on.

Mr. Shaw contended that he was acting within his rights in quoting from the official report of the budget speech published in the Patriot to back up his statements.

Mr. McDonald insisted upon the Speaker ruling on the point of order raised by him.

The Speaker said the hon. member (Mr. Shaw) should confine himself to the resolution which he had introduced.

Mr. Shaw then proceeded to refer to the Leader's statement regarding the Land Office, as reported in the Patriot. Hon. Mr. Peters pointed out that Mr. Shaw could not do this. He said he could not refer to what has already been disposed of this session. The hon. member had an opportunity of discussing the budget speech when the budget debate was in progress.

The Speaker quoted Bourinot on the point raised.

Mr. Shaw, referring to quoting from newspapers, pointed out that they had now no official reporter to refer to, but they had the Leader's speech as reported by the Government's reporter, and they should be allowed to quote from it. In regard to the statement that the Government has collected more in the land office—

Mr. McDonald again interrupted Mr. Shaw and insisted on the Speaker's ruling him out of order. He pointed out that the hon. member was reading from the Patriot the official report of the budget speech and was proceeding to comment thereon. According to Bourinot this was out of order.

The Speaker said that according to Bourinot the hon. member was out of order in reading from a newspaper, but the resolution could be discussed. If the course of the hon. member could be justified by May he would take it into consideration.

Mr. Shaw continuing proceeded to point out that the statement of the Leader that they had collected more in the Land Office in a similar period than was collected by the late government was not borne out by facts. The Leader took five years from 1887 to 1891 when comparing the cost of collecting. Why did he not take the same years when counting the receipts during the same period of time? They do not do this, but they count the receipt in 1891, 1892 and 1893, and the last two years are omitted because these are against them. From 1880 to 1890 the amount collected was \$481,193.29 an average per year of over \$43,000. The amount collected from 1892 to 1896 was \$145,348.72 an average per year of \$29,069.74. In salaries from 1880 to 1890 we paid an

average per year of \$3,609.93 for collecting over \$43,000 while they paid \$2,650 per year for collecting an average of \$20,649.94. The cost of collecting under both governments was therefore about the same, whilst our expenses were about \$500 more. In the Registry Office, Mr. Shaw proceeded to point out, the saving of the late Government would more than counteract this. In the face of all the talk about the Registry Office, under the late administration, he dared them to point to the loss of a single dollar in that department. He contended that the office was properly conducted, and submitted a statement which showed that under five years of the late Government the cost was \$19,445.54, while for five years under the present administration it was \$21,977.75. He took the last five years of both governments and found that the present Government paid \$2,500 more than the late Government did. This shows how public affairs were conducted by the Conservatives. The present Government came and introduced discounts in the Land Office in 1891 and 1892, and in the latter year these discounts were to cease. For the last few years we have not received a comprehensive report of that department, but the report for 1893 stated that \$324,899.69 was due the Land Office on Dec 31, 1892. From 1893 to 1895 there was collected \$79,963.94. Take that from the \$324,899.79 and you have a balance due that office on Dec. 31, 1895, of \$245,935.73. The report of the Public Accounts Committee, tabled last session, says in regard to the Land Office that the balance due was \$150,086. That report was voted "correct" by the Government and its supporters. He asked where the balance amounting to \$95,000 had gone.

Hon. Mr. McMillan intimated that the accounts submitted for years past by former governments were misleading, and asserted that they took the compound interest off accounts due.

