

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

MARCH 30, 1893.

The Budget Speech.

It was a happy thought on the part of Mr. Peters to bring on the Budget Speech last night. Public attention was being concentrated upon his gerrymander and his disfranchisement outrage. A diversion from these obnoxious measures was necessary. So we have had the Budget.

But the Budget will not greatly help him. It does not contain anything that will add to his popularity. We have no doubt that it was his appreciation of this fact which induced him to make a labor and unfair attack upon the Sullivan-Ferguson-McLeod Government. Mr. Peters is an adept at drawing a herring across the track. His was the same old-told story—with variations. With the art of an accomplished special pleader, Mr. Peters suppressed and kept completely out of sight three of the most important facts in respect to the late Government's record, viz:

- 1. That they reduced the expenditure by many thousands of dollars a year.
2. That they left the balance at Ottawa in favor of the Province considerably larger than it was when they entered office.
3. That neither of these facts has been accomplished by any other Provincial Government in Canada.

It is not necessary to follow Mr. Peters through all the intricacies of his argument. Everyone will readily admit that the late Government made some mistakes; and yet everyone is fully convinced—without waiting that Mr. Peters can say—that the late Government were, altogether, a good Government for this Province, carrying out as well as they could the wishes of its people and fairly representing their interests. It is true that the late Government over-estimated their ability to make revenue and expenditure meet. But in view of the fact, pointed out by Mr. Bentley, that the Hon. David Laird was wrong in his estimate of the amount of Provincial expenditure by about \$100,000 a year, that Mr. L. H. Davies was still further from the mark, and that Mr. Peters himself—with the experience of twenty years to teach him—was astray in his estimate for last year to the extent of \$35,000, surely they may be excused if they misjudged their resources and failed in their laudable attempt to efficiently maintain all the public services without incurring any deficits.

But Mr. Peters has not, apparently, gained wisdom by his experience. Though entirely destitute of the virtues and their sympathy with the people, he is imitating their mistakes. In two succeeding years, he has piled up deficits, and proposes again to have another deficit. His estimates of this year are, in our opinion, further from the mark than those of last year. On the one hand the cost of elections and all the unforeseen expenditures are not provided for. On the other hand it is not at all likely that \$60,000 will be obtained from the Land Office, seeing that the receipts from that source last year were only \$43,000. The debt of the Province will, we venture to say, be largely increased as a result of this year's operations—the more so as the elections are in full view! We shall not see the public accounts of the year until after the elections. If Mr. Peters should gain the election, then there will be taxation. In any case he will not care much for the people. He imposed a debenture debt, and rifled the Land Office, and changed the constitution of the country, and gerrymandered King's County and disfranchised the Dominion officials—all without the slightest reference to the people; and he will not, we may reasonably argue, consult the wishes of the people in respect to either the size or form of the tax which will be required.

We have to congratulate Mr. Bentley upon the excellence of his first speech in reply to the budget. It was clear, trenchant and convincing—worthy of the high position to which he has recently been called. Mr. Bentley possesses this advantage over his redoubtable opponent: he is in close touch with the people. As it is well known that he is scrupulously careful in respect to his statements, the telling points which he made must powerfully affect public opinion throughout the country. A condensed report of his speech is published elsewhere in THE EXAMINER.

The Official's Petition.

We learn that a number of the men about to be despoiled of their personal right to franchise have joined in a petition to the Legislature. They declare their surprise and alarm resulting from the fact that the disfranchising measure has again been introduced, and they submit that as citizens liable to be taxed they should have a voice in the making of laws affecting their dearest interests. It is stated that the petition is being generally signed—though a few persons who do not resent being called "sheep" and "slaves," and being treated as such by the Peters Government, together with a few who prefer to bear the outrage in dignified silence, have declined to sign.

Sepolia, amonias, whitening, washing soda, silver polish, B. Bitt's d-mound and Greenbank potash at Esar & G. if's. mar 30 31.

Provincial Legislature.

House of Assembly.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, March 29.

In the afternoon, the act incorporating the New Perth Hall Company was read a second time in committee with Mr. McLeod in the chair. Bill reported agreed to. The bill incorporating the Red House Dairy Company was read a second time in committee for the purpose of considering certain amendments made thereto by the Legislative Council. The amendments were reported agreed to.

