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JAMES MCISAAC,

Editor & Proprietor.

Please don't delay your subscriptions for 1907. We need the money, we have earned it and shall esteem it a great favor if you remit now.

A return brought down to the House of Commons the other day, exemplifies the sincerity of the Laurier Government in upholding the boasted Liberal principle of refusing to appoint members of Parliament to office. This return shows that since the Liberals came into power, fourteen members of the House of Commons have been appointed to the Senate and that thirty members of Parliament have been appointed to office. Of these nineteen were appointed to judgeships. We have here additional evidence of the consistency and fidelity to principle of the present Government.

The Quebec bridge, whose collapse caused such loss of life, is a question that will receive considerable attention in the Federal Parliament, before the present session is over. Already attention has been called to it by the opposition. The disaster, it is pointed out, should be fairly attributed to the negligence of the Dominion Government, inasmuch as they, having assumed financial responsibility for the work, which was of a national character, failed to supply competent engineering inspection. That the Government became responsible for the undertaking is shown by the fact, that an amount of \$4,800,000 is charged against them by the Bank of Montreal, on account of the bridge. The bridge was intended to constitute a link in the Grand Trunk Pacific railway and thus became part of a transcontinental road. This railway is the pet project of the Federal Government, consequently they cannot escape responsibility in this matter.

From all the information so far made public, it would appear that Mr. Lemieux's mission to Japan, on behalf of the Federal Government, has not borne much fruit. The London Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent cables that the recent anticipation that the problem of Asiatic migration would be settled by Japan imposing restrictions, has not yet been reached, and Lemieux is in despair at the procrastination of the Japanese officials with whom he has had several abortive conferences. Lemieux declares "We are no further on than on the day of my arrival." Baron Hayashi, in an interview, emphasized the unofficial character of Lemieux's visit, pointing out that he was merely to inspect local conditions. The Japanese press has been urging the Government not to give a moment's consideration to any proposal restricting the supply of unskilled labor in Canada. The Tokio press which caricatured Taft during his recent visit treated the Canadian envoy in a similar fashion.

The estimates of expenditure for the ensuing fiscal year, presented in the House of Commons on Wednesday last, by the Minister of Finance, call for \$119,237,000. This is by far the largest estimated expenditure in the history of Canada. When the expenditure was in the vicinity of \$40,000,000, it was viewed "with alarm" by Mr. Fielding and denounced as robbery by Sir Richard Cartwright. In those Conservative days, when the taxation was about \$27,000,000, the valiant Sir Richard was wont to explain that "the people were bled white." But last year the expenditure was about \$90,000,000, more than twice what was "viewed with alarm" in 1893, and the taxation was about \$68,000,000, much more than twice what it had reached under the Conservatives; but all this is viewed with perfect equanimity by Mr. Fielding and Sir Richard Cartwright. Right on the heels of all this comes an estimated expenditure of nearly \$120,000,000, and a probable taxation of \$75,000,000, by the alarmists of 1893. They raised their hands in holy horror at the expenditure of 1896 and promised to reduce it by several millions of dollars. Instead of that they

have increased the expenditure to just three times what it was when they came into power. That is how they kept their promise, and that is how they kept every promise they made.

The Estimates for next year, to hand, show that the Province of Ontario will receive a subsidy in the year 1908-9 \$2,128,772.08, an increase of \$789,484.80; Quebec will receive \$1,686,573.08; an increase of \$599,865.80; Nova Scotia \$610,464.76, an increase of \$177,659.20; New Brunswick \$621,360.96, an increase of \$180,000. Manitoba, including allowances for lands, will receive \$751,497.46; an increase of \$142,550.40; British Columbia will receive \$622,076.66, an increase of \$215,000; Alberta, including allowance for lands, will receive \$1,172,454.60, an increase of \$48,329.60; Saskatchewan, including allowance for lands, will receive \$1,260,335.40, an increase of \$136,210.40, and Prince Edward Island will receive next year \$281,931.88, an increase of \$70,000. The total increase amounts to \$2,309,100. Our readers will notice the immense increases granted to Ontario and Quebec, large and wealthy Provinces that have now large surpluses on their annual financial transactions, and the large increases to Alberta and Saskatchewan, Provinces that have just come into existence under exceptionally favorable financial arrangements, while the increase to Prince Edward Island is scarcely sufficient to meet the annual recurring deficit. All this shows the soundness of the position assumed by the opposition in the Legislature last session, when they put up such a strong fight for better terms. These facts should be borne in mind by the electors when the time comes.

