

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, July 3.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

House in committee on the City Bill discussed the amendment proposed by Dr. Jenkins.

Mr. Warburton moved in amendment that the mover have leave to withdraw his motion. This motion was carried, and the bill reported agreed to without amendment.

THE PROPOSED LOAN.

The Leader of the Opposition resumed the debate on the resolution providing for the issue of debentures to the amount of \$185,000. He contended that the loan was desired by the Government for the purpose of enabling them to "ride over" for a year or two, and that the account submitted by the Leader of the Government was trumped up to afford an excuse for their action. He showed that they had unduly swelled the amount of the indebtedness of the Province in order that they might have an excuse for borrowing a large sum—charging contracts unfinished as liabilities, the cost of education for half the year 1891 was counted against the late Government, and they had not been given credit for the subsidy for the half year. If the Sullivan Government adopted the same course it might easily have found an excuse for borrowing a large amount of money. It could have been shown by experts that the Province was then in debt to the extent of \$100,000. If a public work such as a bridge across the Hillsborough were to be built—any permanent work—it might be expedient to issue debentures. But it is not right or expedient to do so for ordinary expenditures. What great public work have the Government in contemplation? It is proposed to repair the Provincial Building at a cost \$1,000—a mere ordinary repair! There is, too, the construction of a sewer—is that one of the works for which they are going to borrow the large amount over and above the actual indebtedness of the Province? Last year we paid as interest only \$2,600; but under the scheme of the Government \$9,250 a year will be required as interest! This is an easy system of financing. It will, for a time, afford the Government plenty of money, and the demand for public works costing money will be equally great. The end must be disastrous. It is admitted that the Dominion Government owe us large sums of money. Why is not pressure brought to bear upon the Dominion Government? Have the Government even sent a minister of council to Ottawa pressing for the debts due the Province? According to their own erroneous statement the debt of the Province is only \$171,000. Yet they ask leave to borrow \$185,000. They want to borrow money to supplement their revenue without resort to direct taxation. It is an easy thing to incur a debt on mortgage; but it is another thing to pay it off. This proposed issue of debentures is the introduction of the thin edge of the wedge by which a very large public debt will be incurred to weigh heavily upon the country for all time to come.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson reviewed the public accounts and contended that it was necessary to issue debentures. He contended the withdrawal of capital from Ottawa and involved a sinking fund. To pay off the loan in twenty-five years \$6,212 42 a year would have to be invested and besides this the interest will have to be paid. But \$1211 invested as a sinking fund would pay off the whole amount in fifty years; and \$149 48 invested for a hundred years would pay off the whole amount of \$185,000. This is a serious question—one to be seriously considered.

Mr. Shaw contended that many of the expenditures of last year were extraordinary and such as could not be foreseen. He reviewed some of the items, the amount paid for bridges, the amount expended upon the Sutherland-Weeks case, the consolidation of the statutes, the increase in the cost of education, etc., and contended that under normal conditions the deficit of last year would be inconsiderable. He demanded a return showing the instructions given Messrs. Chalmers and Davison—the Government Commissioners—to examine the public accounts, and contrasted the conduct of the Government in withholding those instructions with that of the late Government Commissioners. He showed the unfairness and dishonesty of the Government in charging the McLeod Administration with those expenditures within the present year and not giving them credit for the revenues received; and desired to know whether the Government proposed to apply the \$12,000 which—according to their own statement and admission—they were going to borrow over and above the total amount of the indebtedness of the Province to the construction of a railway through Belfast. He contended that the Government ought not to incur a debenture debt for the purposes of ordinary expenditure, and that before issuing debentures they should go to the country and ask the people whether or not they were willing that the Province should be saddled with a permanent encumbrance.

Mr. H. C. McDonald moved the adjournment of the debate and the House took recess.

Mr. Montgomery asked the Commissioner of Public Works if it is the intention of the Government to complete the opening of the road from Southwest Road, Lot 16, to Miss Oache, Lot 17.

Hon. Mr. McLean replied that the matter would be investigated.

Mr. Montgomery asked the Commissioner of Public Works if it is the intention of the Government to complete the opening of the new road from Lot 14 to Northam, between D. McIntosh's and A. McDonald's, this summer.

Hon. Mr. McLean replied that an investigation would be held.

Mr. Sullivan asked the Commissioner of Public Works if it is the intention of the Government to open the road from St. Peter's Road to Savage Harbor, through the farms of Michael Cunningham and Martin McGillivray, during the present summer, the right of way having been secured some time ago. Also if it is the intention of the Government to repair Dingwell's Wharf, Morell.