The act incorporating the Dank River Cheese Factory was read a second time in committee with Mr. Robertson in the chair, and reported agreed to. Committee on the bill disfranchising Dominion officials was resumed. Mr. McKay said he did not think the experience of the past few years has proven that we have benefited by having the Local Parliament not of the same political stripe as the Dominion Government. The Sullivan Government boldly pressed our claims upon the Dominion Government and obtained a rebate of over \$100,000, thereby saving the Province from direct taxation. They were very energetic in pressing our claims, and their efforts were attended with success, as was already known to every person. They also procured the winter steamer Stanley, which has done excellent service. In the light of these facts he could not see the force of the argument of the Leader of the Government, that the two Governments should be separate. He had no evidence whatever that the present Government were making any move in the matter of pressing our claims. Then he took up the claim of the Leader of the Government that the Dominion officials should not be allowed to vote because they were not allowed to vote as their consciences dictated. There was not the slightest evidence of the truth of the assertion that any undue influence was ever brought to bear upon the officials to prevent them from voting as they desired. He thought it unfair that these officials were to be deprived of their right to vote, and argued that the Government was actuated by a determination to obtain an unfair advantage. When the Dominion Franchise was changed, the Dominion Parliament permitted her young men to continue in the possession of their votes. A special clause was enacted on their behalf, because it was held that a man once a voter was always a voter. But a party in power in this Province—in power as a result of a political shift—has determined to take away the franchise rights of Dominion officials. The outrage will rebound upon those who have committed it.

Hon. Mr. Gordon said, though unwell, he must, in justice to his constituents, raise his voice against the iniquitous measure before the House. It was proposed to take away the electoral rights of a portion of the Province. There is no good or sufficient cause for this—only a suspicion on the part of the Government that a majority of the class to be disfranchised is against them. Surely hon. members opposite have not studied the bearings of this question, or have forgotten the sufferings of those who in this Province struggled in behalf of electoral freedom. Three members of this House were imprisoned during the continuance of that struggle; two fought a duel. The labors of Claxton and Whelan should not so soon be forgotten. The records of the Province for sixty years may be searched in vain for legislation such as that introduced by the Leader of the Government this year—the production of a tyrannical government. To look at him you would not think the Leader of the Government was a tyrant, though it is a remarkable fact that almost all tyrants, from Pharaoh who compelled the Israelites to make bricks without straw, to Henry the Eighth, the fair men to look at. The acts of the Leader of the Government are evidently tyrannical; and his persistency in respect to them recalls the following lines from "Timon the Tartar":—"The trampled world will turn, they say; what stuff! That only means I haven't trampled him enough." The policy of the Leader of the Government is well described in the words of Macbeth:—"For mine own good All causes shall give away; I am in blood, Step in so far, that should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er. Strange things I have in head, that will to hand, Which must be acted ere they may be scanned. We are yet but young in deeds."

Incidentally Mr. Gordon said that the Leader of the Government had ridiculed and misrepresented Georgetown—and ignored his own friends there, having referred to the Liberal-Conservative vote as the whole vote of the constituency, and he concluded by declaring that Dominion officials are gentlemen whom the Government are going to place upon the same political plane as paupers. Mr. Arsenault, Mr. Matheson, Mr. Rogers and other speakers followed, and progress was reported. House took recess after the Premier had begun his Budget Speech.

THE BUDGET.

After recess, Hon. Mr. Peters resumed the debate on his motion to go into supply. He reviewed at great length the financial records of the late administration, and labored hard to take from them the credit of successfully pressing our claims upon the authorities at Ottawa. He charged the late Government with continuing the Tax Act until 1882, in the face of their promise to repeal it, and said they had neglected and starved the public works of the Province. He referred also to the report of Messrs. Chalmers and Davison, and claimed that their report showed the debt of the Province when his Government came into power to be \$171,931. The present Government thought a change should be made, and that this debt should be wiped out; that revenue and expenditure should be made to meet. The late Government were paying 6 per cent. interest on the banks. We thought we could borrow money at a less rate than that, and so we passed a bill providing for the issuing of \$14,000 worth of debentures—about \$14,000 more than the amount of the debt. We told the people that we wanted the extra amount for, and showed how it was that by issuing the debentures at 4 per cent, we were saving them 2 per cent. This was the only way they saw out of the difficulty, and it is for doing this that we are charged with piling up a permanent debt. We also made a change in the Land Office policy. We decided to do as well as we could by the people and offer them an inducement to pry up in the shape of discounts. The result was that the next year we received \$72,000 against \$24,000 the year before. In 1891 we closed our 788 accounts, and in 1892 we received \$48,983, and closed out 342 accounts. We also improved on the policy of our predecessors in the matter of wharves, and in the management of the Registry office. We also effected a saving of \$2000 in the administration of justice alone. For the present year the estimated expenditure is \$283,455. The estimate for the year is becoming one of our greatest burdens, and he thought the estimate of \$114,000 was very large. He also hoped to be able to give every part of the Province a road machine, and three new machines were to be bought. The estimate of \$18,000 for a new steamer was timely, as the steamer was very necessary. The revenue for the year he expected to be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include: Land Office, Provincial and Treasury, Probationary, Fines, Licenses, Asylums, County Courts, Private Bills, Registry Office, Fines and Penalties, Vendors, Casual Revenue. Total: \$284,359.

