

THE CALL OF MURRAYISM

House of Assembly, Halifax, N. S., April 17, 1916. The outstanding feature of last week's proceedings in the Legislature was the masterly and compelling speech with which Mr. Tanner concluded the Opposition's discussion of the Provincial finances. Never has the Conservative leader been heard to better advantage. He had a strong case and he pressed it with skill and aggressiveness. While his speech was a crushing indictment of the Murray-Daniels Government's financial record, it was replete with practical suggestions of reform in every department of the public service.

Mr. Tanner showed that under the profligate financial methods of the present local government, direct taxation has become not merely a "menace" but a present substantial reality. When Mr. Murray took over the premiership in 1896, the public debt was \$3,443,769.17, on which annual interest of \$140,121 had to be paid. After Mr. Murray had been 19 years in power—on September 30th, 1915 he had increased the debt to \$13,410,980, and the annual interest to \$507,671. To meet the consequences of this reckless financing Mr. Tanner pointed out that the Murray Government had by legislation already imposed a most elaborate system of direct taxation on the people. Thus taxes, which in all cases the people have to pay, have been imposed by the Murray Government on insurance companies, banks, trust companies, telegraph companies, telephone companies, loan companies, express and electric companies, theatres, insurance agents, motor vehicle owners, legislation, and the estates of deceased persons, as well as the coal royalties which the consumers pay in the form of increased prices for coal. Despite all these sources of revenue when the Province made the small gift of \$100,000 to the Mother Country last year such had been the profligacy of the Government that it was unable to pay that modest contribution without making a further levy on the taxpayers of Nova Scotia.

In showing how the present huge debt of \$13,410,980 has been built up by the Murray Government, the Conservative leader subjected the Government's administrative record to a merciless critical review. A few items will serve as illustrations. One is furnished from the Halifax and South Western Railway. For over ten years that concern never paid a cent of interest on the three and a quarter million dollars the Murray Government loaned it to meet cost of construction, and in 1914 these accumulated arrears of interest aggregating \$1,096,000 were added to the capital indebtedness, of the railway and today represent just that much of the debt of the Province. This burden is a direct consequence of the ruinous bargain Mr. Murray made with McKenzie & Mann in 1902. Another \$629,000 of the public debt seven years of Murray Government deficits. Mr. Tanner also showed that the refusal of Mr. Murray and his political friends to accept the Borden Government's offer to spend \$68,000 on highways of this province in 1913, and \$102,000 in 1914, under a "good-roads system" to be pursued by the Dominion authorities from year to year, resulted in the Murray Government being driven to borrow on its Provincial credit \$180,000 for the "betterment of highways," and \$600,000 for the building of culverts. This has all been added to the public debt on which the people have to pay interest every year, and not one dollar of this money need have been borrow, had the "Good roads policy" of Hon. Frank Cochrane been carried into effect.

Such are a few of the topics dealt with by the Conservative leader, in the most closely reas-

oned and comprehensive address of the season. His review of the immigration "policy" of Mr. Murray under which in 1915 a dozen families were brought into the Province at a public cost of \$44,998 on capital account; of the scheme of technical education under which over \$50,000 was spent last year to give engineering courses in Halifax to 28 University students, and of the system of road-making in Nova Scotia, was a mockery and a scandal, a telling indictment of administrative methods, which, if continued, spell financial ruin for the Province. Fortunately however there is but little likelihood that they will be continued, for, as Mr. Tanner remained in the House, they have already been emphatically condemned in every bye-election that has been held since 1911, and the electors of the Province stand ready now to pronounce a great verdict for administrative reform. With the advent to power of a new progressive Government, Mr. Tanner expressed confidence that coal mining could be got to yield greater results; that gold mining can be developed along profitable lines; that immigration can be prosecuted both effectively and economically under intelligent service; that the public highways service agriculture, the administration of crown lands, and the great service of public instruction, will benefit in the most direct and far reaching manner by the pending change of Government.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mr. Editor: I do not wish to deal severely with Mr. F. E. Wood, but his article in the Western Chronicle calls for some plain statements from me. His false insinuations I care nothing about. But why he should distort and misrepresent things as he has done, making himself ridiculous in the eyes of the public, I fail to understand.

I stated in my last article, and gave the proof that the first year I was overseer of the poor we had \$2010.79 to maintain the poor for that year. This was taxes collected from the people. At the end of the year we had \$1270.43 of this money that was not expended, and not one dollar in debt. It does not require a mathematician to figure out from this statement that we used only \$740.35 of the money collected from the ratepayers.

The balance of the expenditure was made up from the sale of produce of the farm and so forth.

