

**THE HERALD**  
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Editor & Proprietor.

**Provincial Bye Elections**

The candidates of both the Government and Opposition are now in the field for the Murray Harbor and Belfast districts, and it only remains for the Government to announce the date of the elections. Have the Government the courage to bring on these elections within a reasonable time; or will they, through fear of defeat, postpone them till after the Dominion general elections, which may possibly come in January? This, of course, we do not know. Probably the Government themselves are undecided on this point. However, this may be, we notice that Attorney-General McKinnon has called a number of meetings in his district. Doubtless he is desirous of testing the opinion of the electors in that district regarding the popularity of the administration before running the risk of being defeated at the polls. In this, it must be said, he exercises a wise discretion. In the canvass and the public discussions leading up to the elections in both these districts, there are certain very important questions which the electors should not lose sight of, and if Mr. McKinnon and Mr. Irving should overlook them, the people should promptly draw their attention to the same. The electors in those districts should ask the Government candidates what they are going to do about the debt of the Province which, according to the statements of the Government officials, is as follows: The Provincial Auditor's Report for 1898 shows that the cash balance against the Province was \$117,148.71 1898 was 189,936.06  
The debenture debt 159,855.50  
The amount due on loans 17,000.00  
The sale of the following debentures has since been authorized:  
Hospital for the Insane 26,000.00  
Princo of Wales College 17,000.00  
According to a return tabled in the Legislature on April 24, 1899, the following sums were due:  
The Bank of Nova Scotia 42,775.49  
The Merchants' Bank of Halifax 10,894.78  
The Merchants' Bank of P. E. I. 317.64  
The Credit Foncier 30,000.00  
Making a total of \$598,926.18  
This is exclusive of the balance against the Sloop "Fawn" for the year ending in April, 1899, and other expenditures not mentioned in the reports, which will easily bring the amount up to \$600,000. In round numbers, we have then according to the Government's official reports a Provincial debt of \$600,000. If we add to this the \$12,000 a year interest the Government have agreed to pay for the bridge, the debt will reach \$1,000,000. Let our readers consider for a moment, what the interest on this debt means to the taxpayers of this Province. Last year the interest paid by the Government was \$18,558.80. This year it will be very much more. Thus the Government, so long as the people allow them, go on increasing the people's burdens. The measure of a debt, public or private, is the amount of interest paid on it. In 1890 the last year the Conservatives were in power in this Province, the interest paid on the Provincial debt was \$2,797.44, while, as we have shown, the interest on the Provincial debt last year was \$18,558.80; that is to say the interest paid by the Province in 1898 was \$15,761.36 more than it was in 1890. In other words, the interest last year was almost nine times as much as it was in 1890. During these years the rates of interest have decreased. The electors will, therefore, readily see at what a tremendous rate the Conservative have been sinking the Province in debt. During the current year the interest charge will probably exceed \$20,000.00. While our Grit Government has been creating annual deficits, piling up the debt and increasing the interest at such a tremendous rate, they have at the same time, been taking from \$40,000 to \$50,000 from the people in taxes. As a matter of fact they have taxed nearly everything in sight. This is the unenviable record of Grit Government in this Province for the last eight years. Are the electors of Belfast and Murray Harbor satisfied with this record? When the Government candidates appear before the people of Belfast and Murray Harbor to solicit their suffrages, they will probably have little to say about the Government's mismanagement of Provincial affairs; they will probably dangle before the electors the railway and bridge project. Electors, don't allow yourselves to be deceived by any such shibboleth! Judge the Government by their works, and not by their promises, which they never fulfil. If you do this in the light of the facts here presented to you, you must refuse them your support, defeat their candidates and thus consign the administration to the political oblivion which their recklessness, incompetence and general mismanagement of Provincial affairs so richly deserve.

A new lot of willow chins just opened at W. P. Colville's.

**AT OTTAWA.**  
THE PREMIER'S REASONS FOR REFUSING TO OFFER A CORPS TO SERVE IN SOUTH AFRICA.—CANADA AT THE TAIL OF THE COLONIAL PROCESSION.  
SIR WILFRID LAURIER AND THE MILITIA, AND THE PATRIOTIC ACTION OF SIR CHARLES TUPPER.  
(Special Correspondence to the Herald.)

