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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Conclusion of Mr. McLean's Speech.

MR. A. J. MACDONALD RE-VIEWS THE SITUATION.

Pineau's Letter Ruled Out—The Breaking of Mr. Birch's Desk.

THURSDAY, May 31.

Mr. Birch rose to a question of privilege. He pointed out that last evening, between six and seven o'clock, his desk in the House had been broken open. There were some important papers in his possession but he fortunately had these in his pocket instead of in his desk. He demanded that a prompt and thorough investigation into the matter be held.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson said he regretted the occurrence and promised that the matter would be looked into later on.

Hon. Mr. Gordon, Mr. Shaw, Mr. A. J. Macdonald and Mr. A. A. McLean demanded an immediate and searching investigation. The latter gentleman moved for a committee of privileges to hold a sworn investigation at once, but the motion was voted down by the Government.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson submitted a bill amending the Income Tax Act. Second reading to-morrow.

At the afternoon session Mr. A. A. McLean continued his remarks on the budget. He asked why it was that the plan and specification regarding the Hillsborough bridge asked for several days ago had not been tabled, and intimated that the Government had suppressed them. He also complained that the bank statement asked for some days ago had not been submitted. But although this information was not forthcoming he (Mr. McLean) was able to give an approximate idea of the indebtedness of the province. This is the statement:—

Balance at Banks Dec. 31st 1899 \$136,756.77
Expended since 31st Dec. as per statement of 25th May. 135,730.30

\$272,487.07

RECEIPTS.

Half yearly subsidy \$ 91,000.00
Received from various sources, estimated at 22,000.00

\$113,000.00

Estimated balance due Banks on 25th May, 1900.....\$159,487.07

This does not include the amount due on Debentures Sinking Fund account which the Government has used to reduce the balance at the banks.

Mr. McLean stated that when the Government got over their case and produced the bank statement the House would find that the above was about correct. When the purchasers of the debentures ascertain the true state of affairs the credit of the country will be lost. They say they have \$15,000 of a sinking fund. But they should have \$30,000 if the interest was added. They had no right to take this money out of the bank to pay off the debt. There is actually only \$4,090 to meet the \$185,000 of debentures. They have taken money held in trust and used it for ordinary purposes. They are not allowed to put this money on call in the bank. What if the Vice-Chancellor or Master of the Rolls should call for this money?

At this juncture the Premier submitted the plan of the Hillsborough bridge. He said there was no specification to bring down; no specification was prepared or signed.

Mr. McLean thought the position was a humiliating one for the Leader and the Commissioner of Public Works to be in. These men signed a contract without having a specification to guide them; they gave away \$9,750 a year of the people's money for all time to come without ever seeing a specification. They approved of a specification which they had never seen; they put the great seal of the province on a falsehood. There is nothing to show what kind of a bridge that is to be built. For aught we know there may be as much brass about it as there is about the way it was obtained. Mr. Blair had evidently got the better of the Premier and Attorney General in this matter. The House met with thirteen members on each side. The Government is now holding on to power by the support of the hon. member for Tignish. In this connection the Speaker yesterday refused to permit the reading of the letter sent from Ottawa by Mr. Pineau. He asked the Speaker to reconsider his decision on this point.

The Speaker said he has already given his decision. Mr. McLean could appeal from that decision to the House.

Mr. McLean said he proposed to read from Bourinot to show that his course was right.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson said that if the members of the House who objected to the Speaker's ruling were allowed to act as Mr. McLean was acting there was no knowing when the session would end.

Mr. McLean asked whose fault it was that the work was being delayed. The Opposition asked for papers and did not get them. Mr. McLean then examined

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\$7.50

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A Boy's Suit, well made of good Blue Serge for - - - **75 cts**

A Boy's 2 piece Suit made of good Tweed, all sizes up to 10 years, **\$1.25**

A Boy's Suit, 3 pieces for bigger boys' Serge and Tweed, only **\$2.50**

A very fine quality Hard Serge, 2 piece suit for - - - **\$3.75**
Others ask \$4.75 for suits not better.

A very very Scotch Tweed Suit, 3 pieces, beautifully made - **\$4.25**

The king of them all, 3 pieces, Worst- ed, Serge or Tweed, - **\$6.25**
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Blouse Suits—all sizes, all patterns, all qualities, all one low price.

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the plan of the bridge, pointing out that it was not signed and might therefore not be genuine. Besides, said he, this plan is an old one.

Mr. Peters said that if Mr. McLean would read the contract he would see that the plan and specifications were on file with the Department of Railways and Canal, Ottawa.

Mr. Shaw pointed out that the premier a few moments ago said that a specification had not been prepared. Who is telling the truth?