Our readers will remember that Mr. Pugsley, the new Minister of Public Works, has on several occasions since assuming office in the Laurier Cabinet, spoken loudly about corrupt use of money by Conservatives in the elections of 1904. All these declarations were made outside the House of Commons, and were always of the most vague and indeterminate character. Mr. Borden lost no time after the beginning of the session in asking Mr. Pugsley to make good his statements before a commission of enquiry, or otherwise; but Mr. Pugsley failed to meet the demand. Things went on this way until Tuesday of last week, when Mr. Kemp, opposition member for East Toronto, in the course of a speech on the address, took up the matter. It is putting it mildly to state that Mr. Kemp administered a merciless costigation to Mr. Pugsley. He defied him in the most pointed and emphatic language to make good his statements. He held up to the ridicule of the House the incoherent and tortuous political career of the new Minister of Public Works. But Mr. Pugsley sat as a dumb dog, and absolutely failed to meet the expectations of his own political friends by defending himself. When Mr. Kemp was through, Mr. Pugsley was described as presenting the appearance of a whipped spaniel. It is said that, at a Liberal caucus held afterwards, Pugsley came in for a good deal of uncompromising reference. "Slippery William's bluff does not appear to doing him much good."

Mr. Fielding should have felt somewhat uncomfortable on 6th, says the Montreal Gazette, as he answered the series of questions put to him in regard to the Government's dealings with the debt during the past year and its prospective dealing during the coming year. When he had finished, his reputation as a prudent financier was a thing of shreds and patches. He has in his spending for political effect taken no thought of the morrow or what it might bring forth. He regarded the unexampled revenue he has had the handling of as something to be used to secure the greatest good for the present in the greatest number of constituencies. He let maturing liabilities look after themselves. As one result he is paying 4 1/2 per cent, on one loan of \$500,000 (\$2,500,000), made in London. He is paying the Bank of England rate (presently 7 per cent) on an overdraft of £801,000 (\$1,500,000) on the London agents of the Government. He has extended a loan of \$8,476,000, due this year, for three years, giving those who hold it the right of taking permanent 3 per cent, bonds at the rate of £105 for each £100 of matured obligations, which means an addition of 5 per cent, to the capital of the debt, for which the country gets no return. Next year he has to take

up the temporary loan of £2,500,000 alluded to above; also £809,085 of a maturing loan made for the Intercolonial Railway, and £3,409,020 of a loan of 1878-9. In all, therefore, he will next year have to borrow or get extensions for some \$21,000,000 of debt, besides what he will likely have to secure some way or other to pay for the collapsed Quebec bridge, the commercially unjustified National Transcontinental Railway, and the other unwise undertakings scattered all over the country which the Government has committed itself to. Mr. Fielding will go on the list with other provincial administrators who have failed at Ottawa to attain the standard of federal statesmanship.