OTTAWA, October 7.—This week has seen a disappearance into office of another member of parliament—number thirteen on the list—and the appointment of a new cabinet minister, bringing the strength of the government up to seventeen and the cabinet up to sixteen. Yet the chief interest has been felt in the movement to furnish a Canadian corps for the Transvaal war. It is not the backwardness of the militia officers and men through the country which has left Canada at the end of the imperial procession. Three Australian colonies and New Zealand have offered contingents which have been gratefully accepted by the Imperial Government. It is announced that Queensland and New Zealand have cabled their readiness to place 450 men at the disposal of the authorities of Cape Town on the last day of this month. These two colonies have to gether a population about half that of Ontario, and their whole militia force comprises 9,500 men, while Canada has four times this establishment. In fact the number of Canadian militia exceeds by 10,000 that of the seven colonies of Australasia. The dominion has a larger population than the whole of Australasia, and justly claims the rank of the premier colony. In the great jubilee demonstration of 1897 Sir Wilfrid Laurier rode at the head of the colonial procession, a position to which he was entitled by the rank of the dominion he represented.

**CANADA IN THE REAR.**  
The jubilee was the occasion of a great imperial spectacle, and our premier bore his part well. The South Africa trouble furnishes the occasion for a more substantial proof of imperial attachment. It is a time when colonial premiers may show their devotion to the Queen in other ways than by a display of their fine figures, and the acceptance of a title, and by contributing their share to a picturesque and imposing spectacle in the streets of London. In this infinitely more serious position high spirited Canadians are not satisfied to know that this country, which led the march in the jubilee parade, is now at the other end of the procession. The failure of the authorities to act, or to give direction to the movement of others has led some officers to take action on their own account. Colonel Hughes, M. P., offered to raise a force and went so far as to issue a call for volunteers to serve with him. The response was prompt and enthusiastic, and came from all directions. Other officers privately obtained assurance that they had the support of their command and offered the services of their men and themselves. But this movement was stopped by the action of the commander of the Canadian forces, who is said to have pointed out that the unauthorized enlistment of men was an offence punishable by fine. Meanwhile the government was doing nothing. So late on Tuesday of this week Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave out a statement printed in his own words in the chief government organ, in which he says that "the government has not discussed the question." Sir Wilfrid, in this statement, proceeds to make excuse. He offers two reasons for inaction, and in another interview gives a third reason.

**SIR WILFRID'S REASONS.**  
First Sir Wilfrid says that in the Boer war "there is no menace to Canada, and, although we may be willing to contribute troops I do not see how we can do so."  
The second reason is thus given in the premier's own words:  
"Then, again, how could we do so without parliament's giving us the money? We simply could not do anything. In other words, we should have to summon parliament. The government of Canada is restricted in its powers. It is responsible to parliament, and I cannot give high without the permission of parliament. Our limitations are very clearly defined. And so it is that we have not fired a Canadian contingent to the Boer authorities."  
The third reason given is that Great Britain intends to force the fighting and get the war over as soon as possible. If this plan succeeds the Canadian force will not arrive until too late to be of service. But if Britain should be checked and the war should be a long one there will be time enough to send a force after parliament meets next year.

**THESE ARE POOR EXCUSES.**  
As to the first reason given by Sir Wilfrid for the refusal of the cabinet even to discuss the question it is sufficient to say that the Canadian militia law gives the government full power to send a force abroad, even when Canada is not threatened. The act explicitly says:—"Her Majesty" (which in this case means the Canadian government), "may call out the militia, or any part thereof, for active service, either within or without Canada, at any time when it appears advisable to do so, by reason of war, invasion or insurrection, or danger of any of them."

The militia laws of the Australian colonies are practically the same as ours. Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand are no more menaced by the Boers than Canada, yet the governments of these colonies have made their own soldiers will be at Cape Town in three weeks.

The second reason appears to be almost frivolous. This government has never been afraid of spending money on undertaking public enterprises without parliamentary authority. Sir Wilfrid had not been in power three weeks before he went to the governor-general and got a warrant to spend one million dollars of which \$600,000 was expended before the house met. Not a dollar of this had been authorized. Since then the government has in three years expended without waiting for parliamentary authority three or four times as much as the Canadian corps would cost before the next session begins. So far as the expenditure without authority is concerned, it is too late for the premier to raise this question.

It was thought necessary by the premier to have the authority of parliament to act, the time to get that authority was last session. In July Colonel Hughes called attention to the fact that Queensland had made an offer of 500 men, and urged that Canada should fill her part as the senior colony. Sir Wilfrid contented himself with the expression of the hope that there would be no war, and that no colonial troops would be required. But at a still later date Sir Wilfrid, for the purpose, as he then said, of strengthening the hands of the mother country, proposed a resolution expressing the view that the situation of the Outlanders was "intolerable," and declaring that Great Britain had the sympathy of Canada in her demands. If it was his belief that a vote of the house was necessary to practical effect he might have accepted the proposition made from the other side of the house, and obtained such authority.