Mr. Shaw, continuing, pointed out that it was a greater offence for the Commissioner of Crown Lands to table a statement that was incorrect. In the short time of three years, he added, the enormous sum of over \$45,000 was sacrificed at the shrine of the Land Office. What justification can this Government give for allowing these discounts, especially in 1893-94-95, without the consent of parliament and probably only to purchase support. The Leader of the Government in his Lyceum speech, called our party a party of burglars. But he (the Leader) could not prove this. The present Government have been guilty of political piracy in the Land Office. The candle has been burning at both ends in that arm of the service. The Commissioner had also stated that there was \$100,000 due the Land Office that would never be collected. The Government also boasted of a saving of \$800 a year in printing. While this may be so the public service has suffered in other respects. When the late Government was in power they paid reporters, and every word of what hon. members said was on record. But when the present Government came in they abolished the reporters, so that their inconsistent speeches could not be read. Another way they save in printing is that there are not three contracts out of ten that are let by public contract. This is done to win support. If they saved in advertising and printing they lose in other ways by the manner in which they farmed out the jobs. Again, they pay for the services of two typewriters \$1600 a year, and about \$150 for supplies. So if they have saved in printing they have increased their expenses, and after all, they have made no saving. They claim that one source of their over-expenditure is that of education, and they take credit for what they have done for this. Yet one of their first acts was to reduce the supplements. Agriculture is our mainstay, as we have no extensive manufactures here. Of necessity, therefore, our surplus population must go abroad to seek employment, and the bounden duty of the Government is to give them a good sound education to fit them for the battle of life. He was in favor of paying the teachers salaries direct from the treasury. This is the policy of the Opposition. But they are not opposed to allowing the districts to supplement the teachers' salary if they see fit to do so. Wealth has not a monopoly of talent, and our policy is to guard the interests of the poor man as well as the interests of the rich. The Government can take no credit to themselves for the increased expenditure on education. The Leader seems only anxious to educate the boys to go away; but what about those who remain at home? Is he assisting them in acquiring an agricultural education. The late government established a chair of agriculture in the Prince of Wales College and no sooner did the present Government come into power than they abolished that chair because they were dictated to by the principal of the institution. It is the duty of the Government to educate our young men in agricultural matters. If the boasted savings in the various departments are true where has the money gone? Their expenditure, he claimed, was \$304,564, or an increase of \$28,941.61 per year over that of the late Government. Now, if they were economical and effected savings where have they spent the money. They did not spend so much on roads as the late Government did, except in the election year, when the enormous sum of \$337,415.36 was spent, so that they might retain power. Their apparent deficit last year was \$14,000, but it would be just as well for the Government to be owing the banks as owing the poor men throughout the country for road work when the amount was due them and the time for payment was October, November and December of last year. Yet the hon. member from West River as acting premier refused to pay their road orders and they were held over till this year so that the amounts would not appear in the public accounts for last year. Hence the small deficit. In 1893 the election took place, and when he (Mr. Shaw) was examining some road returns in 1895 he

found a letter pinned to one of these returns stating that Mr. Kichham, one of the King's County candidates, had actually given a contract to John Goodwin. Some \$8,700 of the \$59,000 spent on roads and rights of way in that year was spent to return the Leader of the Government and his colleague, and about \$7,500 of it was expended to return the Commissioner of Public Works. These are certainly pretty expensive representatives. The Government spoke about repairing the roads and the disgraceful condition they were in when they obtained power. Yet the late Government expended yearly an average of \$22,735.48, whilst their average was \$22,203.97, and last year the expenditure was considerably less. They said that the late Government allowed the wharves to go to decay. But our average expenditure was \$7,316.02 whilst theirs was only \$4,814.11. In 1896 there was only \$1,556.91 spent on wharves. Only \$33.75 of last years amount for wharves was spent in Prince County, whilst some \$1250 was spent in Queen's County, namely in Fort Augustus, and West and East Rivers. Is there any fair play in this? Where even their excess of \$25,000 went it did not go to wharves or roads. It did not go to bridges because they spent an average of \$5,195.00 less than we did for this purpose. They did not spend it on the Provincial Building which they said was in a disgraceful condition, and in fact they issued some \$10,000 worth of debentures for the purpose of making it right. Although they borrowed this money on debentures for this special purpose they only spent in all since 1891 \$1,342 on this building. The Leader failed to fulfil even this pledge to the people. Where then did all the money go? Some say that it went down into that sink the ferries. A great amount certainly went there. The same efficiency on the ferries, he claimed, could be obtained for less money. The hon. member from Springton intimated that six members of this House owed their seats to the accommodation provided by these ferries \$15,000 of the peoples money must be paid out for this expensive luxury. The Government was not justified in this course. The farmers pay \$30,000 a year in direct taxation and \$15,000 of that amount the hon. member from Springton admits is to keep six members in this House. The farmers will ponder this statement well and will not condone such a prostitution of the peoples money. There is also another way that the money has gone. A steamer appropriated called the Boodler was built at Mount Stewart the contract price of which was \$13,590 and on which \$17,765.40 was really paid or \$4,265.40 over and above the contract price. It is no wonder that steamer is called the Boodler, and that the deficit is large. There is yet another way that this money has gone. It is in interest. Our average a year for this purpose was \$3,388.25 whilst theirs was \$12,122.07, over \$9,792.79 more than we paid. The interest last year was \$15,441.18. (Continued on 6th pag.)

