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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

HON. MR. PETERS MAKING BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW.

The Budget Speech Delivered Yesterday Afternoon—Not Much in It.

WEDNESDAY, April 21, 1897.

House met at 2 p. m. Hon. Mr. Peters, in moving that the House go into Committee of Supply, spoke feelingly of the late Hon. Alexander Laird, whose death was deeply regretted. The deceased, he pointed out, was a man of sterling integrity, a man whose aim was always to promote the best interests of the Province. He then spoke of the result of the elections in Nova Scotia, and referred in terms of exultation to the victory which had been won in that Province. Referring to our own province Hon. Mr. Peters pointed out that some time in the near future, probably in February or March, the present Government will have to appeal to the people to see if they are satisfied with the manner in which the country has been governed. He was quite willing to face the people and felt confident that the Government's conduct would be endorsed at the polls. He then proceeded to state what his Government had done in the past, and to point out what it was their intention to do in the future. He admitted that mistakes might have been made, but when these mistakes were ascertained they were not afraid to make an honest attempt to set them right. He proceeded to review their statements that had been made that they obtained power in 1893 on the strength of certain promises which they failed to keep. He pointed out that in September of that year, three months before the election, he, as Leader of the Government, made a speech in the Lyceum, a speech which he wished to go through the length and breadth of the province. Certain statements had been made by him on that occasion, and the policy of his party had been laid down. From the statements which he then made and the policy which he laid down he claimed that there had been no deviation. Opponents of the Government argued that they had promised to make revenue and expenditure meet. What he did promise was that the Government would keep up public works and provide for education as such should be provided for. They would not branch out into unnecessary and extravagant expenditures but would endeavor to keep things as they should be. He stated further that the government would economize in matters in which economy could be exercised without injuring any essential public service. He claimed that they had done this. In this connection he spoke of the saving that had been effected by the abolition of the Legislative Council, claiming that by the act amalgamating the two branches upwards of \$5000 a year had been saved. During the last three years \$15,000 had thus been saved to the province, and this saving would continue for all time to come. When they came into power they also found a system of reporting in use which cost the country between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a year. They abolished this expenditure and thus saved the money that had been previously spent in that way. A saving had also been effected in the administration of justice and he claimed that during six years there was a difference of upwards of \$3000 a year between the average expenditure of the present administration and that of the preceding one. On these items alone a saving of \$30,000 had been effected. The same economical course has been pursued with regard to the Public Lands Office. In that arm of the service he claimed that they did far more work and collected more money at less expense than their predecessors did. In the Provincial Auditor's office they saved upwards of \$2500 which would not have been the case had the late government remained in power. On the items of printing and advertising they had also effected a saving of over \$6,000. He thought that a comparison of the public acts of the last five years with the public acts of the five preceding years would show that the present Government had practiced true economy. The Premier then proceeded to show the matters on which the Government had been compelled to spend money. He compared the cost of education for six years under the late administration and the present one, and stated that the average expenditure of the present administration was over \$3,000 more than that of their predecessors. This expenditure was uncontrollable, and everyone said it was a proper one. He trembled lest some day a party would be in power that would attempt to curtail this expenditure. What are we to do with the young people if we do not educate them? Compare two boys leaving the province for the United States, one of whom had been educated under our present system the other being without education. Which would be the more likely to succeed? The question answered itself. He thought it was the duty of the Government, no matter how it is done, to properly educate the young people. Armed with an education a boy from this Province will be able to cope with any boy from Ontario or the United States. Last year, he pointed out the percentage of attendance in the schools was 60.58, the largest in the history of the province, and there is a steady increase in the number of pupils. All these point to the fact that our educational system is doing its work. One reason of the increased expenditure is that there are more school districts than formerly, but schools have been granted with a chary hand. Another reason is that there are more second-class teachers and less third-class than there were, because the people are looking for a better education. In regard to roads they spent little more than their predecessors, but the expenditures of the