Mr. McLean replied that both the road and the wharf would receive the favorable consideration of the Government.

THE BUDGET.

Hon. Mr. Peters, in moving the House into committee of supply, said he would make a statement of what the Government proposed to expend during the year, and the sources from which it was intended to raise a revenue to meet these expenditures. He would not, however, as was customary with the leaders of the late administration when delivering the Budget Speech, go back for years and compare the work their administration had done with the work of the preceding administration. He believed in facing the conditions and issues of the present, and legislating to meet these conditions. But he would, however, go back a little way and point to some of the expenditures of the late administration to which he took objection. The first of the items which would swell up the consolidation of the statutes. He said that the amount so expended was much too great. The total sum paid for the work to date was \$10,072 49, and there was yet another claim of \$1500 from the lawyers who did the work. The whole work should have been laid on the table, printed and all, for \$5,000. Then there was the Land Office investigation, which cost the country some \$5,305.57. He did not consider this a justifiable expenditure. He objected also to the payment of \$200 to a law clerk last year when one was not appointed by the House, and to the paying of \$296 to Mr. Best, the analyst, for his services at the preliminary trial in the Weeks Sutherland case. He also charged the late administration with squandering the money of the people in paying D. McNeill, of Stanley, \$300 on account of his smallpox claim, a claim which the Sullivan administration refused to pay. He next referred to the late Messrs. McLeod and Ferguson went to Ottawa, and to their having paid Mr. W. C. DesBrisay \$20 for doing some work for them while there. He objected also to the employing of extra clerks in the Land Office, and to paying the travelling expenses of any of them who went to the country on business for the Department. He also objected to the employing of extra clerks in the Education Office, when the regular staff might easily do the work. The estimated revenue for the year he placed as follows:—

Subsidy.....	\$183,519 86
Increase by Population.....	5,000 00
Public Lands.....	60,000 00
Provincial Secretary.....	1,100 00
Prothonotary.....	2,650 00
Registry.....	6,000 00
County Courts.....	2,000 00
Hospital for Insane.....	1,500 00
Prince of Wales College.....	50 00
Private Bills.....	100 00
Pedlars' Licenses.....	1,000 00
Vendors' Licenses.....	50 00
Ferries—Rocky Point and Southport.....	6,000 00
Fines and Penalties.....	300 00
Miscellaneous.....	300 00
	\$288,919 86

The estimated expenditure was \$270,305 00. He then touched upon some of the items in the estimates for the year. The item for education was less than last year. The salary of the superintendent was set down at \$1200, but it was intended to reduce it to \$1030. It was also the intention to reduce the salary of the clerk. The full salary of the Provincial Auditor would not have to be paid this year. The late auditor had resigned, and the work of the office was now being performed by the Assistant Provincial Secretary, who, of course, would have to be paid something extra for doing the work. He said he objected to paying Senator Howlan \$500 expenses to London in connection with the tunnel matter, when they told the people they were only paying \$400. The tunnel scheme had his support, but he objected to the way in which this money was paid. He objected also to the late Government purchasing \$162 worth of stationery from a firm in Toronto and only paying for half of it—asking the firm to let the balance stand over. The Debenture Bill was so necessary that if it were not passed this session the Government could not go on. It was the only way of getting a revenue. There was nothing in the estimates this year for cattle for the Stock Farm. He proposed to make a change in the management of that Farm. The cattle on it were a disgrace. The Short-horns were not Short-horns at all. He proposed to get a competent person to take Prof. Shuttleworth's place and to manage the Stock Farm. He was already in correspondence with two or three persons in Ontario in reference to the matter. He said that if an expenditure of \$2,000 or \$3,000 was necessary to make the farm a benefit to the country, the Government would not shrink from voting the sum. He did not approve of the late Government telling the people that they were getting Prof. Shuttleworth's services for \$800 a year when they were paying him \$1,000. He then briefly referred to one or two other items in the estimates, and promised to give further explanation when the House went into committee.

MR MLEOD'S REPLY.

