

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

APRIL 27, 1894.

THE BUDGET.

When admitted deficits averaging in two years close upon \$50,000 a year, with an admitted deficit last year of nearly \$120,000, with the balance against the Province at the end of last year enlarged by his authority to about \$170,000, with the expenses of the elections and the electing roads, etc., still unaccounted for, with high and unequal taxation impending, it will be admitted that Premier Peters had a heavy load to carry when he brought down his budget. Under the circumstances we shall excuse him for referring again to the hackneyed statement that the average deficits of the Conservative Administration was \$47,000 a year and for neglecting again to state the fact that the Conservatives had obtained refunds from Ottawa equal to upwards of \$600,000, thus, notwithstanding the deficits, leaving the Province better off financially than it was when they took office. But the Premier's special and one-sided pleading is of no avail as a defence of the extravagance and bad management of the present Government. He says that the Sullivan and McLeod Administrations left the public works in a bad state, and that expensive repairs had last year to be effected. Let the people who have to travel judge whether or not the roads are any improvement upon the roads as they were when the Conservatives held in power. Suppose the neglect of the Conservatives to have been as gross as Mr. Peters has pictured it, is that a sufficient explanation or apology for expending \$337,415.36 last year when he was authorized to expend only \$253,945 for exceeding the estimates voted by \$83,470.36? In the face of a falling revenue, his duty was clear. He ought not to have expended a single dollar more than was absolutely necessary. If new and improved roads and public works were absolutely required, he ought to have gone to the Legislature and obtained authority to expend certain sums in certain places and to raise the money by loan or taxation. Instead of that the Government, in defiance of a clear and well understood constitutional rule designed to safeguard the people's interests, expended thousands upon thousands of dollars upon the eve of an election, without the authority of the Legislature; and without the authority of the Legislature, borrowed the money from the banks!

House met at 11.15. Hon. Mr. Macdonald tabled certain returns asked for by the Opposition. Hon. Mr. Peters also submitted answers to questions asked. On motion of Mr. McKinnon the House went into committee on the bill to amend the act incorporating the Murray Harbour North Dairying Co. Reported agreed to with amendment, and ordered to be read a third time tomorrow. Hon. Mr. Sinclair resumed the debate on the motion to go into supply. The Leader of the Government had made a clear statement of the condition of the Province and he did not think it was necessary to go over the same ground. The Leader of the Opposition said the Government had lost the confidence of the people. But the result of the late election did not bear out that statement. The Opposition had said men in the field, yet nearly all were defeated. This shows that it was the Opposition who had lost the confidence of the people. Another test was the result of the Province election in the money markets of the world. The Government had gone to these markets twice, and the results showed increased confidence. The Government are now trying to raise the revenue and to reduce the amount of commutation money with this object in view. He believed that in time supervisors would have to be done away with. The men we have now are good men, but the system will have to be changed. By close figuring he believed that \$1,000 might be saved in every district. He explained how the expenditure on each district was made, and said he thought the districts should be contracted for. Men and horses could be hired, and the saving effected would be in the vicinity of \$1,000. The Commissioner would also have to be changed. He would have only the larger works to occupy his attention, and the eye of the public could be continually on the contractors. He suggested trying his proposal for a year or two. This year we have the road machines and after their operation we might consider this matter. He thought the Leader had clearly explained the land tax, but he thought it was necessary to go to extremes in taxing unearned increments. He then spoke of the course pursued in New Zealand in regard to land tax, and pointed out that the scheme in vogue there could be carried to extremes. His conclusion he said he was sorry to be obliged to lay a tax on the country, but the time had come when this had to be done. Both parties are guilty in this matter of deficits and of increasing the debt. He thought Mr. A. J. Macdonald, who followed, said he thought that if the councils of the last speaker had prevailed, the necessity for taxation would not have been so great. The majority of us have a struggle to make our personal revenue and expenditure meet. The Leader of the Government mentioned nothing of this. From his earliest days he has been able to deal out money with a lavish hand. He has taken charge of the Province, and in two-and-a-half years he has come out with the largest deficits in its history. The Leader was right when he said the late Government made one dollar do the work of two. That is the reason the credit of the Province stands so high as it does today. The lesson included by the late Government seemed to be lost on the present Administration. Never before were there so many taxes imposed on a Province. He did not believe the people would stand these taxes. If the Government were carrying on the affairs of the Province economically he would not oppose a fair measure of taxation. But he objected to giving them a free hand. He then took up the different taxes to be imposed. The tax on commercial travellers was an outrage on the farmers and merchants. Whenever this tax was tried it had proved a failure. It injures the trade of the country and hurts the hotels, railways, livery stables, etc. As a business man he felt that sometimes these men were a trouble, but after the year's work he found that he had actually benefited by looking at their goods. It would be more in the interest of the general public if the Government instead of imposing this tax, stopped some of the leakages referred to by Mr. Sinclair. Under the land tax it is