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The policy of the Government in the future would be the same as it had been in the past. If it became necessary to take practical steps in order to make revenue and expenditure meet before one wouldn't be afraid to take them.

MR. BENTLEY'S REPLY.

Mr. Bentley followed in reply. He said we had listened to a long speech from the Leader of the Government, in which he had tried to present the case for the Government in as good a light as possible. It is the business of the lawyer to make his case look as well as possible, and the Leader had made the most of the time at his disposal. But were all his statements true? It is our business to look into the matter and see if the statements he makes are all right; to look into the speeches made by him in the past and see if he has kept his promises he made. Last year, said Mr. Bentley, the Leader of the Government in his budget speech told us that when he came into power he found a debt of \$171,931, which he engaged to wipe out. But there was a debt of \$171,931 on the 4th April, 1891, as stated by the Leader of the Government? There was not. The report of Messrs. Chalmers and Davison did not show that there was a debt of \$171,931, although the Leader said it did. It showed that the liabilities of the Province on that date were \$171,931, and not that the debt amounted to that sum. Everyone knows that there is a great difference between the debt and the liability of the Province. Their report shows that the actual debt of the Province at that time was only \$102,000. Now how did the Government go about paying off the debt? By creating another and a permanent debt, by selling debentures amounting to \$158,400! How in the name of common sense could they pay a debt of \$171,931 with \$158,000 and have a surplus? The Leader of the Government also promised to take \$11 of the Land Office and make it yield a large revenue for many years to come. Let us look at the facts. The balance due the Land Office on the 31st December, 1890, was \$411,881.67; new accounts opened in 1891, \$6,431; interest on balance due Dec 31, 1890, \$17,396.93; new accounts opened in 1892, \$1,732.72; interest on balance due Dec 31, 1892, \$16,244.93—a total of \$461,686.33. The balance due the Land Office, as reported by the Commission on Dec. 31, 1892, was \$324,889.67; the amount reduced by collections and discounts, \$136,786.61. The cash collected in the two years, 1891-92, was \$116,770.28; and the loss by discounts and otherwise was \$20,016.33. The amount actually paid in the two years and collections in 1891-92 was \$136,786.61. The amount which should be used as ordinary revenue was \$33,611.91. The amount of capital used in 1891-92 was \$103,144.70. The Leader also promised that he would abate the excises. But the only effort he put forth in this direction was the establishment of bun societies in his own district! Again he promised that the Scott Act would be carefully enforced. But the Public Accounts do not show that a single Scott Act fine has been collected during the past year! The Government also made great promises as to what they would do for agriculture. They promised to assist in the establishment of dairying associations and to provide a travelling dairy. Neither of these promises had been fulfilled. The stock on the Stock Farm is, on the whole, inferior to what it was when the late Government left office. There are fewer pigs and horses, and the cattle are not so good. Again, the leader promised to make revenue and expenditure meet. The result was a deficit last year of \$37,000! He was astray in his estimates to the tune of \$35,000! Then, again, he also promised to put another steamer on the Southport ferry, but did not do so. Now, however, there is an election coming on and we are hearing about it again. Why was not this steamer provided last year when she might easily have been procured, and put on the route? So much for the promises made by the Leader last year. He did not keep his promises then, and we have little faith in his keeping those he makes this year. The Leader tells us also that the late Government kept the Tax Act in force until 1882, after they had promised to repeal it. This statement was not correct. The Tax Act was repealed in 1841! The Act was continued in force until the enormous debt incurred by the Davies Government was paid off. In 1873, at the time the terms of Confederation were under discussion, Mr. L. H. Davies prepared a statement to the effect that under Confederation the expenditure of this Province would not be over \$206,000 a year, and the revenue \$222,000—leaving a surplus in favor of the Province of \$16,000! Another statement prepared about the same time by Mr. Laird, who is given so much credit to-night, estimates the