The leader of the Opposition replied. In opening, he said he was not surprised at the leader of the Government not caring to make comparisons. In his case it would never do. History was against him. With characteristic modesty, the leader of the Government overestimated the debt of the Province last year and the previous year by several thousands of dollars, and followed this up by counting in the cost of publishing and printing the sessional laws of last year with the revising of the statutes in order to swell up the cost of the latter work. The Commissioners had been three years at work and have had to revise, collect and arrange the scattered laws of the Province for a period extending back to the early history of the Province. They had done their work well, and he was prepared to justify the expenditure for that purpose in the House, throughout the country, or anywhere else. Why, in Nova Scotia, where the Liberals were in power, they employed three commissioners to consolidate the laws, and although they only had to go back but seven years, their work cost the country only \$1000 less than ours. The Leader of the Government estimates that the printing and all should not cost more than \$5000; but if he (Mr P) were doing the work he ventured to say that his little bill alone, would be \$5000. The Commissioners did their work well—as well as the Leader of the Government could do it if he were multiplied by three. The Leader of the Government refers to the fact that last

session some amendments were made to these laws, as was their right and custom; but neglected to say that the Commissioners were appointed not to make laws, but to consolidate those already made. The alterations that were made by the House, however, were not of very great importance. When the late government were in power they were the friends of the farmers. When they came in they found that the buildings on the Stock Farm were a disgrace, and they erected new buildings and bought improved herds of cattle. The Leader of the Government speaks sneeringly of the stock on the Stock Farm, and says that the Short-horns are not Short-horns at all. What will the farmers of the province think of this statement? It is not correct. Prof. Shaw, of Guelph, Ont., who is a much better judge of stock than the Leader of the Government, highly commended the stock on the Stock Farm. Have not Stock Farm cattle taken prizes at St. John, Halifax, and every other place where they have been shown? Everyone knows that the thoroughbred stock is excellent. He did not, however, think the farmers of the country would place a very high estimate upon the ability of the premier as a judge of thoroughbreds. But the Government was evidently determined to let the Stock Farm go down—to sell the stock on Market Square and close up the farm. Then the premier denounces the expenses for the Land Office commission as unnecessary, after the Patriot and other grit newspapers demanding it in order to fix the responsibility for the defalcations where it belonged and vindicate the character of those who are innocent. He thought the press was right in demanding an investigation—that such a proceeding was due to the employes in the office whom the Patriot said were open to suspicion. The investigation was very necessary. It placed the responsibility for the defalcations where it belonged, upon the shoulders of the men. The Commissioners were independent men and did their work in an impartial manner. He justified the payment of \$200 to Mr. Morson for his services as law clerk last year, also the payment of \$300 to Mr. Best, the analyst, claiming that his presence here at the preliminary hearing was absolutely necessary. In the matter of the claim of Dr. McNeill, he thought his administration had pursued the proper course in paying that gentleman \$300 and obtaining a receipt in full. The Doctor had done his work well, and it was right that he should be paid. Besides, the amount paid was not the full sum claimed by him from the Sullivan administration. He then justified the paying of \$20 to Mr. DesBrisay for doing some clerical work for himself and Mr. Ferguson while they were at Ottawa pressing the Island's claims, also the employing of an extra clerk in the Land Office at a time when there was a rush of business, and the paying of the expenses of the clerk in that office who went to the country on collecting tours at certain times in the year. He thought the references of the Premier to these matters was small and personal. This year there was nothing in the estimates for stock for the Stock Farm. Last year the Government expended \$734 of the sum put in the estimates for that purpose. Mr. Peters said that Prof. Shuttleworth did not give satisfaction in some respects. But he (Mr P) had Dr. Anderson's word for it that he had given satisfaction in every respect. He thought that if the present Government got as good a man they would do well. He said the late Government did not deceive the people in the matter of the salary of Prof. Shuttleworth. The Government were led to believe by the gentleman in Montreal through whom Prof. Shuttleworth was engaged, that the salary would be \$800, but when Mr. Shuttleworth arrived here he said he would not stay for that sum, and rather than lose his valuable services the Government agreed to pay him \$1000. Then there was the sum of \$500 paid Senator Howlan to defray his expenses to London in connection with the tunnel survey and estimates. The leader of the Government objected to this expenditure on the ground that it was \$100 in excess of the sum estimated, and at the same time took occasion to say that he was not opposed to the tunnel scheme. The Liberal party as a whole, however, has always been opposed to the tunnel, and the Liberal papers both here and in Summerside condemned the sending of Senator Howlan to London. Senator Howlan estimated the expenses of the trip to London at \$400, and the Earl of trade passed a resolution recommending that the Government pay him that sum. This the Government agreed to do. But after the passing of the resolution Senator Howlan informed the Government that upon making a second and more careful estimate he found that the expenses would total up at least \$500. The government agreed to give him that sum, believing that it would be recouped from Ottawa. Senator Howlan did good work. The tunnel was now within the range of practical politics. The amount paid Senator Howlan for his expenses to London would likely be refunded by the Dominion Government. He then dealt with the Land Office Discount Bill which he claimed would operate against the poor man and in favor of the large proprietors—the friends of the present Government. He asked the Government why they did not extend the time of discount over four or five years so that poor persons might be able to take advantage of it. The Leader estimates that the revenue realized by increase of population will be \$5,000, notwithstanding the fact that some members of the Government in their "blue ruin" speeches had said that nearly all the people had left the country, that there were no persons remaining but a few grass widows! He thought that \$5,000 revenue from this source for six months, \$10,000 a year, was too large to expect, and felt certain that it would not be realized. He did not think that the speeches of some members of the House when in Opposition were consistent with their actions since they had obtained power. With reference to the statoricary, bill referred to by the premier, he explained that the firm in Toronto sent double the quantity ordered, and when it arrived the Government declined to take or pay for any more than they asked to have forwarded. The estimates and revenue would never meet. They estimated that as a result of the discount the receipts from the Land Office would be \$60,000; last year there were only \$24,000. Last year education cost \$113,675; this year the amount put in the estimates for that purpose was \$108,630. He could not see how the saving was to be made in the face of the fact that the Leader of the Government had

