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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1922.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

This is St. Patrick's Day, but the darkness of night still hovers over his island; though it may be that the hopes which are expressed that a glimpse of dawn will arrive ere long, are not in vain.

St. Patrick was a great man. He is the only person who ever turned the whole spirit of Ireland. He did with prayer and without the shedding of a drop of blood what men later failed to do with fire and sword.

St. Patrick had courage. He went into Ireland when all the Druids were opposing him with magic and violence.

St. Patrick had patience, combating that Fate which seemed determined to keep him out of the land he was to evangelize.

St. Patrick was magnanimous, even toward the man who had mistreated him when he had been a slave.

In short St. Patrick was rich in the qualities which are so conspicuously absent in the Irish conflict now. He was a Scotsman with an unflinching mission, not a political agitator seeking to hold or gain power.

It takes a good man to be remembered gratefully, as St. Patrick is, after he has been dead centuries. And he will still be celebrated fourteen centuries hence, when the world has forgotten the crimes which today are committed in the island he served so well.

## THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

In the Legislative Assembly yesterday afternoon, the Hon. Walter Foster, in bringing down the estimates for the ensuing year, spent a couple of hours discussing the financial situation of the Province, and formulating excuses for conditions which have been brought about as a result of the business-like (?) methods of administration which the Government follows out. It will be noticed that we do not publish the official report of his remarks, as is usually the case with the Budget Speech. The reason for this is that for the most part he advanced little that was new, the greater part of what he said has been said time and time again on previous occasions both by himself and other members of the Government; even his excuses were the same time-worn "cheesebuns" that are a thorn in the eye of the people.

The war of course is blamed for much that has happened during the present regime, but the late Government had two and a half years of war time to deal with, so that the present administration did not have quite all the bad luck. The thing is that they didn't know how to manage it, and now they are experiencing the consequences of their lack of knowledge and ability. The Premier produced figures by which he tried to show—and did show to his own satisfaction anyway—that the present state of affairs is largely due to the shortcomings of preceding Governments. He admitted that very heavy expenditures had been made by his administration, but these of course were quite all right; but it was only the expenditures of his predecessors that were wrong.

The present bonded indebtedness of the Province he put down at \$25,463,922, against assets valued at \$60,844,299, which leaves a surplus of assets over liabilities of \$35,380,376. He characterized as very unfair the criticisms of the opposition press of the ever-increasing deficits of the present Government, and then went on to admit that the amount of such deficits as given by this press was correct, but sought to place the blame for it on his predecessors. When he proceeded to launch forth the plea that every other Government and business firm had been faced with trying conditions, and that they were compelled to spend more money, whether they had it or not. The people were to blame. They wanted things and "where they supposed the money was coming from, I don't know. They seem to think that the provincial treasury is an inexhaustible gold mine." To our mind, the Government's obvious duty was to tell these important applicants that it was not, and that until the needed money was available, only absolutely necessary work could be done. The Premier admitted that there had been an increase in the expenditure of 65 per cent over previous records, but claimed that it was justified by conditions.

Turning to the estimates for the current year, which will be found in extenso elsewhere in this issue, the Premier said:

"I want to emphasize that a glance at the estimates before you clearly shows that unless provision is made for the future in made for either decreased or increased revenue deficits are bound to occur. A little here and a little there upon the present methods will not meet the situation. The

estimates presented are brought down after instructing the officials in each department to reduce as far as possible his own estimates. We have discussed the situation with many people and find that there are different suggestions made as a panacea for the situation. There are those of the happy-go-lucky class who say "carry on and borrow money for revenue purposes until conditions improve." For myself and the Government, we look upon that method as unsound. Further paring of estimates and increased revenue is the only remedy for the future. Some other Provinces are imposing an income tax, where such Provincial tax is not in existence. In the Province of Manitoba, a direct tax upon incomes has been imposed on the basis of fifty per cent of the Dominion tax for Provincial purposes, the same statements being accepted as a basis. Can our people afford this method of taxation? Many industries and business concerns are already overburdened. A tax upon the capital of local companies might be adopted, but our companies are small compared to those in other Provinces where large companies are chartered or where the banks and trust companies have their head offices. This form of taxation yields a good return upon capital reserve would give us perhaps one hundred thousand dollars. A tax based upon the real estate valuations for assessment purposes has been proposed, but can the real estate and the farm lands under the present conditions pay such a tax is a question. We have, I am pleased to be able to announce, met the situation for the present at least, first by providing strict economy, without the imposition of additional burdensome taxation. Some won't like this economy, more particularly the items which affect them, but I am sure the House and the country will be pleased at this statement. The only additional taxation which I announce is as follows: An increase of our road tax, and a tax of one dollar and twenty-five cents per gallon on liquors now stored or which will be stored in warehouses in the Province, and which liquors are for export purposes. This mode of taxation the prohibitionists won't like, but the temperate people of the Province will. The principle of obtaining revenue from liquor and liquor transactions was first proposed by the temperance people themselves and that principle was laid down in very prohibition Act now upon the Statute Books of the Province."