Among questions asked the Government, in the House of Commons, so far this session by Island members are the following: On Dec. 6th, Mr. Alex. Martin asked: Has the Honourable the Minister of Finance done anything, and if so, what, to obtain the information referred to in reply to a question in the House of Commons on the 11th day of April last as follows: and also the nature of the information obtained, if any? To which Mr. Fielding answered: We already have considerable information on the subject. Whatever further information is necessary in order that we may be fully informed as to the approximate cost of the tunnel or bridge shall be obtained, and efforts will be made, so far as our engineers are available, the coming season to obtain a report. I shall do my utmost to get such information at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Lefurgey. Through the engineers of the department or special experts? Mr. Fielding. I think we have sufficient engineering skill in the various departments, but if the services of our engineers are not available undoubtedly we shall have to obtain expert opinion outside. On the same day Mr. Martin asked for the following information: 1. Has the Government received any complaints from the Maritime Provinces, and if so, of what nature, respecting express service to those provinces? 2. Has the Government received a copy of resolutions passed at the meeting of the Maritime Board in August last, asking for relief from burdensome charges imposed by those companies? 3. Does the Government propose to take steps in order to improve the service. On the same date also, Mr. A. A. McLean asked: 1. Were any fines or penalties imposed upon any manufacturers of tobacco in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island, since the 1st of January, 1907, for infraction of the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act, or of any regulation thereunder? 2. If so, what are (a) the names and residences of the person or persons fined, (b) the nature of the infraction or infractions of the Act or regulations, (c) the date or dates of infractions and fines, (d) the name or names of the official or officials who tried the cases, (e) the amount of fine imposed in each case, and whether paid or not, and when?

Boston Goes Republican. The Majority election held in Boston, on Tuesday of last week resulted in the return of George Hibbard, Republican over Fitzgerald, Democrat, who was running for a second term. Following is an account from Boston, published on the day after the election: By a close and hard fought election contest this city went Republican yesterday by a narrow majority of 2000 votes. Postmaster George Hibbard being elected Mayor over John F. Fitzgerald, Democrat, who was candidate for reelection. The city went license by a large majority, somewhat smaller than in previous years, however, due to a hard campaign on the part of the clergy and others in an endeavor to keep the saloons out of the Suburbs. Two features contributed to the return of the Republican regime after six years of Democratic power, one being the heavy vote given the independent League candidate, which greatly lessened the Democratic strength, and the other the thorough investigation for some weeks past has been made by the Finance Commission into the affairs of the City Hall, in which evidence has been brought forth alleging irregularities in the purchasing department and in the granting of contracts through which the City had lost many thousands of dollars. The swerving of Worcester, the second largest city in the State, into the no license column for the first time in sixteen years, and the purchase of liquor in similar change in Lynn, after eleven years liquor selling, the decision of Woburn to go dry, are substantial gains to the importance of the sentiment in many other places. But the complete turn in other directions on the part of the Chelsea voters was the most surprising of the general features in the municipal elections.

A Mining Horror—Sixty Men Dead. Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 17.—Advice from Yolande indicates that about sixty men met death in an explosion in the mines yesterday. The work of recovery is slow and while hundreds of miners from the adjacent mining camps were present to assist the dead cannot be taken out before tonight. Only twelve bodies were recovered up to date from the mine. No fewer than 100 men are in the mine. The cause of the explosion is not officially declared. The mine was pronounced free from gas and it is supposed that the explosion was caused by dust. For two hours after the explosion it was impossible to venture even near the mouth of the mine, so hot was the air that it could not be breathed. The explosion was below the second sub-entry. The mines go down 1,500 feet. The force of the explosion was made known outside by the dust and timbers blown into the air and by the crashing of small buildings and landing some distance away. Fans were started and other means employed to eliminate the bad air. Within an hour fourteen men crawled out of the mine. Their description of the interior conditions was terrible. Several of the men were from Virginia city, where a similar explosion occurred two years ago, when one hundred and eleven were killed. Yolande mines were among the model collieries of the Birmingham region. Non-union men were employed exclusively; but everything possible had been done to insure the contentment of the employees.

Farmers who send their sons and daughters to the Union Commercial College can rest assured they will not waste their time. No nonsense. Write for new illustrated prospectus. Wm. Moran, Prin. Ch. Town.

Attend the Union Commercial College for a thorough business training with no waste time, no nonsense. College re-opens Sept. 3rd. Send for new prospectus.—W. Moran, Prin.

Distribution of seeds and Potatoes from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, 1907-8.

