

# THE LEADER.

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REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 20, 1901.

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## THE BUDGET DEBATE.

Financial Position of the Territories and Provincial Autonomy.

### GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OF HAIL INSURANCE

Connell's Bill on Hire Receipts Killed at the Winning Post—Reform of Educational System—Foreign Languages May be Taught in Schools—Religious Teaching—Beet Sugar Factories—Doukhobor Schools.

The following is a continuation of the debate on the Budget. It will be remembered that the last issue contained Mr. A. L. Sifton's speech in introducing his estimates, and the reply of Mr. H. H. McDonald, leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Elliott was the next speaker. He said that he had great pleasure in congratulating Mr. Ferguson on the excellent impression his speech had made in the House and would do more justice to it in the course of his speech. The whole matter had been more or less touched with the point of a pin by the leader of the Opposition, who had said that the two-penny-half-penny sort that did not reward themselves even to the narrowest extent, but the members of the Opposition wished to gain the confidence and respect of the people. They had not been able to do so in a different class of criticism. Mr. McDonald advanced several points in support of his contention that there was no income from the part of officials, or that others elsewhere were getting more than the department only three had been destroyed; could anybody want a more favorable report? The C.P.R. a

were continually losing bridges. He believed that scarcely a year passed but some were washed away. As to what was being done about it, he said, in almost all cases the tenders had to be refused and in a few cases there were delays. The work was done much better by day labor than by contract and that was generally the case. The frozen ground would not make good immigration literature. The complaints that the government did not care for the ground were in fine condition when the instructions were sent, and when certain education resolutions were proposed and the resolutions introduced a new system of distributing grants, a system of equalizing buildings which endeavors to give poor and rich alike the same amount of assistance than the stronger. He supported the system, though it would probably be better if the money were given severally as in the Territories.

The leader of the Opposition said that the Doukhobors were a people who own large herds of cattle, are escaping taxation through the signs of their religion, and told the committee that he himself would probably save \$60 a year. The system of grants was the best system in the country, but it must be considered, he said, that the interests of the whole country. Though it might be true that the majority would benefit, but from that of the interests of the whole country. That it might be true that the Red Deer bridge and the others were destroyed, but the majority would benefit. He congratulated the Government on the health of public works even beyond the expectations of the year, and he defended the system of grants to the Doukhobors, the machinery supposed to be adequate afterwards obtaining machines which were not available to complete the work. He argued that the Red Deer bridge and the others were destroyed under extraordinary circumstances, but had been destroyed by unprecedented floods. He referred to should have been existing at the time when money was spent. He said that if money was existing it would be strange if some were not destroyed. Of the bridges mentioned since the opening of the department only three had been destroyed: could anybody want a

more favorable report? The C.P.R. for civil service would have given a good many school grants and built a good many culverts and bridges. He said that the members of the cabinet complained that returns asked for had not been brought in, and that the members of the opposition voting of a bulk sum for the construction of roads as a system liable to abuse, and that the members of the opposition had been voted in detail. The late commissioner of public works had disclosed the position the House should take: he said there were still 100,000 acres of land in the Territories that have 50,000,000 acres. That speech had the ring and he believed that the members of the opposition at the speech of the commissioner yesterday. He believed the system of grants was the best system that had been carried too far. The lands were not owned alienated from the Government, but they were not owned by the Government in that next session might find him on one side of the House or the other and perhaps he might be as he was at that (Laughter).

Mr. G. M. Arnable also joined in the unanimous concourse of congratulations to the hon. treasurer, congratulating him also on his comprehensive and conciliatory public works. He thought it would be a good thing for the west and the north to have control of immigration until we had a sufficient population. Three hundred and forty-five thousand dollars was given to govern the country. Of course, the Government was spending a larger amount, \$400,000 for immigration to bring in people, leaving nothing for anything else. The people should have an opportunity of going into a community where they can settle before anything further is established in the matter.

