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**DR. J. P. MURRAY**

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

TUESDAY, May 10.

Hon. Mr. Gordon followed the Leader of the Government. After remarking that budget speeches are always full of interest he expressed his sympathy with some of the statements that had been made in the speech to which he had just listened. He regretted, however, that the Leader did not go back to what he was pleased to call ancient history and review past records. But it did not suit him to do this. The Peters Government made promises they never intended to fulfil, and now the province is heavily burdened with debt. He hoped the premier's policy of making revenue and expenditure meet would be realized. Time and again he had heard this, but the promises invariably ended in failure. In the days of Coles revenue and expenditure were made to meet. Then came the Pope, Owen, Sullivan and McLeod Administrations and they conducted the affairs of the province year after year with scarcely a deficit. Had they held on to power the Province would not to day be so far in debt. He was glad indeed to see Premier Warburton outlining a policy approaching that of these gentlemen in the matter of making revenue and expenditure meet. It is true the debt will ever hang over the people of the Province, but if ends are made to meet this year a great step in advance will be made. When the Peters Government attained power the debt was small. To day, however, it is \$466,765, a huge debt for a province with a small population. This debt was contracted in a short period, and there is not a single public work of any consequence to show for it. The one thing the farmers had to boast of was now to be swept away. He alluded to the exhibitions. He was sorry that this was to be done, and felt sure that it would not meet with the approval of the people. In regard to the assets in the shape of public buildings, steamers, etc., he considered that they were not of much account from a cash point of view. He thought the grant of \$2000 towards agriculture was in the right direction. Too much was spent in manufacturing doctors and lawyers while the farmer was left to plod along as best he could. There were some items in the estimates that might be curtailed. He believed the money spent on roads was in many cases more than wasted. The supervisors receive regular salaries each year and themselves and their connections, in some cases gobble up all the money mostly for inspecting and attending road machines. There is a great outcry regarding the waste of money on roads. With regard to the premier's remarks respecting schools it was his (Mr. Gordon's) intention to see what was stipulated in the bill which was to be introduced. He thought however, that too much money was being spent for the benefit that was derived. He agreed with the premier regarding the falling off in the receipts, and noted the hope expressed for a windfall from Ottawa.

Hope was a good breakfast but a very poor supper. In conclusion he again expressed his regret at the doing away with the exhibitions, this year and pointed out that six cents per head of additional tax would return sufficient money to keep them up.

Mr. Sinclair spoke after Mr. Gordon. He took exception to the statement of the Leader of the Opposition regarding deficits, and claimed that heavy deficits occurred under the Conservative Governments. He condemned the policy of deficits and expressed the opinion that this state of affairs must end even though it becomes necessary to levy on the people to raise a revenue sufficient to meet the expenditure. He believed that it was possible to raise a revenue to meet the expenditure, and that further retrenchments might be made. He thought that at least \$10,000 was wasted on our road last year. The road system is a bad one and many of the supervisors are responsible for its worse carrying out. Last year \$15,000 was estimated for this work and the amount actually expended was \$23,000. He suggested that each supervisor distrust should be let by tender, as is done in other places. He also expressed himself as favourable to lessening the expenditure on education. If abundant and substantial consideration is not obtained from Ottawa as the result of the late delegation a vigorous system of economy to increase revenue must be inaugurated.

Mr. A. J. Macdonald pointed out that when the Conservatives went out of power the debt of the Province was only \$271,000. After the Peters Government came in they issued debentures to pay off this indebtedness, and yet they have rolled up an immense debt themselves. Now they come and tell us they have claims against the Dominion which they desire to have submitted to arbitration. He thought the road system was all right but those carrying it out did not act as they should. Much of this money was spent for political purposes. He believed that too much was expended for education. He knew places where there were four schools when two would be sufficient. He considered that some radical changes were required in our educational system. The supplements were largely paid by the towns and villages. The towns and villages also pay more taxes than the other sections of the Province. Mr. Macdonald was speaking at eleven o'clock when the House adjourned.

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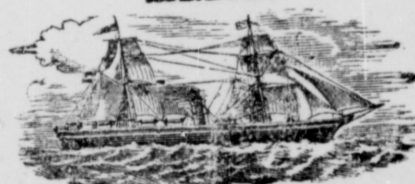
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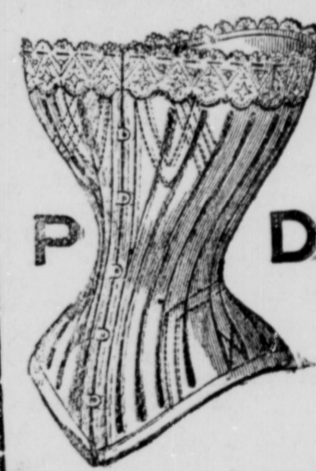
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