

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1910. SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 81 QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. JAMES MCISAAC, Editor & Proprietor

Looking Backwards.

Nineteen years ago, when the Liberals took over the control of our Provincial Government, they appointed a commission of two bankers, Chalmers and Davison, to investigate the condition of our public finances. This commission, the new Government's appointees, it may be taken for granted would favor their employers as far as possible. After charging up everything that could in any way constitute a liability, they placed the debts and liabilities of the Province at \$1,710,000. The actual debt, as we have frequently shown, was only \$127,000. The annual interest charge on the Provincial debt was less than \$2,700, and there was no taxation. This was the condition of affairs when our Liberal friends came in to power in the Provincial arena.

When in opposition, just prior to assuming the reins of Government, the Liberals bitterly inveighed against the financial management of the then Conservative administration. Through their press and on the public platform, from end to end of the Province, they in the bitterest terms decried the policy and conduct of the Conservatives. They held up their hands in holy horror at the debt under which the Province was groaning. Let but the Liberals gain control and their would be no more debt; the era of deficits would cease and revenue and expenditure would meet. These were the lurid hues in which they painted the political firmament of those days, when the debt was only \$127,000 and the annual interest charge was less than \$2,700. Carried away by this shibboleth; deceived by this false cry, the electors in an evil moment gave way and allowed the Liberals to gain power.

When they took over the Government they appointed the commission of bankers above alluded to. Then the Premier of the day, Mr. Frederick Peters, came down to the Legislature and asked and obtained authority to issue debentures to the value of \$185,000, to pay off and consolidate the debt of the Province and to effect some repairs to the Provincial Building. This done, he declared there would be no more debt; revenue and expenditure would henceforth meet; we should, he said, thereafter have a clean sheet. Meantime, he assured his auditors, the day of taxation was far off. According to the representations of the Liberal Premier on this occasion, the political and financial regeneration of our Province was inaugurated; the ante election promises were about to be fulfilled and all the pledges made to the people were about to be redeemed. The fruition of these joys were anticipated by those who believed the Premier, with pleasurable emotions. But alas, the uncertainty of human happiness! all these bright hopes have been rudely shattered.

Instead of revenue and expenditure meeting; instead of having a clean sheet; instead of deficits being relegated to the dead past, we have had annually recurring deficits, a constantly enlarged mountain of debt and an annual interest charge increased twenty-fold. The annual deficits have ranged all the way from \$12,000 to \$100,000; the annual interest

charge has mounted up from \$2,700 to nearly \$40,000; the debt and liabilities have rolled up from \$171,000 to fully \$1,000,000. Mean time, instead of taxation being kept at a distance, an additional million dollars have been taken from the people in taxes of different kinds.

This is how the Liberal Government have kept their pledges; this is how they have fulfilled their promises. How do the people like this style of observing solemn obligations? Now, powerless longer to hold on the mask of deception; powerless to further deceive the people, they boldly add to the taxation of the farmers. Are the electors satisfied with the whole performance?

Mr. H. H. Dewar, the stalwart Toronto Liberal, after pointing out the weakness and ineffectiveness of Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Paterson and Mr. Aylesworth as political forces, offers the following warning:—"The history of Canada ever since Confederation is not without its political lessons. Sir John Macdonald retained weaklings in his cabinet that no party could successfully carry after his decease. Even strong men in the province of Ontario made the fatal mistake of failing to introduce much needed new blood in time to avert a fatal ending. Politics, after all, should be like any other business in life. It is imperative that the fittest should survive." St. John Standard.

Mr. Justice Hodgson, Master of the Rolls, associate Judge of the Supreme Court of this Province, has, it is said, resigned after nineteen years of service. For the past year or two Judge Hodgson has been in very poor health, and not being able to give to the duties of his exalted office the attention that its exacting nature demands, retires on a pension at the age of seventy years. The retiring Judge was an eminent jurist and an ornament to the Bench. His greatest work, during his judicial career was the reorganization of the court of Chancery, to which he devoted much time and attention. He brought this court up to a high degree of usefulness and perfection. It will be the wish of all that retirement from the active and exacting duties of the judiciary may, in some measure, restore his shattered health. We may assume that the vacancy on the Bench created by Judge Hodgson's retirement will not go to a begging for some one willing to undertake the duties and accept the emoluments of the office. The Attorney-General is, of course, in the running and is now at Ottawa, doubtless, pushing his claims. But it is said, Mr. A. B. Warburton M. P. is also quite willing to retire from the activities of politics to the more serene atmosphere of the Bench. They are both at the Federal capital now, so let them fight it out between them.

