

# The Daily Examiner.

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CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1883.

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## NEW SERIES

### THE DAILY EXAMINER

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Table with columns for Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Moon, High, Days. Rows for each day of the month.

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Charlottetown, Dec. 11, 1882—99c. whly

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

### OFFICIAL SUMMARY.

MONDAY, April 23. MR. SPEAKER took the chair at 11 o'clock.

MR. BEER called attention to the slip of the Official Summary, as laid on the table.

It contains a speech by Mr. J. W. Mitchell, a gentleman, not a member of the House.

This gentleman, it appears, boasts of printing "Cards," "Dodgers," "Bill-heads," "Posters," etc., in fact is reported to have made quite a long speech.

Would it not be well to have the reporters brought to the Bar of the House to explain the mystery of the appearance of this speech in the Official Summary?

MR. GORDON thought that as a member of the Fourth Estate, Mr. Mitchell might lay some claim to recognition in the debates of the Legislature.

The Fourth Estate is very powerful, and perhaps it is well that it should be represented in the Journals of the House.

MR. BEER resumed the debates on the resolution submitted by the leader of the Opposition.

He said he would be sorry to see carried a vote of want of confidence in the Government; for he would not care to be in a party compelled to take charge of the finances of the Province at the present time.

The Government have not the means of making adequate provisions for the public service. No notice has been taken of the recommendations of the Superintendent of Education and Professor Anderson, respecting the enlargement and improvement of Prince of Wales College and Normal School.

No notice of what has been recommended as to the necessity of an additional School Inspector. According to the report of the Trustees of the Hospital for the Insane, \$18,000 is needed in its maintenance, and only \$16,000 has been voted.

The Superintendent of the Hospital says that in view of the increasing number of patients, a cottage should be built for his accommodation, and the part of the building he now occupies should be given up to patients.

The Commissioners for Exhibitions require more money for prizes, sheds, etc., and their requirements are not answered.

The Stock Farm Commissioners want a windmill, a house for the manager, and other appliances; but there is no appropriation.

The Hillsborough Ferry is not sufficiently provided for. Even the Poorhouse is placed under contribution. The present Government came into power on the express understanding that they would not increase an assessment.

For three years they imposed the Assessment Act, and now they are cutting down expenditures which should be increased, while deficit after deficit is being rolled up.

The Government depend upon getting some money from the Dominion as an indemnity for the amount expended upon our wharves or piers; but the Dominion Government have not yet even acknowledged the justice of our claim.

MR. J. R. McLEAN said: The financial condition of the Province is lamentable. The Province was never before in such an unfortunate position.

The statements of the Leader of the Government in the past have been proved to be incorrect, and his latest statement is also largely inaccurate.

The memoranda submitted by the delegates to the Dominion Government is at variance with the facts in several particulars; and the prospect of getting anything from the Dominion Government are very slim indeed.

But even if some money should be obtained, how can their reliance upon this "windfall" be reconciled with their promises to the people that they would be able to carry on the business of the country without the aid of an assessment?

That they do so, is an acknowledgment that they have failed to keep their pledges. It is to be regretted that they have not energetically pressed the claim of the Province to its share of the Fishery Award.

If they had done so the claim would probably have been allowed. But, as it is, the state of the Province is unfortunate in the extreme.

The deficit of last year, will be followed by a deficit this year.

MR. CAMPBELL reviewed the speeches of members of the Opposition at some length, and contended that the present Government provided a great deal more money for the most important branches of the public service than their predecessors.

He said he believed that every department of the public business should stand on its own footing, and that every expenditure should be included in the accounts of its own year.

On this principle he would compare the result under the former Government and under the present Government.