The third excuse, that the war will be either too short or too long to call for immediate action cannot be taken seriously. If parliament is called at the same time as last year no action can be taken for nearly six months, and the Australian forces will be in Africa about eight months before the Canadian. The war may, indeed be ended by that time, and the course of the Canadian government would be admirably calculated to deliver our contingent at the front after the imperial forces and the Australians had done the work.

The imperial government appears to be anxious that all the colonies should come forward in this matter, not alone for the fighting strength this would bring but also to show that Great Britain and her colonies are ready to stand together in support of the empire in all parts of the world. In this demonstration Canada, as the premier colony, would be expected to be first, and not last.

**SIR CHARLES TUPPER IN CONTEST.**  
When Sir Wilfrid, during the last session met the request that a corps should be offered for the Transvaal war if the queen should need them, by expressing the hope that no soldiers would be needed, Sir Charles Tupper said:  
"Nothing will contribute more to a complete avoidance of a war between the Boers and Great Britain than the knowledge on their part that the government of the empire is determined to maintain British authority and British rights, and the impression that the action of Queensland will have created. England would not have to depend upon the British Islands alone, but the outlying parts of the empire would be ready to strengthen the arms of the mother country."  
Still the example of Queensland was not followed by the government, and now the premier gives as a reason for inaction the fact that parliament has given no authority. But this is a question of the empire, and not of the province. The men are only too ready to go. For every one that is wanted a score have already volunteered their services. It is known that the imperial government will accept with gratitude a contribution of five hundred men. The Canadian militia would exceed that number. Yet the ministers have not even considered the question, and the premier is said to have asked Mr. Chamberlain for suggestions. Queensland asked for no suggestions. The suggestion came from the colony.

**THE NEW MINISTER.**  
The work of violating party pledges goes bravely on. The cabinet is once more swelled to sixteen ministers. The government whip of the house of Commons, and chairman of the railway committee Honorable James Southall, Mr. Southall is represented in office, to await the retirement of one of the departmental heads. It is announced, apparently by way of explanation, in the government organs, that Sir Wilfrid offered Mr. Southall a place in the cabinet when he organized the ministry. Mr. Southall is represented as having told his leader that another was more entitled to office than he, and the premier, much against his will, left him out. We are left to guess which Ontario man Sir Wilfrid intended to leave out, but inasmuch as Sir Richard Cartwright is not supposed to be profoundly attached to Mr. Tarte, and since Sir Richard is placed in charge of a department where there is nothing to do, and where he himself says he has been only an "onlooker," we have fair grounds for a guess. Sir Richard has many friends in both parties, who will congratulate him on his partial escape from office.

**ANOTHER REFUGEE.**  
The last anti-liberal in the commons from Quebec Province is Mr. Baynevel. It is announced, though not officially, that he is appointed post

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Herewith is a skeleton front of our large four story brick store. You will see that it is the highest store building in the city. You will also notice that the height of our building stands in marked contrast to our prices; for while our building is the highest, our prices are the lowest.

**PATTERNS.**—The Bazar Glove-fitting Patterns which stand without a peer in the world we sell for 15 cents each. Fashion sheets given away.

We do Custom Carding.  
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**DODD & ROGERS.**

master of Montreal, Mr. Besouscell will get \$4,000 a year, and Mr. Tarte will have an obstacle in his way. Sir Henri Joly is about the last of the old liberals; but his wings are clipped by his presence in the cabinet, and the addition made this year of \$2,000 to his salary. These are great days for Mr. Tarte.

**LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.**  
The safe of the D. A. R. freight shed at Halifax was blown open by dynamite on Monday night, and one hundred dollars and papers stolen. No clue.

TWELVE buildings were destroyed by fire, Monday night at Fort Lawrence, N. B., the terminus of the Chignecto ship railway. J. A. McQueen, ex-M. P., lost a fine store. Two dwellings belonging to the Catholic Church were also destroyed.

The Asylum Commission held its first session yesterday at Falmouth. Hon. David Rogers was elected chairman. Mr. John McEachern of Cherry Valley replaced Mr. D. P. Irving as a member of the commission. The principal evidence taken yesterday was to the effect that the Institution was over-crowded and badly ventilated. Some of the charges were refuted.

Sussex, N. B., was visited on Friday night by the worst conflagration which has ever visited that town. The fire began in the Queen Hotel stables. There was a strong northeast wind blowing, which in spite of the early arrival of the fire engine carried the flames to the Hotel. The entire north side of the street opposite the station was swept from the Depot House, which was burned, to the factory crossing, including Byrne's block, several shops, offices, and residences, including that of the late Sheriff Frenzo. The loss by the fire is estimated at \$50,000. The insurance loss is about \$25,000, leaving one half the owner's loss unprovided for.

**FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.**  
News from all parts of the World.

**WHISKEY BROKERS FAIL.**  
The firm of Brinkman, of Leith, Scotland, whiskey brokers, has failed, with liabilities of £250,000.

**BIG NAVAL CREDIT.**  
According to the Sebastopol correspondent of the London Daily Graphic the Russian naval credit for 1899 amounts to the enormous total of \$7,000,000 roubles.

**WHEAT ADVANCES 36 CTS.**  
A London despatch of the 9th says: One result of the war scare is the advance of one shilling to 18.10 in the price asked for the wheat offered in the London market to-day.

**FIGHTING IN SOMALILAND.**  
A telegram received in Paris from Djibuti, French Somaliland, says that British troops have landed on the Somali coast and attacked the forces of the Arab Mahdi who had been proclaimed Mahdi by the Mussulmans of the Hindustan. Twenty-seven natives were killed.

**A SHAM MAHDI.**  
The government has been informed that a sham Mahdi has arisen at Berbera, the chief city of British Somaliland, on the north-east shore of Africa, which is garrisoned by Indian troops. The third-class cruiser Marathorn and a column of infantry and infantry are starting from Bombay for the scene of the fantastic disturbance.

**SHAMROCK-COLUMBIA RACES.**  
LAST THURSDAY'S RACE.  
The race of Thursday last proved to be another unsatisfactory attempt to finish the thirty mile course within the time limit. It was a drifting match almost from start to finish. After sailing four hours and 43 minutes, the yachts having only covered twelve miles of the course to the outer mark, the committee declared the race off. At the start of this race the wind blew from the west, and the Columbia forged about a half mile ahead, but in the baffling breeze which followed, the Shamrock gradually worked her way up, and at the time the race was declared off, the Shamrock was about half a length lead.

**SATURDAY'S RACE.**  
This race also ended in a failure to sail the course within the specified time. The race was declared off fifteen minutes before the time limit expired, with the yachts still five miles from the finish. So evenly matched were the racers that they rounded the outer mark almost neck and neck, and finished after a three hours' tussle to windward with the Columbia's nose half a length in front, and in the weather position. It is the general opinion that had this race been finished the Columbia would have won it. The Shamrock surprised everybody, in this race, by the wonderful manner in which she carved her way up into the wind. The Columbia appeared to more than make up in footing what she lost in pointing. By mutual agreement the yachts will sail every day after Thursday (tomorrow), until the question of supremacy is established. Owing to a heavy fog no wind there was no race yesterday.

**ON THE VERGE OF WAR!**  
The latest news from the Transvaal is that the Boers have sent an ultimatum to Great Britain demanding the withdrawal of her troops from the Transvaal border within 48 hours, as well as the withdrawal of all British forces landed in South Africa since the diplomatic conference. The time expires today at 9 P. M., and the non-receipt of a favorable answer will be considered a declaration of war.

**CH'RTOWN PRICES, OCT. 10th.**

Apples (per bush)	.20 to .25
Butter (fresh)	.00 to .03
Butter (salt)	.17 to .19
Cheese (lb)	.12 to .14
Celery per bunch	.00 to .05
Onions	.20 to .40
Cabbages	.02 to .04
Codfish (fresh)	.10 to .20
Eggs, per doz.	.14 to .15
Flour, per cwt.	2.00 to 2.10
Ham, per lb.	.16 to .12
Beans, per bush	.30 to .35
Hides	.04 to .07
Lamb per quarter	.60 to .70
Leaves	.10 to .12
Mutton, per lb.	.05 to .07
Oats	.00 to .02
Potatoes (per bush)	.25 to .30
Pigs (qt)	.10 to .12
Sheep (per head)	.60 to .85
Stew (per cwt.)	.20 to .25

**Free to Every Sufferer.**  
Those who are afflicted with Rheumatism, Sciatica, Impigo, Neuralgia or Gout can have a relief by the use of Milburn's Rheumatic Pills, free of charge, by sending their name and full statement of their case to T. MILBURN & CO., Toronto, Ont.

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