Ever since I was overseer it cost \$2100 besides the produce sold off the farm, etc.

I am speaking for the whole board of overseers (1901) E. A. Lewis and H. H. Kinsman, when I state that the first thought of the board was to look after the unfortunate poor to see that they were properly clothed, fed and made comfortable in every way possible. Our second thought was to look after the interest of the ratepayers. To see that the business entrusted to our care was done in a proper manner, with due regard for economy. That supplies were bought and farm products sold at a favorable time and that the farm was conducted in a manner so that it would be a source of revenue.

The dead were buried in a covered coffin. We always had an undertaker and a clergyman attended the burial service. Since that time the poor have been buried in a box. If they cost more than fifty cents they paid to much for them. Any person doubting my word, I would advise them to call at the poor farm and satisfy themselves, as there is a stock of these boxes kept on hand. The poor were buried by the foreman without a semblance of a civilized, let alone a christian burial. Little children were going barefoot all winter for several winters until the S. P. C. authorities got after those in charge and made them supply the children with shoes and

stockings. I do not ask your readers to accept my statement as final let them ask any of the neighbors Grit or Tory.

Mr. Wood says the township (for three years) were only charged for three gallons of cider instead of four as I stated, I had to write from memory in this matter, I tried to get the information from the clerk, but failed. He evidently agrees with Mr. Wood in thinking that all matters in connection with the Cornwallis poor business should be kept secret as much as possible.

Mr. Wood has the clerk's books and papers in his possession, showing how every dollar of money was expended the three years I was overseer of the poor, and he has been studying them for three years, with the one idea of hoping to find something wrong with my method of doing business.

Net result of his vigilant search—1st: Three gallons of cider that was bought for mince pies. The matron stating positively that it was used for nothing else. 2nd: A hat cost-bought from A. E. Calkin costing \$2.10. He wants to know why he got the hat. Percy Huntley who got the hat. If Mr. Wood doubts my word, I can get a sworn statement from his mother to that effect. 3rd: I bought two cows from Mrs. W. C. Bill for \$55.00. That looks like pretty good business for the township, as Mr. Bill not keeping anything but first-class cows. I do not know how the township could get any better receipt for the money paid for these cows than the one given.

Mr. Wood's array of figures recalls to my mind a saying I have read that "figures won't lie, but liars can figure."

He was reprimanded in the Council quite severely for making his charges so extortionate I have not seen the minutes of the Council for this year. He states his charges this year are very much lower. That looks as if the reproof was the cause of a saving to the municipality.

C. R. BILL, Jr. Billtown, April 20th, 1916.

British Troops Penetrate Points into German Trenches.

London, April 19—The British official statement on the campaign in France and Belgium reads:

"Twice in the last thirty hours our troops have penetrated at different points into the German trenches—once in daylight yesterday, and once during the night. On each occasion the enterprise met with complete success. A machine gun emplacement was destroyed and several dugouts were bombed. Our casualties were one wounded and one missing. Two German officers and at least twenty men are reported killed.

"During the night two small German efforts against our positions at St. Eloi, preceded in the evening by a heavy bombardment, were successfully repulsed.

"Today there were isolated artillery duels at various points. There has been further mining activity eastward of Vermelles without altering the general situation there."

A War-time Puzzle.

A company of soldiers dressed in khaki, with the bandage-like puttees about their legs, were waiting for their train at a station in Wiltshire. Among the spectators were an old countryman and his wife.

"I say Garge," the old lady whispered, there's somethin' I can't understand about they soldiers.

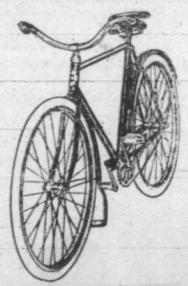
"What be it, lass? I can't think how they get their laigs into they twisted trousers."

St. John has adopted the daylight saving scheme. On the last Sunday in April the clocks are to be turned ahead on hour each day until the last Sunday in September.

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Kentville Time Table effective 1915. (Service daily except Sunday) LEAVE Express for Halifax... Express for Yarmouth... Accom for Halifax... Accom for Annapolis... Accom for Kingsport... Accom for Kingsport... Accom for Kingsport... ARRIVE Express from Halifax... Express from Yarmouth... Express from Halifax... Accom from Annapolis... Accom from Kingsport... Accom from Kingsport... Accom. fm Kingsport, Sat. on

Midland Division

Trains of the Midland Division Windsor daily (except Sunday) at 7:05 a.m., 3:10 p.m. and from Truro for Windsor at 1:30 p.m. and 12:50 p.m. Truro with trains of the Railway and at Windsor. Buffet parlor cars run daily (day) on Mail Express trains Halifax and Yarmouth.

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