present administration had been made in a manner which was in the best interests of the country. They had also introduced road machines, and had given the people the best possible roads while reducing the expenditure they had now twenty road machines, and it was their intention to go on buying them until every supervisor had one. They were now trying to effect changes in the law regarding statute labor which would make it work in better with the road machines. The roads and bridges throughout the country had been left in a disrepairable condition by the late government; but they are now in first-class order and at the same time they had actually spent \$50,000 a year less than their predecessors. Now what about the wharves? The policy of the late government was to make the Federal government take these over and consequently allowed them to fall into decay. The present government had to repair these wharves, and despite all this their yearly expenditure was little more than that of their predecessors. The wharves were now in good condition, and a small expenditure would keep them so. Then look at what has been done for exhibition? These have cost the present government more than they did the late government. He believed, however, that the \$6000 spent for this purpose would be better expended in having a steamer come to this province to take our products to England. This, however, is only a hint. It was for the farmers to decide. Dairy Associations have been established and the Government have given them a small grant, the amount suggested by Prof. Robertson. He believed this money was well expended. Taking up the matter of taxation he referred to the charge that in 1893 they said they would not tax the people unless they went to the country first. He admitted that he promised the people that he would consult them before imposing taxation, and he claimed that he had kept that promise. At a meeting held at Mount Stewart he propounded their taxation schemes. He also asked through the press for suggestions regarding taxation, and received replies from all parts of the province, from Liberals and Conservatives alike. All these replies were submitted to the Government. Not a single person suggested the non-imposition of taxes, or going to the country first. All felt that taxation was required. Accordingly they put on the Tax Act. He did not claim that their Land Act was perfect, but the hand that made it is able and will not alter and amend it. They would not act hastily, but would try to arrive at a system that the people would agree was fair. There is a cry that the government is taxing the farmer and letting the rich man off. But the argument is not sound, as anyone who took the trouble to look into the matter would observe. Taking up the Commercial Travellers tax, about which so much had been said, he claimed that it was right and proper. From it about \$4,000 a year had been obtained. The tax on the insurance companies is paid and not a word is heard about it. From the Income Tax he showed that they got about \$6,000 and pointed out the people whom this tax affected. Under the previous systems all the taxes came from the farmer, but under the present system a large sum is obtained before the farmer is touched at all. The fact is the tax on the farmer is gradually decreasing, while the other taxes have gone up. He claimed that if all the taxes were taken as they stand it would be seen that year after year the taxes outside those paid by the farmer have been increased while those on the farmer have been decreased. That is the principle they are going on, and the charge that they were grinding the farmers was not correct. He then took up the statement that the province was sunk in debt, and claimed that this was not the case. At the present time, he asserted, the total debt of the province is only \$393,825.96, while the cash assets amount to \$485,279.69. Deduct the debt and it will be seen that the cash assets on hand amount to \$491,453.73. He thought there was no other small province in Canada that could make a better showing. Looking at the cash assets he asked if it could be said that the province was deep in debt. Besides the cash assets referred to the Government have other assets. They have three large steamers, twenty-five road machines, the Stock Farm lands, buildings and stock, besides public buildings and other property of considerable value. Last year he pointed out that they expended \$300 less than was asked for. He then referred to specific instances wherein less was expended than was estimated, and showed also wherein the estimates had been slightly increased. In the matter of ferries, despite all that had been said, the expenditure was less than was estimated. He thought all this went to show that the Government could run the country on what they proposed. They also came close to their estimated revenue, and the difference between revenue and expenditure for a number of years. The expenditures included \$2,700 for completing the Hills brough, and what was paid for several new bridges as well as what was expended for road machines. Outside of these revenue and expenditure had been made to meet. Take out the capital account, and last year there was a surplus of \$300. The amount realized from commercial travellers' and income taxes will probably be larger this year than last. The ordinary revenue this year will be about \$272,000, and before the House rose he hoped to be able to show that there will be no deficit. The estimated revenue was as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Dominion Subsidy (\$182,176), Public Lands (22,000), Commercial Travellers (4,000), Incorporated Companies (4,900), Ferries (6,500), Prothonotaries' Fees (2,300), Registry Offices (4,250), County Courts (1,300), Provincial Secretary's Fees (600), Peddlers' licenses (850).

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Vendors licenses (300), Hospital for the Insane (700), Prince of Wales College fees (1,500), Fines and penalties (200), Casual revenue (300), Private Bills (160), Succession Duty (2,000), Land Tax (32,000), Income Tax (6,900). Total: \$272,476.