As will be seen, the estimated revenue amounts to \$2,916,326.16 and the estimated expenditure to \$2,905,562.78, which leaves an estimated surplus of \$10,763.38. The experience of the past three or four years however has shown the people of New Brunswick that very little reliance can be placed upon the accuracy of the Government's financial forecasts on either side of the ledger; in fact with a Minister like Mr. Veniot in charge of the chief spending department, it seems waste of time to make estimates of his proposed expenditures at all, for he treats them as being of less value even than a scrap of paper.

The reluctance of the members of the Farmers party to accept the invitation so jauntily given by the Premier last year to walk into his parlour, seems to have aroused some suspicions in his mind as to whether he was quite wise in being so hospitable, for he said yesterday: "I have come to the conclusion that it would be just as well not to leave the 'latch-string too loose, but to place a 'guard' upon the door and see what manner of man it is who knocks for 'admittance.' The Premier may possibly think that in failing to respond to his friendly overtures the Farmers group showed shockingly bad taste; but the opinion of most people will be that whatever they make have lacked in taste, they made up in good judgment."

No speech of the Premier would be complete without much eulogistic reference to the Marquis Hydro development. What he said was too long to reproduce here, but he seems to have unbounded faith in the Government's policy. Naturalness of course having embarked upon it, and already spent a couple of millions, he could not be expected to speak otherwise than optimistically upon the outlook. However, he is not the first man to discover, when too late, that he has been building his house upon sand; and it may yet turn out that the Marquis project is a very expensive toy.

In conclusion the Premier said: "I trust I have not painted too dark a picture of the present. If I have, we can, I think, brighten up the horizon of our landscape somewhat. For a review of the present condition of the Province is in the best condition of any

country on the globe as regards general business. A steady revival of business is ahead. This is the opinion of men closest in touch with economic conditions. In this Province we have every reason for viewing the future hopefully, as the necessity for the revival of all classes of goods that the world over is apparent. The public has been buying in a conservative manner. Likewise the producer has been compelled to reduce production with the result that the world's supply of commodities is below normal. The opportunity will soon be here. But with it will come keen competition. I hope and trust that we in New Brunswick will not be handicapped as we are at the present time by excessive and unfavorable transportation facilities, that the Government, which is now in charge of the affairs of Canada will realize our geographic position, that they will realize and understand that the promises which we entered Confederation must be lived up to."

It is entirely immaterial how much power the city takes from the Musquash plant, whether it takes all or only a part, it will still be called upon to pay twelve per cent interest on what does take. Supposing the city takes half the power generated, it will be called upon to pay six per cent upon the whole output. The city could have borrowed the \$2,000,000 on these terms and carried out the development itself, and owned it when it was done. Now it will be called upon to pay twelve per cent for 30 years on whatever it takes and won't own a cent's worth of the plant in the end. Great business this—for the Government, "which is not seeking to make any profit out of the city," so The Times avers.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Public Finances. (Montreal Gazette.)

The statement of public finances does not disclose improvement in February. Nearly \$10,000,000 less was collected than in the corresponding period of last year, to offset which expenditure on current account was reduced less than \$2,000,000, and expenditure on capital account only \$300,000. That is to say, in February, 1921, revenue exceeded both ordinary and capital expenditure by \$12,074,000, while this year the surplus was only \$4,807,000. Still, according to the figures returned the Finance Department took in last month nearly five millions more than it paid out, and yet, singular to say, the decrease of public debt was only \$700,000. One might wonder what became of the missing four millions were it not known that the figures published in the Canada Gazette are not strictly accurate.

At the end of March the current fiscal year closes, and soon thereafter the accounts will be balanced. Mr. Fielding will be able to announce in the Budget speech a balance on the right side of the ledger. In the eleven months period revenue has reached \$343,845,000, and expenditures \$308,292,000, leaving a surplus to be carried to the account of reserve funds of \$35,553,000. The Government's accounts are large enough to assure a credit margin. In the eleven months last year the nominal surplus was four millions larger. The drop in Customs revenue, which was already reaching \$58,700,000, a very large amount, and it is by no means certain that the bottom of the slide has been reached.