By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture a distribution is being made this season of samples of superior sorts of grain and potatoes to Canadian farmers for the improvement of seed. The stock for distribution has been secured mainly from the Experimental Farms at India Head, Sask., and Brandon, Man. The samples consist of oats, spring wheat, barley, Indian corn (for ensilage only) and potatoes. The quantity of oats sent is 4 lbs., and of wheat or barley 5 lbs., sufficient in each case to show one-twentieth of an acre. The samples of Indian corn and potatoes weigh 3 lbs. each. A quantity of each of the following varieties has been secured for this distribution:—

Oats.—Banner, Wide-Awake White Giant, Danish Island, Thousand Dollar, Improved Ligowo, all white varieties, Black oats are not recommended for general cultivation, a few samples, however, are available which can be sent if specially asked for.

Wheat.—Red Life (beardless), Preston, Pringle's Champlain and Haron (early bearded sorts); Percy and Stanley (early beardless varieties); Barley (Six-rowed), Mensury, Odessa, Mansfield and Claude. (Two rowed). Standwell, Invincible, Canadian Thorpe and Sidney.

Indian Corn (for ensilage).—Early sorts, Angel of Midnight, Compton's Early and Longfellow; later varieties, Selected Learning, Early Mastodon and White Cap Yellow Dent.

Potatoes.—Early varieties, Rose White Prize and Rochester Rose. Medium to late varieties, Carman No. 1 and Late Puritan. These later varieties are as a rule more productive than the earlier kinds.

Only one sample can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat, barley, Indian corn or potatoes. Lists of names from one individual, or applications for more than one sample for our household, cannot be entertained. The samples will be sent free of charge through the mail. Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent in any time before the 15th of February, after which the list will be closed, so that the samples asked for may be sent out in good time for sowing. Applicants should mention the variety they prefer, with a second sort as an alternative. Applications will be filled in the order in which they are received, so long as the supply of seeds lasts. Farmers are advised to apply early to avoid possible disappointment. Those applying for Indian corn or potatoes should bear in mind that the corn is not usually distributed until April, and that potatoes cannot be mailed from here until danger from frost in transit is over. No postage is required on mail matter addressed to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

WM SAUNDERS, Director of Experimental Farms.

Mr. Borden's Speech.

Following are some extracts from the speech of Mr. R. L. Borden, Leader of the Opposition, on the address in reply to the speech from the throne: Then we are told that very great progress has been made upon the National Transcontinental Railway, that 250 miles of the western division are open to traffic. Might I inquire from the government how many miles of the eastern division constructed under the management of this government, are open to traffic if any? I understood no portion of the eastern division is open for traffic. I would like further to inquire from the Prime Minister when it is expected that any portion of the eastern division will be ready for traffic. I understood when recently in the west that it had not been formally opened for traffic, but that it was a matter of convenience to the people, the Grand Trunk Pacific was carrying grain and other commodities to Winnipeg for the benefit of the people, but that there had not been any formal opening. I would like especially to inquire as to the eastern division of the National Transcontinental Railway, when that portion of it which extends from Winnipeg to the Port Arthur branch will be ready for traffic; because we have steadily heard of certain possible claims of the Grand Trunk Pacific interfered with by default of the government in not having its portion of the road ready in time. It is well that we should know what we have to expect in this regard. There are other matters of legislation referred to in the speech from the throne which, however, I do not propose to refer to at the present moment. These, as well as the French treaty, will come before the House in due course. But I would say that so far as a Bill for the purpose of reforming the electoral laws of this country is concerned, I will be prepared to give it my hearty support. I brought up this subject in 1906, upon motion for a committee, when the present Chief Justice of Canada was Minister of Justice. I did not introduce it in a partisan way, I informed my hon. friend Mr. Fitzpatrick, at that time, that I did not propose to make any attack on the government in connection with what I was suggesting, because I desired that both parties should join together to perfect if possible the electoral laws of this country. A committee was formed which took the matter into consideration, but owing to the elevation of Mr. Fitzpatrick to the bench, no Bill was brought down. Legislation was promised last session but it was not passed, presumably because it was not intended that parliament should be dissolved before holding another session. I am prepared to join most heartily in any action of the government looking to a reform in our electoral laws. I think the government should see that our electoral laws are placed upon at least as high a basis in Canada as that which prevails in the British Islands. Notwithstanding certain illegal acts which from time to time come to light in the British Islands, we know that the standard of electoral purity there is very much higher than, unfortunately, it has been in Canada during recent years. I believe that we should follow the example of some of the American states, and either prohibit corporate contributions altogether, or at least make it a penalty for any corporation or any member of a corporation on its behalf to contribute to any campaign fund, unless it is made public and unless the people thoroughly understand the amount of the contribution and the purpose for which it was devoted. I think that all contributions to campaign funds should be made public. At the present time those of the candidates themselves are made public in this country. In Great Britain a very much stricter rule prevails. There the campaign fund under control of any political club, any political association or any political society, must be disclosed under oath, and no contribution can be made without a violation of the law unless it is made public in that way, and the amount of it is verified upon oath. I think further that we should have an independent investigation provided for, when an assembly into any election where there is good reason to believe that corruption has taken place, either by one party or the other, or by both, and where neither one party or the other sees fit to take action. I think also that provision should be made for the disfranchisement or corrupt constituencies where corruption has widely prevailed, that in Great Britain, so in Canada a constituency may for a time be disfranchised, and also visited with the costs of any investigation made for the purpose of exposing the corruption. These are only a few of the details in regard to which I think that the electoral law of this country should be amended. I will join most heartily, as I have said, in assisting the government in that regard, and I sincerely hope that when a measure is brought down it will be no half measure. I think that the opposite will join with us, as we are prepared to join with them, in bringing about better conditions in regard to holding elections in this country. We know the methods that were adopted in London in 1905; we know that from 1898 down to the present time not only has bribery been rampant, but there has also been a deliberate attempt to defeat the will of the people by means of the substitution of ballot-switching. In London in 1904 and 1906 we know that bribery was practiced on a very great scale, we know that has been exposed in the courts of this country, and we know that legal proceedings are now pending, and have had a certain issue in the city of Toronto, with regard to that took place in London in that year. I have every reason to believe that in the recent election in the county of Colchester the Conservative party, at least, ran an absolutely clean election, and that the victory of the Conservative party in that county was won without the aid of a single dollar.