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Dated 27th day of April, 1897. JAMES WADDELL, Superintendent.

A By-law for allowing a Rate of Discount on the Assessments on Real Estate and Personal Property in the City of Charlottetown for general civic purposes for the current year ending the thirty-first day of December A. D. 1897.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Charlottetown as follows:— 1st. A discount at the rate of Two and One-half Per Cent shall be allowed to all taxpayers who shall, on or before the Fifteenth day of July next, A. D. 1897, pay to the City Clerk, at his office, the taxes severally due by them for the current year on Real Estate and Personal Property for civic purposes. [Sgd.] W. E. DAWSON, Mayor of the City of Charlottetown. H. M. DAVISON, City Clerk. April 15th—dy 2w

A By-law for levying and specifying the rate of assessment on Real Estate and Personal Property in the City of Charlottetown for general Civic purposes under Statute 51 Victoria, Chapter 12.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Charlottetown as follows:— 1st. The rate of assessment on Real Estate for general Civic purposes under said Statute, for the year commencing the first day of January, A. D. 1897, and ending the thirty-first day of December, A. D. 1897, is hereby specified and fixed at the rate of one per cent on every dollar of the value of Real Estate, as assessed by the Assessors of the said City of Charlottetown in the General Assessment Book and Valuation Roll of all Real Estate and Personal Property liable to taxation in said City, and of all persons liable to pay Poll Tax therein, made and duly returned by them on the fourth day of March, A. D. 1897. 2nd. The rate of assessment on Personal Property for such general Civic purposes, for the year commencing the first day of January, A. D. 1897, and ending the thirty-first day of December, A. D. 1897, is hereby specified and fixed at the rate of one per cent on every dollar of the value of Personal Property as assessed by the Assessors of the said City in the said General Assessment Book and Valuation Roll, made and duly returned by them as aforesaid. [Sgd.] W. E. DAWSON, Mayor of the City of Charlottetown. H. M. DAVISON, City Clerk. April 14th—dy 2w

A By-Law for Levying and Specifying the Rate of Assessment on Real Estate and Personal Property and Poll in the City of Charlottetown for a Waterworks Fund, under Statute 50th Victoria, Chapter 8.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Charlottetown as follows:— 1st. The rate of Assessment on Real Estate for a Waterworks Fund under said Statute for the year commencing the first day of January, A. D. 1897, and ending the thirty-first day of December, A. D. 1897, is hereby specified and fixed at the rate of one-eighth of one per cent on every dollar of the value of Real Estate as assessed by the Assessors of the said City of Charlottetown in the general Assessment Book and Valuation Roll of all Real Estate and Personal Property liable to taxation in said City, and all persons liable to pay Poll Tax thereon made and duly returned by them on the fourth day of March, A. D. 1897. 2nd. The rate of Assessment on Personal Property for such Water Works Fund for the year commencing the first day of January, A. D. 1897, and ending the thirty-first day of December, A. D. 1897, is hereby specified and fixed at the rate of one-eighth of one per cent on every dollar of the value of Personal Property as assessed by the Assessors of the said City in the said General Assessment Book and Valuation Roll, made and duly returned by them as aforesaid. 3rd. The amount of Poll Tax to be paid by every person returned by the said Assessors in said General Assessment Book and Valuation Roll as liable thereto for such Water works Fund under said Statute, for the year commencing the first day of January, A. D. 1897, and ending the 31st day of December, A. D. 1897, is hereby specified and fixed at the sum of Ten Cents (10c) on the poll of every person so assessed and returned as aforesaid. [Sgd.] W. E. DAWSON, Mayor of the City of Charlottetown. H. M. DAVISON, City Clerk. City Clerk's Office, Charlottetown, April 15, 1897. dy 2w