It may be taken for granted, however, that the worst is over. Commodity prices have nearly reached the end of the drop, and importations ought to be as well maintained in volume during the next fiscal year as in that drawing to a close, so that Customs receipts may not increase. It is fairly certain that they will not further shrink. Excise taxes, including salt and stamps taxes, hold up well as revenue producers; but profits are declining, and will diminish so soon as arrears have been collected; while income taxes have yielded \$21,157,000 in the eleven months as against \$20,687,000 in the corresponding period a year ago. These two latter items are the weak spots on the revenue side. One will cease to produce income shortly, while the other, income tax, must inevitably decline, since the large collection of the current year is made up mainly of arrears. There will be no such scope for taxation on income in 1922 as in 1920. Public debt mounts. It has gone up \$64,800,000 in the eleven months, but the statement of accounts is so bald that it is difficult to determine how the debt came to increase when revenue exceeded expenditure. At the close of February miscellaneous and banking accounts were returned as \$21,157,000, the asset side at \$139,000,000 less than a year before, and as no corresponding decrease appears in the liabilities, one wonders to what purpose the money was put. We do not think the National Railway accounts are mixed up with the figures of debt, revenue, and expenditure on Consolidated Fund account, and it will be interesting to learn from the Finance Ministry, what has become of assets employed neither to reduce liabilities nor to meet ordinary expenditures.

Our Mediaeval Prison System. (London Free Press.)

We would commend to the attention of the new Minister of Justice a recent article in The Atlantic Monthly, "Facing the Prison Problem." It will agree at once that the problem he faces as minister is a legacy from his predecessors, as they had it a legacy from the Laurier administration, which in turn inherited it from the Macdonald administration. The country will be ready to give due credit to any government that copes with the prison problem, for we have been travelling a long time down the wrong road. We have made our prisons "a makeshift and an escape, not a solution."

The worst case in office in this country a few years ago who had the vision of a prophet in this regard, and that was Hon. W. J. Hanna. When he established his prison farm at Gagetown he was met at and scorned

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was coming home from school this afternoon and all of a sudden I saw a gin rite in front of me on the pavement, me thinking, Hurray, good luck. And I scooped over to pick it up feeling glad and then I quick stood up strafe again feeling sorry, because something slipped all of a sudden and I put my hand back and hear it was a big place in the seat of my pants, me thinking, Hock, good nite, wat kind of good lucks that?

Wish just then I saw Mary Watkins coming and I quick sat down on somebody's front steps with a expression as if my pants didn't have anything to do with it, and Mary Watkins came up saying, Hello Benny, wat you sitting there for?

Im waiting for somebody, Im waiting for some fellow lives in here, I sed, and she sed, I didnt know any boy lived in there. I never saw any gin in or anything.

He just moved hear, he's a friend of mine, I sed, and Mary Watkins sed, O, wat he like, is he nice, Ill just wait hear a little and wen he comes out you can introduce us.

Me thinking, Good nite, gosh. And I sed, There's no use waiting, you wouldnt like him, you'd think he was fierce, and she sed, Wy, wy would I, wat he like? and I sed, O, he's the limit, he is, he's got 5 teeth and 3 of them loose so he only expects to have 3 soon, and he's smokes you awt to see the way his clothes look, his shoes loose is always undid and he never wears a tie and G wisen you awt to see how dirty his neck gets.

Well how do you happen to know such characters, you sed he was a friend of yours, if thats the kind of friends your friends are well then Im not one of them, sed Mary Watkins.

And she waked away proud and I throw the pin away hard as anything, thinking, O yes, good luck all rite, O yes. And I quick run home the back way, running sideways wenever I went past anybody in case they mite happen to look around.

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by all the professional prison officials in Canada. They knew prisons they knew prisoners, hadn't they fought with prisoners and had to stab them into submission; didn't they risk their lives every day of the week and every hour they were on duty. Of course they did. Hon. Mr. Hanna admitted, but that didn't deter him from trying an experiment. And his plan was, in effect of locking men up in cells and barred corridors and grim workrooms, to put them out in the open air, with plenty of good hard work and as few guards as possible.