proposed to raise \$30,000. This is double the amount raised by the old land tax, which later was never objectionable. He regretted the imposition of this tax, because the people objected to all forms of taxation. The land tax may not be considered a great burden. A great deal will depend on the classification. In some respects the proposed scale is not excessive, but he believed the old plan of taxation was a better one than that now proposed. We are told that \$40,000 is to come from the Land Office, but this money is not theirs; they would get half the money. Last year the amount received from this office was \$19,000, and this year it will probably be less. He believed that if this office had been managed as it was managed during the preceding administration, that a large amount would be realized for years to come. But the office is now demoralized, and the only possible way to get \$40,000 out of it this year is by selling the whole department. Perhaps this is their policy. He then referred to the sale of debentures and claimed that the Government deserve no credit for making a better sale of the debentures than of the first. The condition of the money market was the cause of it. He contended that the extravagant expenditures on public works in the country could not be defended. Not only did the Government spend the large amount of \$40,000 on highways, but they also opened up unnecessary new roads, although it was well known that money could not be afforded it. When we voted \$250,000 of way we considered this sufficient, but they have spent over \$700,000, and this for rights of way only. He knew of many cases where there was no need for the opening of such roads; yet the work was performed. The money must have been expended for political purposes. Some \$4500 of this amount was spent by four members of the Government in their districts, and it was therefore no wonder they had such large majorities. He pointed out that Hon. Messrs. Peters, Farquharson, McLeod and Richards were those who had sought to get the money out of the treasury. He then referred to the road machines, and said he did not think past experience with those machines justified the expenditure of \$1,000 on them. The road money came in very lavishly for the people, and so many expended more satisfaction to them than the road scales. Three machines would have been quite sufficient. Of course, the Government are going to enter on a career of new departures whether the people like it or not. The Government spend no more on roads, honestly. They put up the roads at public tender and did everything fairly and above board. They kept the roads in efficient repair and did not ruin good roads at the present Government's expense. Instances. Proceeding he spoke of the Regular office and the statements of Hon. Mr. Peters regarding its past management. He regretted that some errors had occurred in this office, but he pointed out that if all the defects in the past had been investigated by a commission, more light would be thrown on these matters than was given by the present Registrar, who had not been asked to suit the Leader of the Government. When Mr. Peterson was giving up his position at that office, he pointed out to the present incumbent of that office the defects in the work and explained them to him. In the matter of the increase of the fees of that office, another tax has been placed on the people, although when they were in Opposition they were opposed to an increase in the fees. The Leader of the Government had referred to the saving in the matter of printing. But when it is found that a stenographer had been appointed at a salary of \$240, the saving in postage at nine per cent. very trifling it may only show that the Government's correspondence has been neglected. In regard to the saving in legislation, he said it was only an empty boast. He believed the Government had sunk three times the amount of that saving in reckless expenditures and the non-collecting of revenue. It would be necessary to put the gentlemen of that House to overlook the actions of the Government. If the Government when they came in had made reductions and been careful, it would not now be necessary to put on a land tax. With the other taxes no land tax would be necessary. We would like to see still further reductions. There should have been a larger reduction made in the salaries of departmental officials. He denied that the Supplementary clause in the Education Act had proved unsatisfactory, as stated by some of the Government members. He pointed out that the proposed change was a positive injury to the better class of schools, although it does not hurt the inferior class. The appointment of a third inspector was a burden upon the people, and he thought it would be better to have a single inspector with the greatest earnestness, of his regard for the welfare of the educational system of the Province. If he was in earnest he would never have recommended the present system. He would not take up the taxation of town and village sites until more information on that subject was forthcoming. He then mentioned the statement made by the Leader of the Government, that the falling off in the Land Office was due to the Tories, and pointed out that the late Government had taken the proper course in the matter of the Land Office. He thought when they appointed a commission to enquire into them and made their report public. If the recommendation of that commission had been carried out, something like a hundred thousand dollars might have been saved. Mr. Macdonald had had the floor when the House took recess.