He denied the statements which has been made that accounts due last year had been carried over into this year, and claimed that the expenditure up to the present time this year was less than it was up to the same time last year. The total estimates of expenditure this year he pointed out, were \$306,000; and if \$25,000 for the new wing to the asylum be taken off the amount will be reduced to about \$285,000. He said there would be no increase in the fees paid by the students in Prince of Wales College until the new building is finished which he hoped would be by the beginning of the summer session. He explained some other items, and pointed out that a saving had been effected in the Land Office by transferring Mr. Richard Smith from that office to the Public Works Department in the place of the late Mr. J. W. Morrison. The Registry Office, he also pointed out, was managed by the same number of officials as it was under the late Government, and besides there is an extra office to look after. He then dwelt at some length on the ferries, and explained how they were to be managed this year. In closing he stated that they would go to the country on truthful lines, showing the facts whether they were for or against them, and they courted the fullest investigation.

At six o'clock the House adjourned until 10 a. m. on Thursday.

THURSDAY, April 22.

House met at 11.15. Mr. McKinnon introduced a bill to amend the Act incorporating the Charlottetown Gas Works. Read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson introduced a bill to incorporate the Afton Hall Company. Read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Prowse introduced a bill incorporating the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown. Read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Godkin introduced a bill amending the Act incorporating the Town of Summerside. Read a first time and set down for second reading tomorrow.

Mr. Gordon asked the Provincial Treasurer to table a statement showing the amount owed the Banks by the Government of this Province on 21st April, 1897, and also the amount owed by the Government of the Province in Provincial Loans, the original amount of loans now owed by the Government and the amount of interest accrued on said loans on 21st April, 1897, respectively.

Hon. Mr. McMillan promised the information asked for as soon as it could be made ready.

The debate on the motion to go into Committee of Supply was then resumed by Hon. Mr. Gordon. He was followed by Mr. Blanchard, who was speaking when recess was taken at one o'clock.

INDIA'S FAMINE FUND.

Hamilton School District: James Ramsey \$2; John M. Woodside \$1; M. A. Stewart \$1; Mrs. M. N. Simpson \$1; Miss Ross \$1; Neil Ramsey sr. \$1; Neil Ramsey jr. \$1; E. J. Philips \$1; Helen Ramsay 25c; Percy Ramsey 25c.

Dundas: General Gordon Currie 50c; A. Lincoln Currie 50c.

North Wilshire School District, collected by D. W. Henderson: McLean Bros \$10; D. W. Henderson \$2; William Henderson \$1; Thomas Godfrey \$1; J. R. Edwards \$1; William Bowman \$1; Eben Campbell \$1; J. M. Nicholson \$1; John Deacon jr \$1; Alred Matheson \$1; Daniel McLean 25c; John Darrach 25c; Patrick Curry \$1; John Calderston \$1; James Noy 50c; Malcolm Matthews \$1; Dr. Handrahan \$1; Frank Brown 50c; W. W. Smith \$1; Eben Campbell 25c; William Mitchell \$1; John Deacon 50c; Howard Calderston \$1; Charles Godfrey 2 bush wheat Michael Berrigan 1 1/2 do; Isaac Smith 1 1/2 do.

Howell Brook School District additional. This District was collected by Neil McFadyen and M. F. McKinnon: John McDougall Stratgartney \$1;

Collected by the Trustees of Lower Newton School District: Ethar Anderson \$1; Donald Gillis \$1; Susan 50c; M. G. Anderson \$2; Martin \$1; Charles Biggs \$1; M. Douglas \$65; Malcolm Smith 2; Langan \$1; Alex McDougall 1; Gillis 2 bush wheat; Donald 1; James Dunn 1 do; Finlay 1 do; Finlay Smith 1 do; John Ross 1 do; Archid. McDougall 1 do; McEachern 1 do; Hugh N. McEachern 1 do. Lower Newton School collection \$3 32.

Collected by Donald McRae, Flat River, additional, —Neil Blue 50c; Mrs. John McDonald 50c; Donald J. McDonald 65c; Alex McDonald 50c; Kenneth R. McKeen 25c; Angus Beaton 1 1/2 bush wheat; Ebenezer Beaton 1 1/2 do; John D. Beaton 1 do.

Collected by William Piggott and Gordon Sterns, Mount May School District —H. H. Case 50c; Stephen Arsenault \$1; M. Coffin 50c; Frank Rossiter 50c; A. Friend 50c; James Lambert \$1; Geo. Hume 35c; William Piggott 50c; Edward Jardine 2 bush wheat, John Jardine 1 do, Henry Coffin 1 do; John Murphy 1 1/2 do; R. H. Coffin 1 do; Patrick Smith 1 do; Kemble Coffin 1 1/2 do; James Hogan 1 do; St. Mary's Road East School District: cash about \$145.5 bags wheat.