Mr. Anderson, Treasurer of the Quebec Central Railway Company at Sherbrooke, P.Q., on Monday pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement from the Company, and was sentenced to five years imprisonment. His defalcation will amount to \$145,000. The most surprising fact about the case is that the thefts extend over a period of eighteen years.

Father and Three Sons Arrested.

John G. Jenkins and three sons—John G. Jr., Frank and Fred—all bankers of Brooklyn N. Y. were indicted jointly on Thursday for criminal conspiracy in having illegally secured loans aggregating \$647,000 from trust companies of which they were officers. The father, John G. Jr., and Frank also were indicted for perjury in having made false statements to the state superintendent of banks. The four men were arrested, arraigned and, after pleading not guilty, held under bonds for a hearing. The Jenkinss, independent of their banking interests, conducted the brokerage firm of Frank to J. G. Jenkins, Jr., and it was, in part, through loans to employees of this firm from the Williamsburg and the Jenkins trust companies that the indicted men are alleged to have received, in a roundabout way, accommodations which, as officers of the institution, they could not lawfully obtain. The elder Jenkins is superintendent of the First National Bank of Brooklyn, but the bank is not involved.

Warning Immigrants off.

The Federal Government is warning immigrants against coming to Canada during the winter months. The British papers contain advertisements advising intending emigrants to defer sailing until the spring, when they will be able to locate on lands or find work. It is the intention of the government to apply the law by which persons who become a charge on the public within two years of their arrival shall be deported. Municipalities which have such people on their rolls are being urged to obtain the assistance of the Government by making application to the department of immigration. Special care is being taken that there shall be no arrivals during the winter of persons who have not means to maintain themselves. Orders have been given to the officials in St. John and Halifax to prevent the landing of such persons. The steamship companies have been warned they will have to take back all such persons if they bring them out. The Bulgarians who landed at Halifax without funds last week will be deported.

Talk of Railway Deal.