Under the caption, "Cartwright on Testimonials," the St. John Standard has the following:—"Following is the text of the resolution unanimously adopted by the House of Commons in 1891 on motion of Sir Richard Cartwright:—"That the acceptance of gifts or testimonials of any kind on the part of Ministers of the Crown or of any members of their families from contractors, Government officials, or other persons having pecuniary relations with the Government is entirely opposed to sound principles of administration, and is calculated to bring Parliamentary government into contempt; and that the example thus given tends to corrupt and

demoralize the officials serving under Ministers who have accepted or permitted the acceptance of gifts or testimonials as aforesaid." This motion was accepted by Sir John Thompson, then leading the House. Both sides then agreed that no minister or member of his family should thereafter receive any testimonial without knowing who were the contributors, and thus having perfect assurance that not a dollar had come from any contractor or government official, or person having pecuniary relations with the government. So far as can be learned this rule has not been followed in the case of the Fielding testimonial. It is announced that the donors are anonymous. Mr. Fielding owes it to himself, and to his colleague Sir Richard Cartwright, to see that the veil of secrecy is removed, as the latter demanded, and to take care that the portion contributed by contractors and other beneficiaries is returned.

Dominion Parliament.

The climax came to the lively farce which has been played for the last six weeks by four Liberal members who were engaged in the so-called investigation of the charges of Mr. Lumsden, when a report was solemnly presented to the House, white washing the Transcontinental Commission, and declaring that the allegations made by the former chief engineer were not proven. Nothing more partisan has ever been witnessed than the proceedings of this committee. From the first the cards were stacked against Mr. Lumsden, and the sole object of the four government supporters, Messrs Geoffrion, E. M. McDonald, A. H. Clarke and C. A. Wilson was to prove that Mr. Lumsden was all wrong and everything was right with the subordinate engineers in whom Mr. Lumsden declared he had lost confidence to such an extent that he resigned a lucrative position of \$7000 a year. This spectacle of trial of government by four men whose parliamentary endeavors have been devoted to blind defence of crimes against the people done in the name of Laurierism would be pitiable were it thought that any public confidence attached to any such travesty of justice. The fact is the people of Canada when it was seen from the outset that a mock trial of the charges against the govt was in progress, dismissed the white-washing tribunal from its mind, and the report presented to parliament justifies that inattention. Never in the history of this administration has such an open and frank attempt to sit on the lid and prevent the truth from emerging been carried out. The govt has reached that stage of decay where it is necessary by humbug and subterfuge to throttle every effort to clean up the litter in the Liberal stables. This Lumsden committee's report should be engraved, and a copy of it hung in every school house of Canada, in order that the rising generation may be taught the first principles of fair and honest govt. by and of the people.

The govt called upon its followers to vote down the resolution moved by Mr. Houghton Lennox of South Simcoe, calling for a royal commission to thoroughly enquire into all the facts concerning the National Transcontinental. Two excuses proffered for keeping the door closed were that in the first place there was nothing to investigate, and that a Board of Arbitration composed of three engineers appointed some time ago was the proper authority. But as Mr. Bor-

den well pointed out this board has no power to deal with the question of the cost of the road, but merely interpreters matters of specification and classification. What the country wants is a full and impartial enquiry into the whole facts surrounding the building of this line which is estimated will now cost \$218,000,000. When Mr. Fielding from his seat in the House assured the people of Canada that the road would cost only \$51,000,000 he was either deliberately deceiving the parliament and country, or he was utterly incompetent of giving even an estimate based as he said on the authority of Mr. Collingwood Schreiber. Tens upon tens of millions are being poured into this road, and the people want to know what return they are getting for it. The attitude of the government is that the people are satisfied as long as they get a road and do not care a jot what it costs. That is the cynical policy of an administration drunk with power, and with so little regard for the public weal that it calmly saddles the country with a colossal burden of debt which would make any more wealthy or thickly populated land stagger beneath the load. The whole building of this monument to Laurier reeks with graft and scandal, but the lid is still clamped down tight.

The government with that desire which has always actuated it to sacrifice Canadian interest refused to insert in the contract with the Grand Trunk Company a binding clause that home ports should be protected. When this road which has already cost a colossal fortune is finished, there is absolutely nothing in the contract which will prevent traffic originating over the Transcontinental finding the sea by way of Portland or Providence. The Grand Trunk can haul grain to Portland at a much lower rate than it can to St. John or Halifax for the distance is shorter. All the interests of the Grand Trunk therefore lie in developing their own ports on the Atlantic seaboard in the United States. The financial aid contributed by the Maritime provinces to the construction of the National Transcontinental will not fall short of \$35,000,000 or \$40,000,000, and if the ports of Halifax and St. John are to have no safeguard whatever that the enormous grain trade of the west in the winter will go via them, then this contract, rushed into by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the ground that "time cannot wait" cannot be regarded as fair or in the best interests of the Maritime provinces. As Mr. Borden put it, very tersely in his speech on this subject "If the government are in a position to deal with this question, they should take the matter into immediate consideration and act at once in a manner to conserve the interests of the Maritime ports of Canada. If they are not in that position, if they are absolutely incapable of conserving these interests, then I say that, in all fairness and in all honor they ought to give up the seals of office, resign their seats and give way to men who are actuated by a more patriotic regard for the true interests of this country."