After recess Mr. Macdonald resumed the debate. He analysed and criticised the Public Accounts, showing where the Government largely exceeded their estimated expenditures. He pointed out the increased expenditures in the Public Works and other departments, and also dealt with the decreases in the revenue from the several sources. These decreases are as follows: Public Lands, \$24,870; Provincial Sec's Office, 75; Prothonotary's Office, 591; Registrar of Deeds, 290; County Courts, 320; Hospital for the Deaf, 464; Prince of Wales College, 30; Private Bills, 150; Peddlers Licences, 605; Fines & Penalties, 85; Ferries, 1,042; Casual Revenue, 14. Total, \$27,846. There was no decrease in the business of the country, and there was nothing to account for these decreases. The probability is that the decrease is largely owing to bad and careless collection and to the interests of the party. A occupation of the expenditure by supervisors on roads for two years will show a total increase of over \$15,000. Besides the item of \$7206

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TELEGRAPHIC. SPECIAL DESPATCHES TO THE EXAMINER

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA. House of Commons Proceedings.

The Northwest School Question.

OTTAWA, April 27. In the House of Commons the adjourned debate on Tarte's motion for papers re the Northwest School ordinances, was resumed by Sir John Thompson, who delivered a masterly address, in which he showed the Government's straightforward, constitutional policy on the question. The speech occupied two hours.

Mr. Laurier made a very non-committal speech, refusing to express an opinion of his own, but finding fault with the Government's policy on the question. The speech occupied two hours.

Mr. Devlin closed with a characteristic speech, declaring that McCarthy, the P. A., Orangeman, and the whole Tory party were in league to persecute the Catholics. He did not say under which head he classed Joe Martin.

The motion then passed, and the House adjourned till tomorrow.

First Arrivals. MONTREAL, April 27. The steamship Phonic arrived here yesterday, being the first arrival of the season. The first arrival of last year was on May 3rd.

QUEBEC, April 27. The steamship Lake Huron arrived from Liverpool. She is the first regular line passenger steamer to arrive. She encountered no ice in the Gulf.

Grave Apprehension. ROMS, April 27. The approach of May Day is accompanied by the gravest apprehensions, as the determination of the Socialists to have a workingman's parade, despite prohibitory orders, is apparently unshaken.

Strike of Cotton Workers. ST. JOHN, April 27. There is a strike on at the Courtney Cotton Mill on account of temporary reduction of wages.

Armbricht's Tonic Cocoa Wine. For Fatigue of Mind and Body, Nervousness and Sleeplessness. ARMBRICHT, NELSON & CO., 2 Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London. At Druggists. ap24-cow

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Meagher's Orange Quinine Wine. Prepared strictly according to the British Pharmacopoeia. Quinine in this agreeable form is quicker in action and more reliable than when taken in Capsules, Powders or Pills. Dose - Half a wineglassful. For sale by all respectable Chemists, Druggists or Physicians upon receipt of card.

REMOVAL. DR. MURRAY. I have removed my Dental Office next door to Johnson & Johnson's Drug Store, Queen Street.

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OPERA HOUSE. THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 26th & 27th APRIL. 75th Anniversary I. O. O. F.

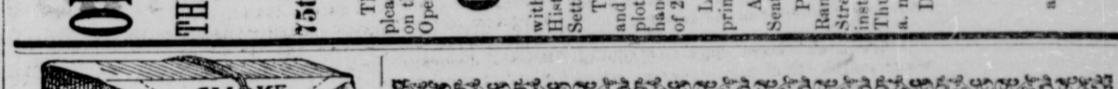
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The music of this Opera is brilliant and pleasing, the dialogue humorous, the libretto well adapted to the stage, and the costumes of 200 years ago.

Libretto of the vocal parts will be printed on Programme for the Hall. Admission at popular prices. Received. Seats, 50 cents; unreserved, 30 cents.

Plans of Hall will be on exhibition at Rankin's and Johnson's (Queen Street) Drug Stores on Monday, 26th and Tuesday, 27th inst., at 10 o'clock a.m.

Doors open at 7.30. Curtain rises at 8. BERT BREMMER, Chairman Committee. H. M. DAVY-ON, Secretary Committee. ap9-cow 11th 18th 19th 20th



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