Mr. Campbell thought there should be a copy of the plan and specification here.

Mr. McLean, resuming his remarks, returned to the Pineau matter and proceeded to quote from Bourinot to show that he should be allowed to read the letter written at Ottawa by that hon. member.

The Speaker interrupted him and said he decided that point yesterday.

Mr. McLean said that the inestimable right of free speech should not be taken from the people by this Parliament. The freest discussion should be allowed. He was there to say what he believed to be right, and what his constituents sent him there to say. He claimed that the House should not go into committee of supply because there was a member sitting in the House who had no right to be there.

Cries of "chair," "chair" followed, and the Speaker proceeded to quote from May to sustain his rulings. The rules of the House must be obeyed.

Mr. McLean asked who was violating the rules of the House? He had always obeyed the rules to the letter. To be sure he differed from the Speaker at times. It is the right of British subjects to have freedom of speech. He might tell many things that were in the letter if he was so disposed. He might also give the names of 476 electors of the Tignish district who had signed

a petition asking Mr. Pineau to resign. But he would not do so. Thank heaven there was a free press and through that medium he could get the letters and documents to the public. Through the press the facts of the case can be made plain. It would be shown by Pineau's own letters that he had no right to a seat in the House, and that he was not entitled to the confidence of any members of the House or any man in Canada.

Mr. A. J. Macdonald followed Mr. McLean referring first to the system of central exhibitions in Charlottetown. He said that while they may be of great benefit to Charlottetown and to a few specialists they were not of much general benefit and of little or no use to those farmers who most needed them. The county exhibitions were needed, and he hoped the government would give a grant to keep them up.

He was surprised that no member on the Government side except the Leader had spoken on the budget. He thought it a serious matter if the Public Accounts did not show the true position of the country's finances. He contended that it was the Auditor's duty to see to this. When a Government loses the confidence of the people it should resign. He believed there was great dissatisfaction in town and country and the people were opposed to the Government. The bye elections showed this. When an election is held the Government would be so completely swept away that there would be no Opposition and that would not be in the interest of the country. A good strong opposition is necessary. The Leader in his budget made several comments and boasted that our debt per capita was much less than that of the other provinces. But formerly it was the boast of this province that we had no public debt. When the Conservatives went out the Liberals made a great boast because of the \$171,000 liabilities which,

according to Davison and Chalmers, was all we were liable for. All the interest bearing capital we had at Ottawa to avoid direct taxation has been swept away by the Liberals. In regard to the withdrawal from capital of \$200,000 by the Conservatives he (Mr. Macdonald) said they did right and one result of that withdrawal was the placing of \$20,000 per annum to our yearly income which has in the 13 years that have since passed added \$260,000 to our assets. The Liberals came in with a promise to make revenue and expenditure meet, but even after putting on a direct taxation they failed to do so. In the past he opposed the abolition of the Legislative Council. Time has proved that act a deplorable failure. The Island is in a worse financial position to-day than ever before. The Legislative Council would have been some check on the extravagant expenditures. He then referred to the report of the Asylum Commission and held the trustees responsible for the state of affairs which obtained in that institution. Speaking of the proposed establishment of a Department of Agriculture he thought there was no member of the Government competent to take charge of that department. He rather doubted whether the people were yet prepared for steel bridge building. The roads and bridges between Charlottetown and Georgetown had not he believed been in as bad condition during the past quarter of a century. He then referred to the interest account and taxation and said in the event of a failure of the crops the people would leave this country by thousands.

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SESSION 1900-1901.

Matriculation Examinations, preliminary the various Courses of Study, will be held at Montreal and at local centres on 11th June, and at Montreal in September, as under.

*Faculty of Arts (Men and Women)
†Faculty of Applied Science—Mon. 17th Sept.
Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Science, Sat. 22nd Sept.
*In the Faculty of Arts (Revised Curriculum) the courses are open also to PARTIAL STUDENTS without Matriculation.
*In the Faculty of Applied Science the courses in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Mining Engineering, Chemistry and Architecture, are also open to PARTIAL STUDENTS without Matriculation.
Examinations for twenty-one first year Entrance Exhibitions in the Faculty of Arts, ranging from \$90 to \$200, will be held on 17th September at Montreal, Halifax, St. John, N. B., Charlottetown, P. E. I., St. John's, Nfld., and other centres.
The Royal Victoria College, the new residential college for women, will be ready to receive students on 17th September.
The McGill Normal School will be re-opened on 1st September.
Particulars of Examinations, and copies of the Calendar, containing full information, may be obtained on application to W. VAUGHAN, Registrar.