

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1912.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

The expectation is that the Legislature will conclude its business and prorogue this week. The past week was the most interesting of the budget debate. Mr. Copp, who has been four times on his feet since the debate opened, concluded a six hour oration and was followed by Hon. Mr. Morrissey, Chief Commissioner of Public Works. As the head of the most important spending department of the Government, Mr. Morrissey has been considerably in the limelight since the opening of the House. From the very beginning there was an evident intention on the part of the Opposition to draw their campaign material from the expenditures of the Public Works Department. All sorts of insinuation and innuendo were thrown out and the Government was charged with withholding particulars of expenditures.

Mr. Morrissey's speech was an able defence of his four years' management of the Public Works Department and in strong contrast to the silence of Mr. LaBillicois in dealing with his own management. Mr. Morrissey said that every dollar expended had been properly accounted for and that no arrangements for holding up accounts had been entered into between the banks and the Government. There were no suspense accounts. Mr. Morrissey made rather a neat turn on Mr. Hendry, who had made the assertion that the business of the Department was not properly managed, by reading a letter from his predecessor in office showing how the business was done under the former Government. This letter, dated Dalhousie, N. B., June 20th, 1906, and addressed to T. B. Winslow, Esq., Fredericton, N. B., is as follows:

Dear Sir—Please send John McGuire, care of James Lowell, Esq., South Bay, St. John, N. B., a warrant for \$592.14—charge to Marsh Road as special under suspense account. They will likely spend a large amount on that road, send him a lot of vouchers with one of our bulletins as a guide for him to make out his vouchers.

(Signed.) C. H. LaBILICOIS.
Kindly accept small draft made. C. H. L.

This was not a very businesslike arrangement, but it was the way in which the Public Works Department of the Province spent the people's money. No accounts were ever rendered, nor were any vouchers found which showed how this \$592 was spent. A dozen more letters were produced by Mr. Morrissey, taken from the files of the Department, ordering payments to be made. The money was sent to these people as requested but no vouchers were ever received in return. It seemed to be only necessary for a Government supporter in the House to make a demand on the Public Works Department for the demand to be complied with without there being any knowledge as to whether the claim was one that ought to be settled or not.

Mr. Morrissey made it very clear that the old Administration, while settling the claims of political supporters, had permitted the bridges of the country to rot down. Regarding the condition of the bridges when the present Administration took charge in 1908, Mr. Morrissey preferred a starting indictment, which Mr. LaBillicois, although then in the House, made no effort to answer. Mr. LaBillicois' course during the present session has been one of silence. Notwithstanding what a large part of the criticism has been levelled at his management of the Public Works Department, he has not thought it worth while to attempt a justification of his course. Neither he nor Mr. Sweeney, both of whom were largely responsible for the financial plight in which the old Government found themselves, has been anxious to confide in the public and explain the management of the departments over which they presided. The only answer to it all is that they have no explanation to make.

Mr. Morrissey also told the House that the Department is now constructing a much better class of bridge than in the past and that more work of a permanent character has been done on the roads and bridges herebefore. What is equally important is the fact that the Province is getting fair value for every dollar that is expended.

Dr. Landry, Commissioner of Agriculture, made an excellent speech on the Budget in which he showed up the utter fallacy of the statements that the present Government had added large sums to the permanent debt of the Province. He explained that the additions were due to legislation passed under the old regime. With the exception of a comparatively small sum for permanent bridges, the present Administration has not added to the permanent debt for any other purpose. After dealing with the revenue and expenditure under the old Administration Dr. Landry took up the question of bridge repairs and contrasted the work that is now being done under the present Administration with previous attempts at bridge building. Bridges in this country which a few years ago were classed as permanent and paid for out of bond issues, have now to be extensively repaired to prevent their falling down.

Dr. Landry showed the magnificent progress made by the Agricultural Department in the last four years. Every branch of agriculture has received attention and no effort is being spared to push this important industry of the Province more to the front than heretofore. The Department is studying the interests of the people of the country and agriculture is occupying a more advanced place in developing the resources of the Province than four years ago.

The Government has every reason to be proud of the position in which it stands before the country. The Opposition have been unable to charge the Administration with a single discreditable act. Most of the time of Opposition speakers has been spent in trying to make it appear that the Government has been guilty of wrongdoing in materially increasing the territorial revenue of the Province. Several savage attacks have been made on the Crown Land Department to prove that the increased revenue from this Department is due to an increase in the lumber trade. Ten days ago Mr. Burchill, from Northumberland, introduced some figures into his speech which were new. Mr. McLachlan, who also represents Northumberland County, was able to demonstrate last week that Mr. Burchill had not been exactly fair in the way he handled the figures and Mr. McLachlan also ventured the statement that the lumber cut in the mills on the North Shore was not increasing and had not been increasing for years.