promised several new districts. But perhaps he was going to close up some of the schools. Then, too, the estimates for the Hospital for the Insane were \$1000 less than last year, and a saving was also to be made in the matter of coroner's inquests, public ferries, roads and bridges, etc. How they were going to effect these savings he could not see. But it was quite plain it was not the intention to make revenue and expenditure meet. The estimates for last year amounted to \$278,000; this year they total up \$270,600, an almost identical sum, notwithstanding all the "blue ruin" speeches some members of the present Grit Government have been making. The deficit of last year was largely occasioned by unusual expenditures, such as expenditures on the consolidation of the statutes, exhibitions, the Governor-General's visit, repairs to the steamer *Ellin*, to wharves and bridges, and to the Normal School. The late Government ought not to be held responsible for these extraordinary expenditures. After some remarks in reference to Government House, and the paying of the Governor's rent before he moved into the official residence, and touching upon some other items in the estimates, which he promised to keep a close eye upon as they came up for approval, he resumed his seat.

House adjourned.

HARD COAL, EX S. S. "WILLIAM."

Cargo of JERMYN Hard Coal, Chestnut and Egg Sizes, SAME QUALITY as supplied customers for some years past, to arrive from New York on WEDNESDAY, 8th inst., will be sold low while landing. Parties who have ordered will please be ready to receive on following day (Thursday). R. McMILLAN. July 4—dy 1w wy li

MOLASSES.

A CONSIGNMENT of Fifty Puncheons of Choice Trinidad Molasses just arrived and will be sold low. HORACE HAZARD. Ch'town, July 4, 1891—2w eod

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Monday Evening, July 6th.

15 THOUSAND HEMLOCK BOARDS, 5,000 2 inch Plank, 5,000 3 inch Deals, 20,000 2x3 inch Hardwood, in Ash and Birch, 12,000 Pine Boards, 40,000 Clear Cedar Shingles. Sale at 6 o'clock, p. m. E. H. NORTON & CO., Agents. jy3—dy

EXTENSIVE SALE BY AUCTION.

Horses, Cows, Carriages, Farming Implements, Household Furniture, Hay, Oats, etc.

I AM instructed by the Executors to the Estate of the late Justice Peters to sell by Auction, at his late residence, Sidmont, on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of July, commencing at 11 o'clock, a. m. — Horses, Cows, Carriages, Sleighs, Farming Implements, Hay, Oats, Coal, Wood and Household Furniture. R. BEARSTO, Auctioneer. june30

FORTY BUILDING LOTS BY AUCTION,

Thursday, July 9th,

COMMENCING AT 11 O'CLOCK, And Continuing Till All Are Sold.

THE owners of the Cahill Estate have instructed us to sell by Auction, on the Premises, on THURSDAY, July 9th, at 11 o'clock, the beautiful field at the head of Prince Street, which has now been plotted off into 40 Lots, comprising the handsome and most desirable Building Lots now available in the City, and facing on Prince Street and Malpeque Road. See handbills for plan. These Lots are beautifully situated, and will be sold at prices to suit the times. Buy your own homes in a healthy and pleasant locality. TERMS—25 per cent. cash; balance in four years at 6 per cent. interest. E. H. NORTON & CO., Auctioneers. ju24—eod

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Charlotte town, June 27, 1891.