There has been much talk in Railway circles, both in Canada, and the United States, about the Canadian Pacific Railway acquiring control of the Boston & Maine by purchasing the shares of that company held by the New York, New Haven and Hartford road. New Haven advises of the 13th had this to say:—It is stated on high railroad authority here that negotiations between the Canadian Pacific and the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad companies are well proceeding with the Canadian Pacific favoring party to purchase of the Boston & Maine holding of the New Haven. Apart, however, from any question of the attitude of the Federal government or the state of Massachusetts, the trolley of the New Haven company, regarded as a serious obstacle to the carrying through of the sale. What, however, is considered an important matter is that another large railroad interest has approached the New Haven management with a suggestion of the sale to it of the Boston & Maine shares. The whole matter has not advanced to a point where it will be more than discussed at today's meeting of the New York, New Haven & Hartford directors.

The Market Prices.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Butter, Eggs, Flour, Hay, etc.

Hats and Caps.

It is considered by all who know that I have the most up to date hat and cap department in the city. My prices are dead right, that's the reason I'm getting the business.

H. H. BROWN The Hat and Cap Man.

SHOP BY MAIL.

Our mail order department is growing rapidly—every mail brings us orders from different parts of the country, and we have invariably given the utmost satisfaction. If anything by any possibility might be wrong, we are always here to make it right. Stanley Bros. The Always Busy Store; Charlottetown.

Overalls and working shirts.—At this season of the year every man wants a fitting out in this line. There is no place in town where you can get better value for your money than at H. H. BROWN'S The young Men's Man.

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Overalls and working shirts.

At this season of the year every man wants a fitting out in this line. There is no place in town where you can get better value for your money than at H. H. BROWN'S The young Men's Man.

Make your headquarters while in town at Stanley Bros. Tell your friends to meet you at

THE ALWAYS BUSY STORE, 132 Richmond Street.

Stanley Bros.

Fall and WINTER COATS AT A GREAT DISCOUNT.

33 1-3 p.c DISCOUNT.

Our whole magnificent stock of Coats, German, English and Canadian, is put on the market at a fraction of their value and at no regard to their original cost. All styles in all cloths and all colors.

FUR JACKETS

Astrakan, Electric Seal, Russian, Bochoran and Persian Lamb and Coon Coats are to be had in our assortment. All sizes and prices at

33 1-3 per cent. DISCOUNT.

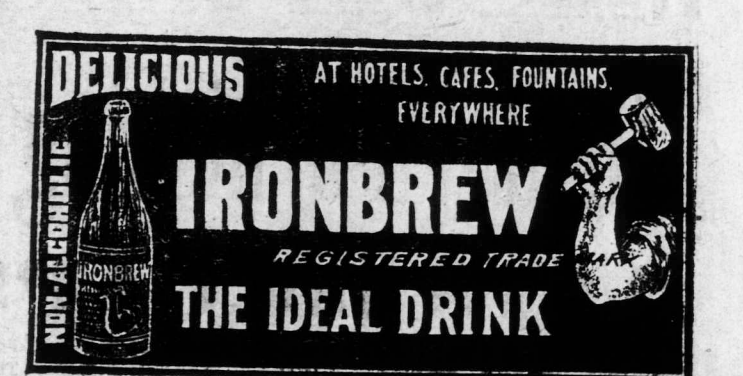
Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Electric Seal Coat, Astrakan Coat, etc.

Stanley Bros.

Tea Party Supplies.

We have bought out the Aerated Water Business formerly conducted by Ferris & Frederickson, and we are now in a position to supply the trade with a full line of

SODA DRINKS



Such as Ginger Ale, Raspberry Soda, Lemon Soda. Iron Brew and a variety of other flavors. We will also be in a better position than ever to contract for the supplying of Picnics and Tea Parties. A full line of all requirements for above purposes on hand.

EUREKA TEA.

If you have never tried our Eureka Tea it will pay you to do so. It is blended especially for our trade, and our sales on it show a continued increase. Price 25 cents per lb.

Preserves.—We manufacture all our own Preserves, and can guarantee them strictly pure old wholesale and retail.

R. F. Maddigan & Co. Eureka Grocery. QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN.