

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1912.

### HOW THE DEBT OF THE PROVINCE GREW.

The leader of the Provincial Opposition and the press supporting him have had much to say about the over-expenditure of the present Government on bridge repairs during the past year. It would almost seem from Mr. Copp's utterances and the remarks of his newspaper supporters that it was the first time in the history of the Province that there had been an over-expenditure of this kind. Yet Mr. Copp supported a Government that every year over-expended the public works appropriation and added more than half a million to the permanent debt of the Province for bridge and road repairs properly chargeable to current revenue. How much of this enormous sum was actually spent on roads, bridges and wharves, and how much was diverted to other purposes no one will ever know, but the condition of the roads and bridges at the end of their term of office was not such as to warrant the belief that the money all went for their construction and repair. If it did, so much the worse for the management of the Public Works Department for the last eight years of the old Government. It was not management at all, merely a disbursement of graft amongst a gang of political heebers who had fastened their greedy claws on the Public Works Department.

Whenever the management of the Public Works Department of the old Government is referred to the answer of Mr. Copp and his satellites has been that the electors have already punished the old Government by turning them out of office. True the disbursement of road money and the flagrant dishonesty which was connected therewith had something to do with the defeat of the Government which Mr. Copp supported, but it is safe to say that had the electors in 1908 known the actual condition of the Public Works Department there would not have been a single member or supporter of the old Administration returned. All should have been defeated had they got their just deserts, for certainly Tammany at its worst was not half as bad as the political gang who controlled the destinies of New Brunswick for ten years prior to 1908. They were great spenders of the people's money and thoroughly untruthful in all of their statements of how they spent it. They not only spent the total revenue of the Province but their failure to collect the stampage on lumber taken from the Public Domain by political supporters permitted the Province to be defrauded of not less than \$100,000 annually. No wonder Mr. Copp wants the record of the old Government buried out of sight. It is a disgraceful record which cannot be defended—which no one has really attempted to defend only in a very casual manner. Still Mr. Copp should undeceive himself if he imagines for an instant that the people have forgotten how they were misled and deceived by the men who governed the Province and who year after year claimed a surplus of revenue over expenditure when their own accounts showed deficits without parallel, to anyone who cared to examine the published accounts, notwithstanding the way in which the figures are juggled. As it was given to the public the consolidated revenue account was not an account of the receipts and expenditures of the Province at all. The Government put in what they pleased, omitted what they chose, and muddled the account until it ceased to be a record at all, and instead of presenting an honest and truthful statement of the actual condition of the finances of the Province, was mere deception of the public.

In 1901 the Provincial Government received from the Dominion Government the large sum of \$275,692.18 in settlement of the Eastern Extension claims. This money was considered as current revenue and appears in the consolidated revenue account for that year. The balance against the account as given in the published statement at the beginning of the year was \$97,198.21—that is the Government admitted they had expended that much more than they had received. It would be expected that the receipt of over a quarter of a million dollars in one year would have placed the Province entirely out of debt on current account and if the figures given in the consolidated revenue account could be accepted as a fact the Government closed the year with \$26,356.56 to its credit. Turning to the balance sheet it is discovered that there was an over-expenditure of the Board of Works of \$88,895.33, although the report of the Public Works Department on page 56 shows that the over-expenditure of the previous year of \$102,227.33 had been negotiated in some way and had disappeared from the account. This represented the total of over-expenditures from 1896 to 1900. The \$88,895.33 of over-expenditure belongs to the year 1901. The real financial position by anything like an honest statement shows a deficit of \$89,764.03 on the operations of the year. This is made up as follows:

Board of Works over-expenditure ..	\$ 88,895.33
Royal Reception ..	15,487.26
Eastern Extension Arbitration ..	11,738.00
	\$116,120.59
Deduct Bal. Cash on hand.....	26,356.56
	\$89,764.03

The total expenditures of the Public Works Department for 1901, not including interest were only \$268,247.41, while those of the present Government for 1911 were \$418,265.31. Yet the old Government had an actual deficit of \$89,764.03, while the present Government's over-expenditure is but \$66,469.80. It will be asserted that the present Government had a greater revenue. An honest collection of Crown Land stampage would have given the old Government quite as much revenue as the present Government enjoys. It was their failure to collect what was justly due the Province that muddled the finances of the old regime and compelled them to make false statements of the financial condition of the Province. Mr. Copp may seek to deny responsibility for this, but while he numbers Mr. LaBillette, Mr. Sweetney and Mr. Robinson among his supporters—all members of the old Government, and one its last leader—he must accept responsibility for such deceptive statements.

Nobody seems to know what that over-expenditure of \$102,000 from 1896 to 1900 inclusive was provided for. It disappeared from the balance sheet in 1901 and the only reference made to it anywhere is among the receipts in the Public Works accounts. It is probable that it was charged to permanent bridges, as the department had no other means of getting the money. In those good old days there was no real accounting for the money spent on permanent bridges. In 1901 a special bond for \$500,000 for steel bridges was issued and as this money was never accounted for the presumption is that the \$100,000 has been added to the permanent debt by a most dishonest method. The \$22,000 over-expenditure already alluded to was said

to be largely due to damage caused to roads and bridges in October, 1900, and January, 1901, by freshets. A careful examination shows that a decided effort was made to slash home, for the account published in the Public Works report shows an expenditure of \$415,343.16, leaving a balance on hand of \$11,738.28, but this was too much for the Auditor General, who reduced it in his balance sheet to \$8,363.90 because the department had over-expended \$3,474.38 on permanent bridge account. The means by which this balance was obtained was by a loan of \$100,000 for permanent bridges and \$150,000 on account of freshet damage. As only \$66,279.07 is accounted as expended on permanent bridges and the figures of the freshet expenditure for two years are given as \$131,375.54, it is evident that \$81,705.39 of the loans effected for specific purposes were applied to current expenditures. The old Government paid very little respect to the laws they passed where money was involved.

There is no further reference to freshet expenditure or the unexpended balance for permanent bridges in the report of 1903, but there was another issue of \$125,000 of bonds for permanent bridges. The total expenditure on account of Public Works, not including interest and sinking fund, is given in the Public Works report as \$184,298.04. With the interest and sinking fund added it totalled \$217,298.04 as reported by the Auditor General, but in the consolidated revenue account the Public Works expenditure is put down at \$194,350. The explanation of this is that the Receiver General charged up as expenditure on account of Public Works only the amounts of the warrants paid to the department and took no account of expenditure exceeding those amounts. This appears only in the balance sheet. This method of accounting is very deceiving. In 1903 the Government admitted a deficit of \$14,884.81. If the difference between the amount charged in consolidated revenue and the actual expenditures of the department are added the real deficit would be \$37,832.85.

In 1904 the Public Works over-expenditure on ordinary account of \$5,135.35 is admitted, which was further increased in 1905 to \$24,670.40, and in 1906 the balance sheet shows \$149,943.73 advanced by the Bank of British North America, and \$47,122.24 as over-expended on ordinary account, a total of \$197,065.97 which had accumulated in three years. In 1908 the Government was defeated and it was then ascertained that practically the whole grant for the year had been used to pay old bills before the Government retired from office. The total amount over-expended in the year 1907 as reported by the special auditor appointed to the new Government was \$157,879.69. Since 1900 there has been added to the permanent debt the following items—all over-expenditures of the old Government:—

Over-expenditure in 1900 .....	\$102,227.33
Freshets .....	150,000.00
Over-expenditure in 1909 .....	51,705.39
Over-expenditure funded in 1906 .....	197,065.97
Over-expenditure in 1907 .....	157,879.69
	\$658,878.28

This is not the whole story, as about one half of the total debt for permanent bridges, many of which are not permanent, was incurred in these same years.

### HELPING BOYS TO GET A START.

Formerly when a boy went to seek a position all the questions were asked by the prospective employer. Whatever may be said of this plan when the applicant for work is an adult and presumably able to take care of his own interests, there can be no doubt that a different state of things should exist when the applicant is a boy of fourteen or fifteen. Of course the old question will still be asked: "Is the boy the right boy for the job?" But another question will also be asked: "Is the job the right job for the boy?"

A number of public-spirited organizations in different cities of the United States, according to the Chicago News, are now helping boys and their parents to answer this latter question. The plan is to investigate impartially the various lines of work which are open to boys and girls in a given city, to make the facts available in clear and simple form and then to offer advice to the young applicants and those responsible for their choice of an occupation.

Separate leaflets are prepared on the different trades in the city. These leaflets show the number of workers now employed in the trade, the preliminary education required and where it may be obtained; the special skill of hand or brain that is needed; the minimum, maximum and average wage; whether the work is steady or seasonal and, if the latter, how long the season is; the sanitary condition of the places where the work is done; the moral surroundings and the highly important point whether the young apprentice has a fair chance to improve himself and advance in the trade, or whether the occupation is a blind alley leading nowhere. This printed information is supplemented by personal consultation.

An important phase of the work of kindly guidance is a finding of opportunities of self-support for persons physically handicapped, such as the blind and the crippled.

A recent report on this subject by the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy is interesting and full of hopeful features. Vocational guidance will help to put the right worker in the right place. There is an opportunity for valuable work in every large centre of population in assisting the boys, and not less the girls, to get a fair start in the world.

The Morning Post of London, Eng., has the following appreciation of Hon. George E. Foster for his negotiations with Australia and New Zealand: "The treaty he has arranged is broad, and takes lines that should not present difficulties. If the links between Canada and the antipodes and between Australia and New Zealand are formed, then only the United Kingdom would remain outside the system of mutual preference. We have good hopes now that this step also will be taken in the near future."

### Current Comment

(Toronto News.)

Too often men in the public eye try to shift responsibility for their injudicious public statements upon the shoulders of a newspaper or one of that newspaper's employees. It is small business. As a general rule reporters are accurate observers and careful writers.

(St. Thomas Times.)

A man over in the States is applying for a divorce because his wife insists upon keeping thirty-five cats. No wonder. Imagine having to wind up the clock and put out 35 cats every night before retiring.

(London Free Press.)

Prince Edward Island Liberals have, on the final count, a representation of two members in the Provincial House. Three months ago they were the ruling party.

(Quebec Herald.)

President Taft appears to be of the opinion that either he or ex-President Roosevelt has reached the parting of the ways.

(Boston Herald.)

Never mind the cold; somewhere, somebody is editing spring seed catalogues.

### MARITIME PROVINCES

(Hamilton Spectator.)

On many accounts the people of Ontario should wish well to any effort for the exploitation of the natural resources of the provinces down by the sea. The young people of those provinces have been drifting away, principally to the United States, so that the population, notwithstanding natural increase, is virtually stationary. The unit of representation in the house of commons is based on the population of Quebec, and if that province increases in population, the maritime provinces must lose, unless their population increases in like ratio. The prairie provinces are growing so rapidly that the maritime provinces must lose not only positively, but still more relatively, unless they also are able to make marked progress.

It is, we must say, rather surprising that the people of the maritime provinces, largely of United Empire stock, have not made more of their natural advantages than they have done during the past half century or more. In soil and climate these provinces are not inferior to the greater part of Ontario. Quebec. Their proximity to the Atlantic gives them a great leverage in the matter of freight rates to England. Whether in connection with agriculture, with the forests, with mines, or with fisheries, they possess abundant opportunities for courageous enterprise.

The New Brunswick government, it is interesting to notice, has arranged for the construction of a railway from a point on the Transcontinental railway through the St. John valley to the city of St. John. A private company builds the railway and the provincial government guarantees its bonds. Premier Fleming is contented, while a liability is created, no payment will ever be called for out of the provincial treasury. "The railway," he says, "will open up a new era of prosperity for the province. It had long been the central artery of the province, but hitherto been no railway communication, and nothing but such communication is needed to bring it within the range of profitable operation."

It is generally thought that ere many years, that part of the Dominion west of Lake Superior will dominate in national politics, by reason of its growth in population and in the development of its resources. It should not be forgotten that there are virgin fields in northern Ontario, in Quebec, and in the maritime provinces which when they are better known, must draw the West. The incoming streams of immigration. Every part of the Dominion is bound to grow, and perhaps the west not much faster than the east.

### IN THE COURTS.

The Asbestos Co. Case.

The hearing of the claim against Dr. L. G. Pinault, of Campbellton, by the Auditor of the D'Israeli Asbestos Co., in respect of settling the list of contributors, was resumed before Mr. Justice McLeod in chambers Saturday morning.

Dr. Pinault was examined. Witness told of a visit of a Mr. McCluskey to Campbellton, where he sold him 50 shares of the company's stock. Witness alleged misrepresentation by McCluskey.

The evidence of Alexander McLennan, of Campbellton, another contributor to the Asbestos Company, was also taken on his application for shares in the company. Mr. McLennan had paid one of the notes which he had given in payment of his shares at the time of application.

In both the case of Mr. McLennan and also of Dr. Pinault the witnesses claimed they had never received notice of allotment of stock to them. In both cases judgment was reserved. M. G. Teed, K. C. and A. H. Hamilton appearing for the liquidator and Baxter and Logan for the defendant.

Probate.

Last will of Julia Harrison Merritt spinster, deceased, was admitted to probate, and letters testamentary granted to Miss A. Maudie Merritt, executrix. No real estate. Personal, \$1,983. E. G. Kaye, K. C. proctor.

