

THE HERALD

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 JAMES McISAAC
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The Increased Subsidies.

As stated in our last issue the Provincial Premiers, at their recent conference at Ottawa, arrived at an agreement with the Dominion Government regarding the increased subsidies to be paid the Provinces from the Federal Treasury. The total increase of subsidies amounts to \$2,347,000. This Province's contribution to the increased annual expenditure thus required will be about one fiftieth or about \$45,000.

The subsidies paid to the Provinces by the Dominion is under two heads; an allowance of 80 cents per head of population, and an allowance for legislation and government bearing a certain proportion to population. The last named specific subsidy bears the following relation to population: For a population of less than 150,000, \$100,000; for a population of not more than 200,000, \$150,000; for a population of not more than 400,000, \$180,000 and so on.

At the time of the union of the four original Provinces of Confederation, viz. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the per capita allowance was on the populations of these Provinces at the last census preceding their union, namely the census of 1861. The specific allowance to these Provinces for legislation and government was also regulated by that census as will be readily understood. All these Provinces with the exception of New Brunswick have increased in population, Ontario and Quebec increasing very largely. From this it will be readily understood that a removal of the barriers, that is a regulating of the subsidies, both per capita and specific, according to the decennial census last preceding the change, would greatly benefit the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, as well as Nova Scotia. This is what has been done and this brings us at once to the consideration of the effect the changed conditions have on our own Province.

Under the new arrangement Ontario receives an increase on per capita allowance of \$629,484. Quebec receives an increase of \$429,865; Nova Scotia receives \$47,659. New Brunswick receives no increase. Manitoba and British Columbia came into the union since Confederation and their subsidies are on the basis of the last decennial census and consequently increase according to population at each census. Prince Edward Island also came in since Confederation and its subsidies are also arranged as to increase according to the last preceding decennial census. But Prince Edward Island has not increased in population, on the contrary it has decreased and there is where the difficulty comes in.

In consequence of our exceptional position, our population decreasing and not much hope of improvement in this particular, we should be entitled to exceptional treatment in regulating the per capita allowance, and the representatives of our Province should have most persistently pressed this feature of our case on the attention of their colleagues and on the Dominion Government. We should have had our per capita allowance based on our maximum population at any census since we entered the union. The Premier of the Province should have entered his solemn protest against any less favorable arrangement. But we have no record that he made any attempt to secure for us the best terms possible. The result is that henceforth our per capita allowance is not to be 80 cents on our maximum population; but 80 cents per head according to the last decennial census. The consequence is that we lose immediately and directly \$5,262,000; for the al-

lowance last year, under this head was \$37,262,000; but under the new arrangement the subsidy from this source is \$32,000,000. Under the new arrangement, then, we have Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and all the western Provinces starting out with large increases under this head, in some cases reaching nearly three quarters of a million; but Prince Edward Island starts with a loss of \$5,262,000, and this is only the beginning of her losses in this connection.

The increase of these per capita subsidies will be contributed by all parts of Canada without distinction, and Prince Edward Island's contribution being about one fiftieth part will amount to about \$25,000. This added to the direct loss of \$5,000 to start with, brings her loss on the arrangement up to \$30,000. But this is not all we stand to lose. Future readjustments of these subsidies, after each census, will most assuredly largely augment the increases to Ontario and Quebec and the Western Provinces, while our population is likely to show a still further decrease and the consequence will be that we shall lose both ways. We shall lose directly by loss of population and we shall lose indirectly by increased contribution to the subsidies of the other Province from which we reap no benefit. Does any reasonable man think such an arrangement of the subsidy question is the most advantageous and profitable that could be made for Prince Edward Island?

Let us now consider the increase subsidies for government and legislation. This is the only increase in which Prince Edward Island participates and it is of the utmost importance that we should in no way suffer concerning it. According to the scale referred to above, we should receive an increase of \$70,000 a year. But at the very start we are met with a reduction, as the proposed increase is not \$70,000 but \$65,345. Here we have the only increase in which we could participate, at once clipped to the extent of almost \$5,000. Add this to the \$5,000 reduction in the per capita allowance and we start the proposed increase of subsidies with a direct loss of \$10,000. From these figures it will be seen that this Province receives from the proposed increase of subsidies only \$60,000 a year and by her proportionate contribution to the increased subsidies of the other Provinces from which she receives no benefit she loses \$25,000. That is to say, the Government of this Province receive \$60,000 annually from the Dominion but the people of this Province contribute \$25,000 towards the increase of subsidies to the other Provinces from which we receive no benefit at all. But the worst feature of this arrangement is that this annual contribution is likely to increase and our annual subsidy to decrease.