Everything considered the honors of the debate have been with the Government speakers. It has been shown that the Province is prosperous, that there is a spirit of optimism and hope abroad in the land, which has not existed in such measure for half a century. Great projects are about to be undertaken for the development of the

Province, which have been chiefly promoted since the present Government came into power. Under an Administration which has brought order out of chaos and redeemed its pledge to give the Province clean and honest government New Brunswick will go on and prosper.

SIDE LIGHTS ON THE COAL STRIKE.

A Glasgow correspondent of the Montreal Star, in an article typically Scotch, brings forward some facts and conclusions arising out of the coal strike which show the steadily growing tendency in the Old Country to look to other sources for power development. Incidentally coal owners in Scotland, it would appear, have rather benefited by the exorbitant prices and will be slow in lowering quotations to those prevailing before the strike.

"The coal strike," says the Glasgow correspondent, "has set us a' thinkin'. What a lot o' ways we've discovered for makin' new kinds o' fires, an' drivin' machinery without steam. No that we've actually tried any o' the new ways to any extent worth speakin' o'. Except the coalmaisters. It isn't a muckle in the way o' makin' money, that slips by them. Some o' them have made sma' fortunes out o' the troubles an' trials o' the public. Coal that was a shillin' a bag on the street is noo half a croon, though it is as muckle stanes as coal, an' cost them nae mair to raise because o' the strike.

"Doon at the harbors they are chargin' 23 shillin' a ton for the sweepin' o' a' the rubbish o' the pit-heads—stuff that naebody wad tak free gratis an' for naethin' a month syne—an' steamers have ta work wi' that in their furnaces, instead o' the guil'd coal which they used to get for 10 shillin' a ton. A Glasgow ship stopped awa' out in the ocean because the coal she had wadna raise steam.

"Noo that the strike seems over the coalmaisters will keep up prices for a week or twa longer, an' mak still mair money.

"The fact o' the matter is that, at the time they've been bewailin' the awfulness o' the strike it has been the best thing for them that could have happened. It has played finely into their pockets.

"But that wadna exactly what I was gawn to say. What I meant was that we've thoct o' lots o' ways o' doin' without coal a' thigither. The shipowners, an' shipbuilders, an' engineers especially. The oil engine has got a great lift. A firm in Copenhagen has ta'en ten acres o' lan' some three or four miles doon the Clyde frae Glasgow for a big factory for makin' oil engines for ships. Already a big cargo ship has been built on the Clyde for oil engines, an' another is nearly ready for launchin'.

"Then a Glasgow firm has nae fewer than fourteen coasters buildin' for oil engines, an' nearly half adizen o' the big shipbuidin' companies are layin' doon tools for makin' the new kind o' machinery. When the turbine came a' said that it wadna be lang until the auld-fashioned style o' engine made by James Watt, an' Dr. Kirk an' John Elder, an' the ither famous men who improved it for generation after generation, wad be seen only in museums. But afore the turbine has had time to dae this the oil engine has come an' 'threstened to abolish a' thing that is driven by coals, an' water an' steam. We are livin' in great times, an' nae mistake."

"There is a great measure of solid truth underlying these remarks of the Star's correspondent. Transportation companies the world over are awakin' to the fact that oil as fuel is not only cheaper than coal but more convenient to handle in many ways. New Brunswick is fortunate in possessing in the oil shales in Albert County a supply of crude oil which in the near future will add another great industry to the Province. Sir William MacKenzie, president of the Canadian Northern, was one of the first in the field, to realize the possibilities of these deposits. A company in which he is interested will start the development of the oil bearing areas in Albert County this summer on a large scale. English capitalists have also secured concessions to develop this great natural asset. There is every indication that within a few years the oil business will be one of the most important industries in the Province.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

In times like the present when the newspapers are filled with accounts of enormous profits realized out of real estate, speculation and other ventures, the solid but less spectacular achievements of regular business are apt to be overlooked, and it has therefore, a steady effect to come across the annual report of an institution strong and progressive, but pursuing its traditional conservative policy, undisturbed by surrounding excitement. The balance sheet of the Bank of British North America to December 31st, 1911, and an account of the seventy-sixth yearly general meeting, which was held in London, on Tuesday, March 5th, was published in The Standard's last issue, and is worth reading.

The bank has done well and both the shareholders and staff reap the benefit, but the fact that the bank has a conservative management for which the institution has always been noted. While the bank has enjoyed a prosperous year, safely continues to be a paramount consideration. There is no departure from the regular policy of maintaining strong cash reserves and seeking only the highest class of investments for the rest account. Larger profits could no doubt have been made, but the directors wisely adhere to the conservative methods which have earned for this bank the degree of public confidence it has always enjoyed.

The bank commenced business in Canada in 1836, and though there have since been many periods of financial stress and strain it has continued to deserve and enjoy the confidence of the public. The directors and the Canadian managers are alike to be congratulated upon the healthy and prosperous condition reflected in the annual statement, which will also be a source of satisfaction to the bank's many friends and patrons.