The rift in the Liberal late is widening. A few weeks ago the Liberal newspapers throughout Canada were manufacturing imaginary dissensions in the ranks of the Conservative party. It was a last endeavor to divert attention from their own pitiable condition of grave internal disorder. The Liberal party in the House to day is very unwell. It has something wrong with its interior. The members of the cabinet are at loggerheads. Mr. Sydney Fisher like the rat which leaves the sinking ship is looking for a safe billet in the Senate, where he hopes to secure the leadership of that body. Sir Richard Cartwright has unheeded his rapier and has told Sir Wilfrid Laurier bluntly that if any attempt is made to sever his knightly head from its trunk, there will be a big sized upheaval. The Globe is calling loudly for the scalp of Mr. Aylesworth, and the minister of justice is not hesitating to express his private and public opinion of the ex-preacher who rules the editorial columns of the chief government organ. Mr. Mackenzie king is disliked openly by the stalwarts of the party and taken all round, the condition in which the government finds itself today, led by an opportunist, and composed of small minded men, is surely the retribution which always comes hard on the heels of wrong-doing.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

MARRIED.

PERRY-SANDERS—At Atlantic city, N. J., on Feb. 6th, Rev. Father Daly officiating, Henry C. Perry and Alice M. Sanders, of Brookfield, P. E. I.

BEERS-McPHERSON—At the home of the bride, St. Peter's Road, Charlottetown, on the 20th inst., by Rev. J. W. McKenzie, Sarah McPherston to John W. Beers of Brooklyn, Lot 61.

WOODSIDE-CRAIG—At the Manse, Margaree, April 27th, 1910, by Rev. E. J. Bates, E. A. J. Keir Woodside and Mary R. Craig, both of Hamilton, Lot 18, P. E. Island.

McDONALD-McDONALD—On April 27th, 1910, by the Rev. A. S. Stewart, at the manse Valleyfield, Peter W. McDonald, of Hestherdale to Jessie McDonald of Wilim Road Cross.

MORROW-ACORN—At the Manse, Wood Islands, on April 27th, 1910, by Rev. D. Mackenzie, Lenan Morrow of Pleasant Valley to Miss Sarah Jane Acorn of Mount Vernon, daughter of Isaac M. Acorn.

LANE-DEEGAN—At St. Malachias, Kinkora, on the 3rd, inst. M. T. Lane of Springfield to Anna Deegan of Cape Traverser. Rev. J. J. McDonald, P. E. officiated.

ARSENault-GALLANT—At Summerside on the 3rd, Rev. J. C. McLean officiating, John C. Arsenault and Elizabeth Gallant.

DIED

McDongall—At Argyleshore, April 17th, 1910, Mrs. John F. McDongall in the 77th year of her age.

McDONALD—In Boston on the 25th, ult., Michael (Ronald) McDonald, formerly of St. Margaree, aged 80 years. His remains, accompanied by his daughter and grand son, arrived here on the 28th, and on the 29th, were taken to Bear River Station. Thence to St. Margaree for interment. R. I. P.

NICHOLSON—At the residence of her daughter Mrs. Capt. Nicholson, Orwell Cove, May 1st, 1910, Jessie Robertson relict of the late Dr. Donald Manroe, Albery Plains aged 78 years.

SMITH—At Tracadie Cross on the 25th ult., Katie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, aged 20 years. She died fortified by the last Sacraments and all the rites of holy church. Her funeral took place to St. Bonaventure's on the 27th. A Requiem Mass was sung by the pastor Rev. P. D. McInnis, after the Libera the interment took place in the adjoining cemetery. May her soul rest in peace.

RAMSAY—At Summerside on the 2nd, inst., Alonzo Ramsay, aged 28 years. He leaves a disconsolate widow and one child to mourn.

McLEOD—At Iris on Easter Sunday, Alex. McLeod of Wilim Road, in the eightieth year of his age.

NICOLLE—At White Sands, April 21st, 1910, James Willie Nicolle, beloved son of Hammond J. and Mary A. Nicolle, aged 19 years 10 months.

McDONALD—At Antigonish on Sunday, May 1st, 1901, Annesita, dearly beloved wife of Thomas McDonald, in the 29th year of her age. Mrs. McDonald was formerly (Miss Annesita McTague) of this city leaving two brothers and five sisters to mourn the loss of a kind and loving sister. R. I. P.



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