expenditure of the Province under Confederation at \$206,000 a year, and the revenue at \$218,900—leaving a balance in favor of the Province of \$12,900. It is claimed later, when the Davies Government came into power, what did they do? This is the way they kept with the amounts estimated by Mr. Davies: The average expenditure in the two years, 1877-78 was \$332,887.72; and the average expenditure from 1879 to 1890, was \$278,959.01. The average yearly saving, therefore, during the twelve years of the Sullivan-Leod Administration was \$53,927.71! The expenditures for the years 1891-92 averaged \$283,455, while the average expenditure of the preceding Administration was only \$278,959.01! The increase over the average from 1879 to 1890 was \$14,935.93! The Davies Government is rapidly getting up to the standard of the Davies Administration. Then the Leader talks about the enormous rate of interest paid by the late government. But what are the facts? The interest account from 1880 to 1890 (ten years) totted up \$37,183.12, an average for the ten years of \$3,718.31, while the interest paid by the Peters Government last year alone was \$6,649.71! This is truly a nice showing for the present Administration! Nearly \$3,000 paid for interest more than the average paid by the previous Governments. Now let us take a look at the estimates for 1891-92 and see how they came out. The estimated expenditure for that year was \$270,905, and the actual expenditure was \$304,486.41—only \$35,581.41 over the amount estimated! The estimated expenditure for 1892 was \$283,303.57—a difference of \$14,559.57 on the wrong side! And this year they will doubtless be in a similar position. In 1891 the deficit was \$50,439.20, and in 1892 it was \$37,651.29. In 1892 the estimated revenue was \$263,230, and the actual revenue was \$245,652.28—a shortage of \$17,677.72! The estimated revenue from the Land Office in 1892 was \$60,000, and the actual revenue was \$43,891.85—a shortage of \$16,108.15. This year the Leader of the Government again estimates the revenue from this source at \$60,000, but even his own political friends ridicule the idea of his getting that sum. Now let us take a look at the financial position of the Province. Let us see what the present debt is. The balance against the Province on Dec. 31st, 1892, as reported by the Provincial Auditor, is \$48,474.93. Add to this sum the debentures sold during the year amounting to \$158,400, and we have a total of no less than \$206,874.93. Add to this amount one quarter's salaries due teachers Dec 31st, 1892 (say) \$28,000, the amount carried over from 1892 (say) \$26,000, and one quarter's salary due the teachers to 31st March, 1893 (say) \$3,000. Deduct from this sum the three months' subsidy from the Dominion, \$19,882.76 and we show that the actual debt of the Province on 1st April, 1893, is \$240,582.17. In the foregoing estimate we have done the Government any injustice it is their own fault. We have repeatedly asked for a statement of all amounts due in 1892 and carried over into 1893, but it has not been brought down yet. Now let us take a look at the manner in which the Public Works Department has been conducted. Let us see what permanent works have been established and take a look at the capital account. We look in vain for any permanent improvements that have been made. We find that the whole capital account of the department is composed of some repairs to wharves, bridges, school houses, Government House, etc. (Mr. Bentley) does not aware that one of the wharves has been built during the past year. (The Commissioner of Public Works here interrupted Mr. Bentley and said there was a new wharf built but he declined to say where.) The total expenditure for Prince County, Mr. Bentley went on to explain, was \$91. Was this for a new wharf? The repairs to the buildings on the Stock Farm, amounting to \$96,428, were also charged to capital account. Under the heading of bridges we find \$24,245.47 charged to capital account. Some of the items were as low as \$80. Were these for new bridges? The idea of charging repairs to bridges to capital account. After this it would not be surprising if repairs to roads were charged to capital account. He then went on to point out the manner in which contracts had been let and carried out, instancing several cases where contracts had been let for certain sums, and before the work was completed they cost hundreds of dollars more than the amount of the contract. The opposition had asked the Commissioner of Public Works for information concerning many of these contracts, but it had not been brought down. Until such time as this information was forthcoming, we would have to hold the head of the department responsible for the peculiar transactions of the past year. Now let us take a look at some of the items in the estimates for this year. The sum set down for the administration of justice is \$14,537, something less than last year. If anything can be saved in this department, well and good. But we should not economize in the wrong places. He noticed that the salaries of the Keepers of the Jails in King's County and Prince County were to be again reduced. The estimate for education was \$114,400. There was no saving there. The salary of the Chief Superintendent of Education was to be \$1,200 this year. Last year they reduced his salary to \$1,000, contrary to the wishes of the Opposition, and this year he was pleased to see that they were going to put it back to its former figure. The salary of the Clerk to the Superintendent was also reduced last year, and he was sorry to see that there was no provision for an increase in his case. This was not right. Mr. McNeill is a most efficient officer, and his salary should have been put back to its original figure as well as the salary of the Superintendent. He thought that the estimate for the Public Lands offices should include half the salary of the commissioner, which it did not. There was nothing in the estimates for Government House this year, although last year the Government could not do too much in that direction. Were they trying to freeze out the Governor? The estimate for ferries this year was \$15,000 less than their actual cost last year. The estimates for roads and bridges were also insufficient. A very peculiar estimate was that of \$1000 for Paris green. What were the Government going to do with it? They were disfranchising the young men and the Dominion officials and perhaps the Paris green was to kill off the remainder of the Conservatives; or perhaps its object was to secure votes. Then there was the \$18,000 for a new steamer for the Southport ferry. It was time something were done to im-