1877. Balance in favor of Province, 31st Dec., 1876 \$40,604

Receipts - - - - - \$326,274

Expenditure - - - - - 331,632

Deficit on year's work - - - - - 5,358

Balance in favor of Province, 31st Dec., 1877 \$35,246

From Land Office - - - - - 78,506

Taxes - - - - - 58,448

Paid for Education in - - - - - 80,813

1878. Expenditure - - - - - 334,133

Receipts - - - - - 312,651

Admitted Deficit - - - - - 21,440

From Land Office - - - - - 54,379

Taxes - - - - - 38,834

Total - - - - - \$93,214

Paid for Education - - - - - 65,550

Real deficit at the 31st Dec. 73,864

Balance in favor of Colony 33,246

Deficit - - - - - 38,618

Whole amount collected from the people through Land Office and Assessment in two years - - - - - 230,168

It was in 1878, after the Liberal Conservative members resigned their positions in

the Davies Government, that what he called the system of financial gerrymandering was introduced.

Under this system a very large amount was carried over to the accounts of 1879; and the real deficit of 1878 was as stated above, upwards of \$73,000, though \$93,214 were in that year drawn out of the pockets of the people.

But look at the record of the present Government. In—

1879. Expenditure \$313,845—\$275,327

Receipts - - - - - 285,062

Surplus in year - - - - - \$9,825

Land money in 1879 - - - - - \$44,812

Taxes - - - - - 26,630

Total - - - - - \$71,442

Less collected than in 1877 - - - - - \$65,503

Less collected than in 1878 - - - - - 21,672

More paid for education than in 1878 - - - - - \$25,457

More paid for five quarters than 1877 - - - - - \$10,194

1880. Expenditure - - - - - \$257,508

Receipts - - - - - 269,603

Surplus - - - - - \$12,295

Land office - - - - - \$54,361

Taxes - - - - - 22,869

Total - - - - - \$77,170

Less collected than in 1877 - - - - - 59,784

Less collected than in 1878 - - - - - 26,044

Paid for education more than in 1878 - - - - - \$30,756

Paid more for five quarters than in 1877 - - - - - 15,400

1881. Expenditure - - - - - \$261,275

Receipts - - - - - 275,380

Surplus - - - - - \$14,104

Total - - - - - \$36,234

Land office - - - - - \$64,531

Taxes - - - - - 31,122

Total - - - - - \$95,653

Less than 1877 - - - - - \$41,001

Paid more for education than in 1878 - - - - - \$31,032

Five quarters 1877 - - - - - 15,676

1882. Expenditure - - - - - \$257,228

Receipts - - - - - 234,464

Deficit - - - - - \$93,764

Surplus on 4 year's work, - - - - - \$12,570

Public Lands - - - - - \$46,130

Taxes - - - - - 3,932

Total - - - - - \$50,062

So that the Government Party collected—

Less from people than in 1877 - - - - - \$31,954

Less from people than in 1878 - - - - - 43,152

Paid for Education more than 1878 - - - - - 31,954

Paid for five quarters more than 1877 - - - - - 17,517

Now, compare the expenditures in 1877 and 1878 with those of two years while the present Government were in power.

It is not necessary to take the years most favorable to the Government.

Though 1880 and 1881 show still more favorable results, let the comparison be with the years 1881 and 1882.

Thus we see that the—

Amount taken from people in 1877 and 1878 - - - - - \$230,167

Amount taken from people in 1881 and 1882 - - - - - 146,016

Amount taken from people in 1877-78 more than in 1881-82 - - - - - \$84,151

Amount paid for education in 1877 and 1878 - - - - - \$146,363

Amount paid for education in 1881 and 1882 - - - - - 193,900

Amount paid for education in 1881 and 1882 in excess of 1877-78 - - - - - \$47,537

Amount paid for bridges in 1877 - - - - - \$12,125

Amount paid for bridges in 1878 - - - - - 11,973

Total - - - - - \$24,098

Amount paid for bridges in 1881 - - - - - \$20,101

Amount paid for bridges in 1882 - - - - - 18,545

Total - - - - - \$38,646

Amount paid for bridges in 1881-82 in excess of 1877-78 - - - - - \$14,548

In short, the present Government in the two years of 1881 and 1882 drew less money from the people than their opponents did in 1877 and 1878 by eighty-four thousand one hundred and fifty-one dollars; and in the same periods the present Government paid out forty-seven thousand five hundred and thirty-seven dollars more for education, and fourteen thousand five hundred and fifty-eight dollars more for bridges than their opponents.

The Government have shielded the people from taxation, and this is made the ground of the Opposition's attack upon them.