Estate of John C. Miles, artist. Deceased died intestate, leaving a son, Frederick H. C. Miles, and two daughters. On the petition of the son, he is appointed administrator. No real estate. Personal estate, \$250. Stephen W. Palmer, proctor.

Estate of Ellen McElroy, spinster. Last will proved whereby deceased gives her leasehold property, No. 602 Main street, south side, to her nephew, Clement Hayden Kelly, telegrapher; her leasehold property, No. 610 situated on the south side of Main street, to her nephew James A. Kelly, traveller; she also gives her furniture and the rest of her property to her said nephew James A. Kelly, whom she nominates as executor, and who is accordingly sworn in as such. No real estate. Personal estate, \$3,400. Edmund S. Ritchie, proctor.

Manchester Mariner Here

The Manchester liner Manchester Mariner Captain Linton arrived in port yesterday afternoon from Manchester and docked at No. 5 berth, Sand Point. The steamer has about 400 tons of general cargo to discharge here and will sail tomorrow for Philadelphia. The Mariner was 14 1/2 days on the voyage and coming across the Atlantic the steamship experienced strong westerly gales after leaving the Irish coast. On the 23rd inst., at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon the ship came on a large patch of field ice. This was in lat. 48 N. and lon 47 W. and the patch was not passed until 2 o'clock the next morning. After passing the Larcher Lightship and entering the Bay of Fundy, the Mariner experienced bad weather. A strong gale was blowing from the north, it was very cold and a thick vapor prevailed.

The Fielding Laid Out.

If the cold weather continues it is expected that the dredge Fielding which has been laid up for a general overhauling, will not be able to resume work before March. It is said the work on the 20 foot channel will be completed some time next summer, unless

### Blood Is Like Water

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It will take a little patience and perseverance to thoroughly restore the system, but by noting your increase of weight and the return of color to your faded complexion you will be convinced that the lost vigor and vitality is being restored to your system.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, at all dealers by Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

### MANY SHARES THROWN ON MARKET

New York, Jan. 27.—The growing feeling of pessimism which has been evident in Wall street during the last few days culminated today in an outbreak of selling on the Stock Exchange. In the two hours of trading 406,000 shares of stocks were dealt in, an amount larger than that handled during some full sessions earlier in the week. Pressure was directed mainly against the railroad stocks and was unremitting in the last hour. Large blocks of securities were thrown on the market and prices crumbled rapidly. Union Pacific, Reading and Lehigh Valley dropped three points. United States Steel's loss was nearly two points. The other active issues held up better but losses were general and frequently were nearly two points.

The pessimistic statement of Roswell Miller, chairman of the St. Paul board, in explanation of the reduction of St. Paul's dividend rate from 7 to 5 per cent, was largely responsible for the flood of selling orders.

The statement that "there is no prospect of an improvement in general conditions," put the situation in its most favorable light. The more cheerful feeling of a few weeks ago, when expectations of a trade revival were widely held, had been gradually disappearing in the face of diminished steel buying, poor railroad earnings and other evidences of disappointing conditions. The market reaction of these influences sturdy for some time, but in the last few days there has been evident a gradual weakening of the undertone. Added significance was attached to the Miller statement on account of the general belief that St. Paul is closely associated with some of the largest business interests of the country being commonly called a Rockefeller road.

Some of the tobacco stocks fell back today after their remarkable advances of the earlier days of the week. American Tobacco rebounded 13 points. American Snuff, after gaining two points, fell back five. Trading in Lackawanna was light despite the announcement of the proposed new issue of stock. The price rose five points.

Moderate improvement in some lines of trading was reported in the agencies. Favorable weather in many sections of the country has facilitated business operations. The stock of idle freight cars showed a considerable decrease during the last fortnight. The change was attributed to the cold weather. Reading's report for December disclosed a small gain in net earnings.

The expected addition to the bank's supply of cash was revealed in the statement of the clearing house members. The gain in cash, as shown in the actual table, was approximately \$11,000,000 loans increased \$23,000,000 largely on account of the extension of credits abroad.

The bond market was irregular. Some of the speculative issues showed heaviness in sympathy with stock. Total sales, par value, \$2,744,000. United States four's coupon lost 1-4 on call, on the week.

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### Real Estate Signs

Charged With Assault. Saturday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock William Higgins was given in charge of Policeman McNamee, by George Reinhart. Higgins was charged with assaulting and beating Reinhart in the I. C. H. yard of Pond street.

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