

7, JANUARY 28, 1910.

PROVINCE SHARES IN GOOD TIMES

Public Accounts Show Large Increase in Revenue.

DEFICIT FOR SHORT YEAR.

Change in Financial Period Causes a Shortage.

Another Budget of Government Bills Brought Down—Proposal to Ap- peal McNaught Bread Act—Con- servatives Hold Their First Cau- cus—The Restoration of the Provincial Library.

Unusual interest will attach to the Budget speech of the Provincial Treasurer this session in view of the statement of expenditures and receipts for the fiscal year of ten months, which closed on October 31 last. This document was tabled at the Legislature yesterday afternoon, and for the first time Hon. A. J. Matheson is called upon to chronicle a deficit. The receipts for the year totalled \$7,477,920.94, while the expenditure reached the sum of \$7,545,040.47, leaving a shortage of \$67,119.53. A review of the weighty volume, of which the Provincial Treasurer is the author, shows, however, that this condition is not the result of any impairment in the sources of revenue, but results from the fact that under the change in the financial year several customary sources of income are not recorded. The early months of the year are those which call for the major expenditure, while November and December, which are not included in the present financial statement, are deemed to be revenue-producing periods of a special nature.

Expenditure Within Estimates.

The Provincial Treasurer is authority for the announcement that had the statement covered the full calendar year of twelve months a substantial surplus would have been shown. The total expenditure is within the estimates, while the revenue increased over these official forecasts in nearly every department. The Auditor's report shows that there was an over-expenditure of \$474,000 in connection with the Hydro-electric Power Commission, but the Minister in his Budget speech will point out that this amount was spent in the construction and building of the transmission lines, and is properly attributable to capital account.

The Provincial Loan.

In this connection Hon. Mr. Matheson will maintain that the flotation of the Provincial loan for the power project has resulted very satisfactorily. To October 31 the net proceeds were \$2,099,477, and a considerable further amount has been subscribed since that date.

The most pleasing feature in connection with the flotation of this loan, according to the Minister, was the fact that it was taken generally by the public rather than by the large

corporations.

A Phenomenal Cash Balance.

The cash on hand at the end of the year amounted to \$5,086,000, which is a phenomenally large balance. The number of municipalities availing themselves of the opportunity of depositing their sinking funds with the Province increased. While only \$14,662 was the amount paid in during the Provincial year, the department received many notifications of by-laws passed with this end in view. The amount loaned on drainage debentures during the year was \$13,000 more than was received. The municipalities secure Provincial money at four per cent., and there are, consequently, numerous applications. The interest account shows \$74,370 from the Federal Government on common school account, the only other interest being on deposits in banks and drainage debentures.

Times Are Better.

The statement of receipts indicates that the Province is rapidly recovering from the commercial inactivity and financial stringency of 1908. A comparison of receipts for the two Provincial years is difficult, owing to the fact that that of 1908 was for twelve months, while the present statement only deals with ten. It is significant, however, that in a number of departments the receipts for the short year exceed those for the longer period. In the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, the receipts last year totalled \$2,028,224, as against \$2,430,429 in 1908, a decrease of only \$402,205, despite the fact that the revenue from timber dues, one of the largest sources of income of the department, do not come in until December, and are consequently not included in the statement. A remarkable showing is made by the earnings of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway. In the calendar year of 1908 the road's earnings amounted to \$350,000, while in the succeeding ten months alone a total of \$550,000 was reached. In agricultural receipts also the short year shows the larger returns—a difference of approximately \$17,000—the total for the past year being \$104,956. The Provincial Secretary's Department shows a similar condition, the total of \$210,357 being \$35,000 greater than in 1908. The receipts from succession duties were \$681,647, a decrease of almost \$500,000.

Comparatively little of the large sum which will be required for the repairing of the burned wing of the Parliament buildings has been included in the expenditures of the past year, nor has the insurance payment received been credited in the receipts.

The estimates were prepared under the direction of Mr. James Clancy, the Provincial Auditor, and by Mr. A. J. Rattray, Assistant Auditor. This is the thirty-first successive year in which Mr Rattray has compiled Ontario's public accounts.

Many Government Bills.

Sir James Whitney introduced the following additional bills, which, he explained, were consolidations of existing acts by the Statute Revision Committee:—Respecting Wills, respecting Insurance of Estates, respecting Titles to Real Estate, respecting Contracts for Goods in the Hands of Agents, and respecting Commissioners of Police.

Hon. A. J. Matheson, with a similar explanation, introduced the bill respecting the Clergy Reserve and Upper Canada Grammar School grant.

Four revision enactments were also introduced by Hon. Dr. Reaume, respecting the Bureau of Labor, respecting Public Works of Ontario, respecting riots near Public Works, and respecting Mechanics' Liens.

Hon. Frank Cochrane submitted a consolidation of the act to establish forest reserves.

To Force Federal Hand.

Mr. G. H. Ferguson (Grenville) was summoned to the chair, while a number of statute revisions were put through the committee stage. On the consideration of the bill defining territorial municipal and judicial divisions, Messrs. Brewster and Fisher of Brant, called attention to the fact that Tuscorora township was the seat of a large Indian reserve, and since 1906 the Dominion had refused to bear its share of the administration of justice and schooling of those who attend outside of the reserve. The two members for Brant suggested that the township of Tuscorora be omitted from the

county of Brant for municipal and judicial purposes and thus force the Federal authorities to provide the necessary machinery.

said a similar condition existed with reference to the township of Caradoc in his constituency, which should be similarly dealt with.

"The hon. members for Brant appealed to this Government and the matter will have consideration," observed Hon. Mr. Foy. "The hon. member for Middlesex might co-operate by using his influence with the Dominion Government."

Mr. Elliott said a movement had already started with a view to entering upon negotiations.

Mr. Nickle Protests.

A gentle protest was entered by Mr. W. F. Nickle (Kingston) on the zeal displayed by the Premier in pressing through a shoal of revisions.

"There has been little time," observed the Kingston man, "from sunset last night to sunrise this morning to digest the mass of legislation deposited on the desks of the members. There is material here which should command the serious consideration of the House."

"The judges have been over the matter three times," was Sir James' explanation, "and I fancy they will be right."

Notice of Bread Bill.

Mr. W. F. Nickle (Kingston) will on Monday move a bill to amend the consolidated municipal act, the intention of which is to place back in the hands of the municipalities the standardizing of bread. Mr. Nickle's bill carries with it the repeal of the McNaught bread bill of last session, which took away from the municipalities the regulating of bread and brought it under the control of the Provincial Government.

The member for Kingston purposes to give to the cities, towns and villages the right to fix the weight of loaves, and to prevent the use of deleterious materials. Power to seize and dispose of bread made contrary to the by-law is also provided for.

The Conservatives Convene.

The first Conservative caucus was held yesterday morning, Mr. J. W. Doyle, the new member from North Middlesex, presiding. Sir James Whitney addressed the members, congratulating them upon the harmonious relations that had existed, and calling upon all to get down to work. If everyone did his part in conserving the time of the House there was, said the Premier, no reason why the session should not be concluded in six weeks. The Conservative members were later the guests of the Premier at luncheon in the Speaker's chambers.

Restoring the Library.

Hon. Mr. Matheson on Tuesday will move the following resolution: "That this House receives with much satisfaction the intelligence of the munificent donations which have been made in aid of the reconstruction of the Legislative Library by the Government and Governmental departments of Canada, the several Canadian Provinces and the United States, and by the ladies and gentlemen whose names appear in the report which has been laid before the House; and thus the House hereby extends its grateful thanks to the donors. That this House acknowledges with gratitude the prompt and generous action of the Governors of the University of Toronto in placing the house, No. 4 Queen's Park, at the service of the Government for the temporary use of the library."