prove the condition of things here; but the new steamer might easily have been obtained last year. But what about the bridge we heard so much about? Surely they were not going to give both the bridge and the new steamer! The estimate of \$60,000 from the Land Office was only put in to raise the estimate of revenue and make it come up as nearly as possible to the estimated expenditure. No person believed for a moment that any such amount would be received from that source this year. There were some other items in the estimates that might be referred to did time permit, but as the hour was getting late he would reserve any remarks he might have to make on them for a future occasion. Before closing, Mr. Bentley pointed out the absurdity of the Leader's claims for credit in connection with pressing our claims upon the Dominion Government. He showed how the late Government, as a result of their successful presentation of our claims, obtained large sums at different times, and contrasted their conduct with that of the present administration, who were, so far as he could tell, quietly resting on their oars and not moving in the matter at all. We had other claims upon the Dominion that should be pressed, and no time should be lost about doing it. Hon. Mr. McLeod moved the adjournment of the debate.

Charlottetown, March 21, 1893.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Sherwood Cemetery Company will be held in McLeod's Hall on WEDNESDAY, the 5th day of April next, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the election of Directors and the transaction of other important business. By order HENRY SMITH, Secretary Sherwood Cemetery Co. Charlottetown, March 30, 1893—th sat mon.

OFFICE FURNITURE

For Sale by Auction. AT SALES ROOM, on SATURDAY, April 1st, at 11 o'clock, A. M.:

4 Office Desks, 4 Office Chairs, 2 Paper Cases, 15 Paper Files, 1 Letter Press, 1 Letter Scale, 1 Iron Safe, 1 Ink, 1 Stone and Pipe, lot of Floor Cloth and other articles. Also, at 2 o'clock, lot of Household Furniture. R. BEAUFORT, Auctioneer. mch30

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PREMIER, NO. 1138

FOR SALE. THE valuable Stallion (Yorkshire Bay Coaching Horse) PREMIER, No 1138, will be sold by Public Auction in front of the Market House, Charlottetown, on SATURDAY, the 1st day of April next, at 10 o'clock, P. M. The first day of April next, 1893 at the hour of twelve o'clock, noon. Premier is now riding 16 years old, is a rich bay in color, stands 1 hand high, and weighs nearly 1200 lbs. He was shown six times in England, and gained five first prizes and one second prize. Premier is descended from the best Coaching blood in England, and his ability to transmit his qualities to his offspring is witnessed by the prizes won by his colts at the Provincial Exhibition whenever they have been shown. First offers will be considered before day of sale. For further particulars apply to the undersigned. CHARLES A. MITCHELL, Auctioneer. Charlottetown, March 16, 1893—wky

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