M. A. ALLAN.

Carter's for Wall Paper

The Electric Conveyor.

A few years ago the idea of loading a ship with 2,500 tons of flour in 24 hours by means of two small motors would have been looked upon as absurd. This was done the other day in Tacoma. Two thousand tons of cargo have frequently been loaded or unloaded in a day by steam power, but the important factor in the record breaking achievement at Tacoma was that the conveyor was worked by electricity. With the apparatus which has been designed for this purpose flour and grain can be loaded at any stage of the tide and independently of the weather. If it should rain, a canvas is quickly spread from the door of the warehouse to the ship's hatch. With the system of loading ordinarily used 18 men are required to do the work of one electric conveyor, with which the bags are delivered into a ship's hold at the rate of 2,500 to 2,700 pounds a minute, or 75 tons an hour. When extra speed is desired, two conveyers are employed. This was done when the record of 2,500 tons in 24 hours was made.

The electric conveyor is 40 feet long. It is moved at will on two wheels in the center. A two-horsepower motor supplies the power, the current being taken from the nearest electric wires. The sacks are placed on a revolving belt of rubber, which passes over 12 wheels attached to the side of the apparatus. The rollers are placed close enough together, and the belt revolves at sufficient speed to carry all the weight in flour or grain that can be placed upon it. The conveyor works as well when placed at an angle of 44 degrees as when on a level.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

What is a Sailing Ship?

The average landsman may be surprised to hear that there is doubt as to what constitutes a sailing ship in the eye of the law. This question was raised in London the other day before a divisional court of admiralty. Mr. Commissioner Kerr held that a barge which had a jury sail up to assist the rowers was a sailing vessel and held her in fault for a collision which occurred in Barking creek between her and a sailing barge, on the ground that she could and ought to have kept out of the way. Her owners appealed, and it was contended on their behalf that she could not reasonably be considered as a sailing vessel, because a vessel could only be a sailing vessel when it could comply with the rules laid down for sailing vessels, such as tacking to port and starboard. Besides, if she were a sailing vessel she would have to carry sidelights, and a canal barge with sidelights was a thing unheard of. The court did not think it necessary to decide this point because the appellants' barge, having a motive power of two knots, could be kept out of the way by porting, and so dismissed the appeal with costs. The judges added that when the question of what was a sailing ship came to be decided it would have to be very carefully considered, as there were a number of important points to be determined.—Exchange.

"Mad Death" For Wolves.

A young cattleman of Wyoming has hit upon a remarkable scheme for exterminating wolves and coyotes. His secret is contained in a small vial of yellowish brown liquid. His mode of extermination is to trap a wolf or coyote alive and inject three drops of the poisonous fluid beneath the skin. This operation he repeats three times in 12 hours, and then releases the animal, green eyed, with dilated pupils, frothing at the mouth and raving mad. It lives from 30 to 40 hours after being liberated, but, like a dog with hydrophobia, it bites everything it meets, and every other wolf bitten becomes inoculated, and in this way the poison spreads, and death follows at a rapid rate. The Big Horn basin papers have published reports brought in from the range of the death rate among the coyotes being enormous from a new disease never before heard of, and the inventor claims it in his "mad death" wiping out the tribe.—San Francisco Argonaut.

The Snow Melting Chinook.

In the northwestern states a peculiarly warm, dry wind, called the chinook, which has a wonderful power of "eating up" snow, occasionally prevails, and a remarkable visitation of this wind occurred in Oregon and Washington last December. Professor Ward, writing in Science, calls attention to the close resemblance between the chinook winds of the Cascade and Rocky mountain regions and the celebrated foehn winds of the Alps. Both blow down from the mountain ranges, and both produce effects in the sudden liquefaction of snow that are almost marvelous. There is no mystery about them, although they require particular conditions of atmospheric pressure, combined with certain effects arising from the position of the mountains with respect to the isothermal lines, or lines of equal temperature.

A Solemn Ass.

An English provincial paper recently printed the following paragraph: "We are informed by the American press that Governor Leedy of the state of Kansas is a drunkard. When it is remembered that teetotalism prevails in Kansas, the nonchalance with which this disgraceful admission is made indicates a low standard of public opinion in the States." Americans need hardly be reminded that the solemn ass who wrote this misread the paragraph on which he comments. It was stated that Governor Leedy is a Dupkard.

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