Mr. G. M. Arnable

in a speech that was frequently applauded with signs of approval, joined his congratulations with those of previous speakers on the new Territorial treasurer for his able and honest speech. He complimented the treasurer on the straightforward manner in which he had told the Government what it was doing for the lamentable want of knowledge displayed by the leader of the Opposition. He said that he had well deserved him at least. He then took the Speaker left the chair and resuming on Friday morning.

Dr. Elliott continued to deal with the question of PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY.

He referred to the many grants given to specific districts and areas. Mr. A. L. Sifton's contention that the Territories should receive compensation for the loss of autonomy, not for the special benefit of, but to the detriment of the North-West Territories, was not correct. The Dominion at large, Dr. Elliott concluded by ridiculing the idea that the system of grants was a good one. The system of local improvement districts were drastic systems. They were such as common among the Indians and the people of the north. The large and small local improvement districts were an essential part of the system of the management of the official Gazette, and the policy of the department of public works. The department gave 90 per cent. of extract animals to their owners, as reflecting credit in the department.

MR. THOMAS M'KAY

said the Territorial Treasurer was a business-like statement, and far from being congealed in his speech, after all, was making the best he could of a very bad cause. Any differences of opinion that House had, he said, may the more was expended. They had not yet anything to do with the revenue. They set aside a large amount of money. The Government had not familiarised themselves as they should have done with the financial situation of the territories in regard to public works. Although apparently in a bankrupt state the members of the Government were not prepared to make any sacrifice, but voted themselves \$2,000 for "extraordinary services." The \$10,000 increase

was to go free it was those who were giving employment to others and holding up others valuable. When we have the power to tax, the lands we have, he said, will be taxed, and it did not matter much who owned the lands if we had the power to tax them. (Hear, hear.) He said that the people of the territories were not the people about provincial autonomy, the people of the territories were the people of the provinces. There was no appeal to them was necessary. Referring to the provincial question he said that the members of the territories from the speeches of the members of the government in 1865, it was recognised that the territories must be given autonomy. The members of the opposition were the ones that were against it. One member of the opposition criticised the government for delaying the executive. He said that the members of the government and the greater executive required; and claimed that economy had been shown. He said that he was not criticized and would bear the light of day. Speaking of the salary of the salaries of the members of the executive, he said no matter how poor the country is, it does not cost more to individual members to live for less than it is worth. Surely this country is as important as any wholesale house, yet whole houses pay higher wages to their managers than were paid to the executives of the government. These included an ordinary legislator and all the work of the municipalities in other provinces. These costed took all the time and expense of the executive, and he was quite sure the work could not be efficiently performed without a sufficient number of members.

MR. J. P. MCKEEAN

Mr. G. M. Arnable said that he was very much pleased, with part of the speech of the minister of public works. He had not heard of the salaries of the ministers; but if his party were strong enough perhaps he would make a proposal to the government. He hoped the salaries would be so high that the ministers would be able to stay at home after the election and have to take little jobs from the Dominion Government to live on. The ministry were worth the money. He thought they were worth the money. He would not say whether it was wise or unwise to give a couple of hundred thousand dollars more than the House has got; but it was a great mistake to count to be debt. The Dominion is dumping thousands of people into the country it wants to have them there and there the lunatic asylum, for which many of them fit subjects before they came here.

Mr. G. M. Arnable said that provincial autonomy he hoped we should get a better deal than Manitoba. Perhaps, we should say if the Territories were represented in the Dominion House by ten or twelve members. He

could not agree with the Opposition in everything they had done, nor did he say they were all bad men; neither did he say that the members of the Government or approve of all their legislation. If we could not get something done, we would be better off making a provincial deal then it would be the duty of the Government to remember and let the affairs of the government run the affairs. He believed that the Opposition had a desire to bring down the Government to bring down some good legislation. However, he thought that some good legislation in regard to the public works department he believed that a lot of work was done, but he noticed in the past but he noticed in the past that it was done chiefly every four years. Of course, he said, that was done for election purposes. Some of it was well done and some of it was not well done. He said that he hoped that next session might find him on one side of the House or the other and perhaps he might be as he was at that (Laughter).

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