Moreover, while shielding the people from taxation they have expended much more money upon important branches of the public service. This has been the policy of the Government; and this is the policy they will continue to pursue.

House divided on the motion as follows:—

Yeas—Messrs. Yeo, Perry, Beer, McMillan, Hooper, Farquharson, Sinclair, Martin, McLean, J. R. McLean—10.

Nays—Messrs. Sullivan, Ferguson, McLeod, Arsenault, Campbell, LeFurgey, Gordon, McKay, Blake, Bentley, McDonald, Gilis, J. McLean, McDougall—14.

House in Committee—Mr. McDONALD in the Chair.

Salary of Provincial Auditor and Clerk of the Executive Council, \$1200.00

Printing and Stationery, 100.00

Salary of Provincial Secretary, Treasurer and Commissioner of Public Lands, \$1300.00

Salary of Assistant Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, 1000.00

Printing and Stationery for Secretary-Treasurer's Office, 500.00

Salary of Assistant Com. of Public Lands, 500.00

Salary of Draughtsmen, 1250.00

Salary of Clerks, 1100.00

Salaries of Woodrangers, 45.00

Collating Tours, 300.00

Expenses of Surveys, 400.00

Interest on purchase money—Estates, 515.22

Printing and Stationery, 250.00

Mr. PERRY said this item should be explained. The work of the Land Office is not so great as it was, and the expense is no less.

Moreover, the suggestions made by the Commissioner of Crown Lands last year have not been carried out.

The wilderness lands have not been surveyed. The plans said to be necessary, have not been provided.

Only about forty farms were surveyed during the year at a cost of no less than \$3000.

But a large number of precepts have been issued and compound interest has been charged, and amount in the aggregate to about \$60,000.

In the interest of the country the Land Office should be wound up within a twelvemonth. It costs a good deal of money, and the revenues are decreasing.

It merely gives a place for a few supporters of the Government.

Mr. GORDON said the Opposition are performing the part of the Opposition very well. But they ought to be careful that they do not deal blows to our Province which cannot be met.

In British periodicals and elsewhere it is said that Prince Edward Island is all one garden. But here we are told that the Province is not fit to live in; that this is an unfortunate Province in a deplorable condition.

As to the debt of the Province it is smaller per head of the population than almost any other Colony of Great Britain, and there is no real ground whatever for the gloomy statements which have been made.

According to the latest available statements, the Public Debt of the several British Provinces per head of their respective populations, are as follows:—

£ s. d. New South Wales, 20 6 1/4

Victoria, 22 5 10

South Australia, 25 9 6

Queensland, 46 16 0

Western Australia, 12 11 10

Tasmania, 15 17 8

New Zealand, 52 13 0

And Prince Edward Island, independently of Federal Debt, 11 1/2 cents per head.

This is not a debt to cause any fears among our people, though it would, of course, be better to have no debt at all.

MR. SINCLAIR said: The Land Office is in a very bad state. It costs about \$3,000 a year, or 18 per cent of the amount of the years collections. This will never do.

There must be a change. There has been entirely too much extravagance with respect to the office. The collections must be made in a cheaper way. It would be better to give the lands away than to squander the receipts in this way, while the Government go on charging compound interest.

MR. FERGUSON said, that with regard to the speech of Mr. Perry, what was new in it was not true, and what was true was not new; and, with respect to the remarks of Mr. Sinclair, they betrayed gross ignorance of the working of the office.

The latter seems to think that there is nothing to do in the office but to take in the money. There is, however, a great deal of work.

Statements of accounts have to be sent out. Investigations have to be made, deeds have to be drawn up—and if double the work were done it would be well.

The people who owe the office need to be looked after. There are about 6,000 accounts still open in the Land Office.

Many of these might and should be closed, for the persons who owe them are well off.

But when notices are sent out, and the Government try to make collections, they are charged with "tyrannizing over the poor people," many of whom are by the way well off.

The Opposition are now sowing to the wind, and should they ever again obtain power in the Province, they will inevitably reap the whirlwind.

In the meantime, they make it extremely difficult for the Commissioner of Crown Lands to discharge his duty to the public.