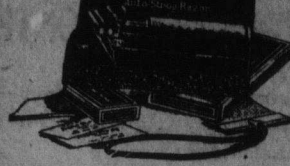
The old professional prison administrators doubled up with laughter at the idea. And when, after the prison farm was opened and a man soon got away, they wagged their heads and said "we told you so." But the man who ran away was brought back and it was made very clear that while there would be a few evidences of guardianship, the worst is over. Commodity prices have nearly reached the end of the drop, and importations ought to be as well maintained in volume during the next fiscal year as in that drawing to a close, so that Customs receipts may not increase. It is fairly certain that they will not further shrink. Excise taxes, including salt and stamps taxes, hold up well as revenue producers; but profits are declining, and will diminish so soon as arrears have been collected; while income taxes have yielded \$21,157,000 in the eleven months as against \$20,687,000 in the corresponding period a year ago. These two latter items are the weak spots on the revenue side. One will cease to produce income shortly, while the other, income tax, must inevitably decline, since the large collection of the current year is made up mainly of arrears. There will be no such scope for taxation on income in 1922 as in 1920. Public debt mounts. It has gone up \$64,800,000 in the eleven months, but the statement of accounts is so bald that it is difficult to determine how the debt came to increase when revenue exceeded expenditure. At the close of February miscellaneous and banking accounts were returned as \$21,157,000, the asset side at \$139,000,000 less than a year before, and as no corresponding decrease appears in the liabilities, one wonders to what purpose the money was put. We do not think the National Railway accounts are mixed up with the figures of debt, revenue, and expenditure on Consolidated Fund account, and it will be interesting to learn from the Finance Ministry, what has become of assets employed neither to reduce liabilities nor to meet ordinary expenditures.

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It's Grandmother's Recipe to Keep Her Locks Dark, Glossy, Beautiful.

The old-time mixture of Sage Tea and Sulphur for darkening gray, streaked and faded hair is grandmother's recipe, and folks are again using it to keep their hair a good, even color, which is quite sensible, as we are living in an age when a youthful appearance is of the greatest advantage.

Nowadays, though, we don't have the troublesome task of gathering the sage and the mussy mixing at home. All drug stores sell ready-to-use product, improved by the addition of the ingredients, called "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound." It is very popular, because nobody can discover it has been applied. Simply moisten the comb or a soft brush with it, and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time. By morning the gray hair disappears, but what delights the ladies with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound is that beside beautifully darkening the hair after a few applications, it also produces that soft lustre and appearance of abundance which is so attractive.

## Soviet Russia Once More Under Wave Of Typhus Fever

Moscow Itself Hard Pressed by the Epidemic and Toll Exact is Very Heavy.

Moscow, March 16.—Soviet Russia is once more under the shadow of an epidemic wave of typhus fever and recurrent typhus which has been spreading since November last. The Volga famine area is chiefly affected. In the centre of Russia the epidemic has invaded the big towns of the Moscow and Petrograd governmental districts and in the west the cities of Minsk, Smolensk, Vitebsk and in the north Volodga.

In Moscow itself the epidemic is growing rapidly and the toll which it is exacting from the Moscow population is already now seven or eight times larger than that of last season, and it is feared that before the winter months are over it might well overgrow the epidemic of 1919.

In December over 4,000 cases of typhus, were registered in Moscow while during the first three weeks of January 4,782 cases were registered in hospitals. But the real number of cases is much higher than this figure. The epidemic shows no decline and death casualties are not below 40 per cent. Hospitals and medicaments are very inadequate. The Moscow hospitals are overcrowded and the Moscow Soviet is trying to provide 3,000 new beds in time to meet the epidemic. The railways are the channels by which the epidemic is carried from the famine stricken area into Moscow. Every train brings lice from the Volga districts. The Moscow stations where many refugees' homes as well as concentration camps and the Tartar hotels are the chief centers which feed the epidemic here.

To cope with the situation, the government stopped passenger traffic on the Eastern railways for six weeks. Baths have been organized at Moscow railway terminals and all refugees and military detachments arriving here are compelled to use them. In fact, itself facilities were afforded in all districts.

## DAUGHTER REFUSES TO LIVE WITH FATHER

Parent to Seek Aid of Court in Effect to Get Child from Convent.

London, Oct. 26.—William Link, father of Grace Jean Link who on Saturday chose to remain at St. Joseph's College, Hamilton, rather than accept a home with father and his second wife, stated today that

## COULDN'T DO HOUSEWORK HEART WAS SO BAD

Many women get weak and run down and unable to look after their household duties owing to the heart action becoming impaired or the nervous system unstrung.

Nature intended women to be strong, healthy and happy instead of sick and wretched. But how can a woman be strong and healthy when day in and day out she has to go through the same routine of work, sweeping, dusting, cooking, washing, etc. Is it any wonder that the heart becomes affected and she gets irritable and nervous, has hot flashes, faint and dizzy spells, smothering and sinking spells and can't sleep at night.

To all women whose heart is weak and whose nerves are unstrung we recommend

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS as the best means to tone up the system and strengthen the weakest organs.

Mrs. Daniel Hanson, Loganville, N. B., writes:—"As I was troubled with a weak heart for nearly two years I am writing to tell you what your great remedy, Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, has done for me."

My heart was so bad at night I could not sleep. I would take another spell, and was so weak I could not do my housework. I tried two doctors, but got no results. A friend advised me to try your pills. I used six boxes and am completely relieved. I think they are the best remedy for heart trouble there is."

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