

erals would only be too glad to shake themselves free from the traditions of the Ross Administration.

Not Businesslike.

Mr. Hugh Munro (Glengarry) took the ground that the Provincial Budget was no different from an annual statement given to a meeting of shareholders of a company. It could not be supposed that a statement incomplete as to details would be acceptable to any body of business men. "Good government," declared Mr. Munro, "is nothing but good business." In the absence of proper information the Province might be liable for millions about which the House knew nothing.

Mr. Rowell's Apt Contrast.

Mr. Rowell showed what the complete statement of finances would be if the method followed by the Dominion Minister of Finance and Hon. Mr. Matheson, the former Treasurer, had been adopted. Assuming that the statutory expenditure was the same as last year, and was added to the \$11,263,000 of estimated disbursements, there would be a total estimated expenditure for the current year, without even further supplementaries, of \$15,957,000. If they turned to the estimated receipts, leaving out cash on hand, borrowed money, they arrived at a figure of \$9,793,000, showing a nominal deficit of \$6,164,000.

Commenting on this, Mr. Rowell said: "One can readily understand when you look at these figures why my hon. friend the Provincial Treasurer did not include in his financial statement the statutory expenditure, because if my hon. friend showed in his statement a nominal deficit of \$6,000,000, which would have to be met by borrowed money or increased taxation or reduced expenditure, the Province would sit up and take notice, and it would quicken public interest in the financial affairs of the Province and in the manner in which they were administered. We say the people of this Province are entitled to know all the facts regarding the finances of the Province."

Statements Unbusinesslike.

In discussing his amendment Mr. Bowman challenged the judgment of any member in the House that as a matter of ordinary business and banking practice a financial statement should be accurate to the last cent; there should be no omissions, the amounts of the various items should be properly given, and the whole arrangement should be frank and clear so that any person ordinarily familiar with figures could reach a proper conclusion. A business man going to a banker for the purpose of obtaining credit would have to present a statement of his assets and liabilities in such a way that would give the banker a general idea of the state of the business and how it was carried on. "If any business man gives to his banker a statement which is incorrect—which is used as a basis for getting credit and is afterwards found to be incorrect—he immediately places himself under the operation of the criminal code.

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISES REFERRED TO VOTERS

Private Bills Committee Defers to Electorate

OF OTTAWA AND HAMILTON

Capital's Water Problem a Vexed One —Windsor's Growth Responsible for Several Bills — Dock at the Sault.

There was ample demonstration of the intense feeling which reigns in Ottawa on the respective water schemes when the bill standing in Mr. Ellis' name came before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday. Both sides in the controversy were lined up, and a goodly portion of the room was taken up by large deputations from Ottawa. Mr. Ellis' supporters made themselves the more prominent by displaying badges with the inscription: "We Back Ellis and 31-Mile Lake."

The issue was largely one of whether a majority of the people of Ottawa were in favor of getting a water supply from 31-mile Lake or from the Ottawa River, and to settle this point a sub-committee was appointed to draw up the form in which the question should be balloted.

Mr. Ellis (West Ottawa) stated that they were simply asking that the five million dollars which was voted last year should be increased to eight millions to meet the increased cost now estimated.

Mr. Champagne (East Ottawa) took the position that poor people had a perfect right to vote for the cheaper scheme, and he considered they should be consulted as to whether the eight million or the two million (filtration) scheme was to be adopted.

A bill authorizing the city of Hamilton to purchase its own stone quarry with an expenditure of \$75,000 was referred to the vote of the people of that city.

Windsor's Expansion.

The expansion of the city of Windsor was reflected in three bills which were approved by the committee. One authorizes the city to purchase lands for factory sites, to be sold to manufacturers, another fixes the Detroit tunnel assessment at \$1,000,000 for the next fourteen years, and the property of the Michigan Central Railway at \$450,000, while the third permits the city to raise money up to one million dollars on debentures for the equipment and betterment of the waterworks.

Dunnville's bill authorizing the raising of money for municipal purposes was reported, as was also a bill permitting the town of Orangeville to loan \$30,000 to a knitting factory by way of a bonus, and to fix the rate of taxation and water rates for twenty years.

Sault's New Dock Company.

An agreement between the city of Sault Ste. Marie and Francis H. Clergue and the Lake Superior Dock & Construction Co. was ratified. Under this the assessment is fixed at \$750,000, on which taxes for school rates will be paid for twenty years. The city will also pay the company \$20,000 for a period of twenty years. From 1921 to 1935 the assessments for general taxes will be \$500,000.