Current Comment

(Manitoba Free Press.)

Roosevelt's test of belief in popular government is the recall of judicial decisions. He does not advocate the recall of judges themselves, and he makes no issue of the initiative and referendum, but he is strong on the recall of decisions. It is Taft's opposition to this point in the Roosevelt programme which constitutes, from Mr. Roosevelt's point of view, crowning proof that the President has lost faith in the people, and does not believe in the right of the people to rule.

(Toronto News.)

The West Indian agreement is a marked personal triumph for Mr. Foster. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has been an enthusiast in favor of such an arrangement, and it is the dream of his life to extend Canada's trade with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and other parts of the Empire on preferential terms. Lastly he looks confidently to the day when the Mother Country herself will enter into reciprocal preferences with the overseas Dominions.

(Toronto Star, Lib.)

We do not like to brag, but must remind some of our Conservative contemporaries that we have argued for years that the Senate should be abolished.

(Portland Telegram.)

Another thing—no young man who has an eye for colors ought to try to match a peroxide blonde against a light pocketbook.

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REV. H. ROE PREACHED ELOQUENT SERMON

Large Congregation Hears
Repetition of Easter Music in
Carmarthen Street Methodist
Church.

A large congregation heard with pleasure the Easter music repeated in the Carmarthen Street Methodist Church last evening when under the leadership of John Bullock, the choir rendered several beautiful anthems. Prominent in the choir were many little girls dressed in white, their sweet voices going far to bring out the real meaning of the music. Of the solo parts of the different anthems these children took their full share, while the sacred duet sung by Miss Maile Oram and Miss May Alcorn, won the heartiest appreciation of the congregation, who found it hard to conform with church rules and not applaud.

Rev. H. T. Roe delivered the sermon, taking his text from the 14th chapter of the Gospel of St. Mark, in the 8th verse—"She has done what she could; she has come aforehand to anoint my body for the burial." Rev. Mr. Roe opened his address by stating that the new testament is a mirror in which human nature is revealed and pointed out that sometimes the revelation is bad and sometimes good. The speaker then went on to say that evil deeds were the result of evil speech and thinking and that it ought to be corrected as it is unhealthy.

Speaking on the manner in which the disciples complained when they saw Martha bathe the feet of the Saviour in precious ointment, the speaker stated that as the gift was the result of love, Jesus saw that it was good and rebuked them. Rev. Mr. Roe then went on to say that the same kind of people as those disciples exist at the present day in the persons of the people who grumble against giving to foreign missions, saying it is useless to try to do anything for savages who have no soul, and the money should be spent among the slaves of our own cities. When speaking of the custom of sending flowers to the house of persons who have just died and saying nice things about them, Rev. Mr. Roe said it would be better for them to send the flowers to the person and say the nice things before he died.

County Court Plans.
During the absence from the city of His Hon. Judge Forbes, who will leave this evening for Virginia, His Hon. Judge Jonah will sit in county court chambers.

Most Anything

Say This Quickly.
Betty Botter bought some butter.
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter."
If I put it on my butter,
It will make my butter bitter.
But a bit of better butter
Will make my butter better.
So she bought a bit o' better butter
Better than the bitter butter.
And made her bitter butter better.
So 'twas better Betty Botter
Bought a bit of better butter.

Do little drops of bodily,
Little grains of graft,
Fill the little dough bag
Of the Grafting Craft?

Is there not a happy land,
A land where boddlers thrive,
Where boddlers can be found
And where grafters do survive?

Raritan, poor Raritan, you must un-
happy land,
Was it specially created to support
a grafting band?



THE GREAT SPECULATOR
SAT IN FRONT OF THE
FIRE PLACE IN DEEP
THOUGHT, WHEN AT LENGTH
HE SAID ALOUD: IF
LOS ANGELES VOTED DRY,
HOW WOULD SAN DIEGO?
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New Class will Accommodate

West End School Boys as

well as Those from the

City.

The Board of School Trustees hope

to be able to open the new manual

training class in about a week. The

work of fitting up the basement of

the manual training school building

on Waterloo street is well advanced,

and pupils are being enrolled. Miss

Bessie Holder will be the teacher in

charge of the new class. Miss Hold-

er was employed as a teacher by the

board for some years. She has taken

the teacher's course in manual training, and is a proficient instructor. The opening of the new room in the manual training school will provide accommodations for boys of the west side as well as the east side, who wish to take the manual training course.

It was intended to open a manual training school on the west side, but this idea was abandoned, owing to the discovery that the cost of fitting up a school room in the west side would be large, while at the same time there was need of increased accommodation on the east side.

The Board of School Trustees will hold its monthly meeting this evening, when a number of important matters will be dealt with.

Mrs. Jane Wilbur.

The funeral of Mrs. Jane Wilbur took place yesterday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock from her late residence, 228 Queen street. The services were conducted by the Rev. W. O. Rayner and interment was in Fernhill cemetery.

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