From the facts above set forth it will readily be seen that the arrangement underlying the increased subsidies is inequitable and prejudicial to the interests of this Province. Owing to our peculiar circumstances we should be entitled to special treatment in the matter, and our representatives at the conference should have earnestly pleaded for exceptional treatment, and failing to receive it should have entered their solemn protest against the injustice done our Province. This is what was done by the Premier of British Columbia with the result that the other members of the conference agreed to allow his Province an additional specific grant of \$100,000, owing to that Province's exceptional position. Even then the Premier of the Pacific Province was not satisfied but promised to carry his case to the Privy Council. But there is no record that the Premier of Prince Edward Island uttered a word of protest or made the slightest demand for a more equitable and just arrangement in favor of this Province. When the resolution regarding these increased sub-

sidies was before our Provincial Legislature last session, the Leader of the Opposition and his followers in the House pointed out the injustice this Province would suffer under the Government's resolution, and the Opposition moved a resolution asking for more equitable and just treatment for our Province. In course of the debate in this connection, the Leader and other members of the Opposition pointed out to the Government what would happen unless the Government so modified their resolution as to embrace the contention of the Opposition. This advice was unheeded and just what was predicted has happened. Do the people of this Province think the Government's course in this matter redounds to their credit or to the benefit of our Island Province?

The Patriot in its reference to the conference and the new subsidies indicates that it is very much pleased with itself for having advised the electorate, before the last general Provincial election, to "keep in line with the Government at Ottawa," so as to ensure settlement of our claims. Such a declaration is not only silly but vicious, as we took occasion to point out at the time of the election. We said then and we say now that if we have a just and equitable claim against the Federal Government, we should enforce and eventually obtain our rights, regardless of the political complexion of the Dominion or Provincial Governments; and this is just what has happened. The Governments of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia are Conservative; but each of these Provinces have obtained their rights in the Conference and have secured very large additions to their annual subsidies. Some of them have had specific additions made to the subsidies coming to them on the general plan of the readjustment. They secured all this because their Premiers were alert and exerted themselves to the utmost in behalf of the rights of their respective Provinces. But the Premier of Prince Edward Island seems to have sat dum satisfied to accept whatever sop might be thrown him. This subject is by no means exhausted.

London Election Scandal.

(Pritchett's evidence continued.)
 The witness continued: "After the west Elgin election Lewis came to my house and told me to get out or I'd be arrested. 'I did so.'
 "What did you get?"
 "I got \$25 for a year's banishment."
 "And who paid you?"
 "O'Gorman gave me the first \$100 and the rest came by letter."
THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONER.
 "Just before you went away, what Mr. Reid spoke to you?"
 "Mr. Robert Reid. He is now on some railroad commission, I think. I volunteered to go down to St. Thomas and fix the ballot box, and make it right in the event of an investigation. My idea was to substitute McDermid and McNish ballots as to make everything all right. I thought I could get the sheriff to permit me. Mr. Reid told me, however, it would be attended to by a Mr. Grant, of Toronto, a lawyer, I think."
A CONTINUOUS CONSPIRACY.
 The Pritchett evidence connects the London conspiracy closely with the operations which have gone on for years under the auspices of the Liberal organization for the regular and systematic stealing of seats by skilled persons retained and regularly engaged and paid for their work. Pritchett himself ran a ballot switching normal school, and had under training at various times a host of expert deputy returning officers, some operating locally, some moved from riding to riding where they borrowed local names for temporary use. Certain of Mr. Pritchett's employers, paymasters and fellow conspirators have been promoted to high positions in the public service. Politicians elected through their criminal plots, are important members of parliament and the legislature. Some are Ministers of the Crown. It is not surprising when these facts come to light and are established in detail beyond all doubt, that fair-minded Liberals are revolting against the machine.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

Thomas F. Collins, charged with the murder of Miss Mary Ann McAulay, Father McAulay's housekeeper at New Ireland, New Brunswick, on or about the 19th of August last, has been formally committed for trial.

DIED
 At Head of Hillsborough on the 30th September, Catherine Margaret daughter of late Alex McDonald, in her 49th year, after a severe illness of three months borne with Christian patience and resignation. She leaves to mourn an aged mother and one brother. In her last illness she devoutly received the Sacraments for the dying and departed this life fortified by all the rites of our holy religion. Her funeral took place to St Andrew's on Tuesday Oct. 22nd and was very largely attended. The Requiem Mass was celebrated by the pastor Rev A. P. McLellan and the funeral service was performed by his Lordship Bishop McDonald. May her soul rest in peace.

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