

NEW AUDIT ACT FOR PROVINCE

Hon. Mr. Foster Introduces It
In Legislature

MANY IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Dickson Introduces Power
Company's Bill—Budget to Be
Brought Down on Next Friday

Assembly Chamber, April 3.—The
house met at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Burchill presented the report of
the committee on standing rules.

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Deficit Due To The Handling of Funds By Former Government

Fredericton, April 3.—There was considerable amusement in government
circles today over the comment of the opposition press on the report of the audit-
general and the public accounts.

"Money of the people frittered away for a most imperfect return, extraordi-
narily large deficit, expenditure increased apparently without justification and
without results in any way commensurate with the expenditures"—these are
some of the comments, and the government members hardly justify these com-
ments. The reason is simple, the expenditures which justify these comments
were made by the late government which now constitutes the opposition.

The fiscal year for which the accounts
were submitted dates from Oct. 31, 1916,
to the end of October, 1917. It was quite
late in 1917 when the present govern-
ment took office and it was on June 28
when the house prorogued, after the first
session of the new legislature. The in-
coming administration had contract for
only the later part of the fiscal year. The
expenditures made were largely con-
trolled by arrangements entered into
by their predecessors.

That there is a deficit is due to the
reckless handling of the public funds by
the old government, and it is a burden
from the former administration for which
the present government is in no way re-
sponsible.

That the Foster government had nothing
to conceal is shown by the frank and
complete manner in which the financial
condition of the province is laid before
the people. For the first time in the
history of the province the government
includes in the annual report a full state-
ment of the current liabilities of the pro-
vince at the close of the year.

Some of the Reasons.
An examination of the list of expendi-
tures shows some of the reasons for the
financial state of the province. Last
year's accounts include, for instance, or-
dinary expenditure of \$178,641 charge-
able to the previous year, bills which the
former government had left unpaid when
they closed the books in 1916. Of this
amount \$97,538 was incurred by the

public works department. The old gov-
ernment did not pay even ordinary inter-
est charges, and \$88,551 is carried over
on this account. Then there are such
items as Jordan Memorial Sanatorium,
\$5,881; agriculture, \$5,886; and even fish,
forest and game had unpaid bills of \$4,
800. The accounts, which really show
how little money the present govern-
ment had to spend, are those relating to
permanent works, etc. Among the ex-
penditures incurred prior to Oct. 31, 1916,
which are included in this year's ac-
counts are such large sums as permanent
bridges, \$488,079; permanent roads, \$884,
069; special roads improvements, \$82,
787; Jordan Sanatorium dam, \$6,500.

Traveling Expenses.
Mention has been made of traveling ex-
penses. A single instance shows how
they compare. Hon. Mr. Veniot last year
incurred \$1,206 on this account, but it
included travel over 7,000 miles of road
on inspection trips to every part of the
province. His predecessor, Hon. B. F.
Smith, managed to charge up \$88 for
the winter months of the same year,
when practically no road work was in
progress.

In practically every account burden of
expense and particularly the expendi-
tures for which inadequate returns can
be shown, is found chargeable to the
previous administration. In charging that
the accounts are extravagant and
waste of public money, the members of
the opposition and their press are accus-
ing themselves.

Does Not Know What He is
Going to do to Policemen Who
Took Him In

Police Commissioner William Moore
of South Norwalk, Conn., and six of his
men were arrested early in the morning
in the offices in the Keeler building,
where in private life the commissioner
holds forth as an occultist.

The four policemen who made the ar-
rests charged the six with gambling and
their commissioner with running a gam-
bling place.

"But we were only playing rummy,"
Commissioner Moore said to the corre-
spondent of the World of New York.
"There was no money on the table. We
were only playing for the fun of it, and
I hope that none of the newspapers with
the story of it gets to Brooklyn, where
my wife is visiting friends."

"What are you going to do with the
policemen who arrested you?" was asked.
"If you are innocent, as you say,
are you going to do anything about it?"

Hon. Mr. Robinson said he wished to
take the whole responsibility for the
amendment to divide Westmorland county
for registry purposes and was glad
to take that responsibility. He had
heard from all over the county a number
of justice to Moncton city. If the mem-
bers of the house were opposed he would
go to their will. With all deference to
the division of the county he believed that
the people of Moncton were the best judges
of their own convenience.

The weight of opinion in the house ap-
peared to be against the amendment, and
he would withdraw it. They were most
people in Moncton and did not want
any expense to get their rights. Per-
haps if the amendment was carried
period in St. John they might learn how
to get them.

Mr. Baxter said the bill had been in-
troduced as a government measure and
the amendment had been introduced by
the honorable attorney-general. Yet the
division of the county was a government
measure. Perhaps some system of color-
ing could be devised to indicate which
really were government measures.

Hon. Mr. Byrne said he believed he
had been perfectly justified in introducing
the amendment requested by the
honorable member from Moncton. The
opinion of the members of the house
was desired. The honorable member
from Moncton was looking after his
constituents' interests and for that rea-
son he had taken the action he had.

Mr. Baxter said the explanation of
the honorable attorney-general was can-
nibalism for something else which had
been really intended by the amendment.
Hon. Mr. Robinson said he really must
apologize on behalf of the city of Moncton
for taking up so much of the val-
uable time of the house.

Mr. Potts said that there evidently
was no government taking charge of the
affairs of the province. Here was a bill
introduced as a government measure
which was later said not to be a govern-
ment bill. The attorney-general had in-
troduced the bill and he should have
borne enough to carry it through. If it
were desirable to remove the court house
to Moncton it should be done. Person-
ally he did not believe in the amendment,
but he believed it was necessary to
get it out into the back country to record
deeds.

Mr. Magee said he considered the
amendment to be a private measure
and not a government one. He was
opposed to it. So far as criticism of a
government measure by the government
supporters was concerned it was well
that such criticism should be made. It
was no indication of want of confidence
in the government.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—They are not used
to that sort of thing on the other side.
Hon. Mr. Robinson said that on be-
half of the city of Moncton he wished
to thank the last honorable member of
the opposition who had spoken, for the
kind things he had said about Moncton.
The amendment was withdrawn and
the bill reported as agreed to.

The house went into committee with
Mr. Leger (Westmorland) in the chair
on consideration of a bill to grant relief
to destitute people of Halifax.

Mr. Tilley asked what the total
amount voted Halifax relief was, and
if it already had been paid.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that a payment
of \$10,000 had been made and that the
honorable member if he read the bill
could see that it authorized an additional
payment of \$18,000 if required.

The house took up consideration of
a bill to amend the act to provide funds
for the building of permanent highways
and also of a bill relating to the estab-
lishment of electoral districts and sub-
districts.

Mr. Murray (Kings) asked what
change would be brought about by the
bill.

Hon. Mr. Smith said the bill concerned
the parish of Shediac and would provide
for five polls instead of three, making
the polling the same as for municipal
elections. The parish was large and
additional polls were to be provided as
a matter of convenience for the electors.
The three bills were reported as agreed
to.

The house adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

FIT-REFORM



The Approach of Spring

turns men's thoughts to a change of apparel.
Wearers of good clothes line up and wend
their way to where Fit-Reform can be obtained.

WHY? Because they desire the best
possible in Tailor-made clothes.

Fit-Reform Clothes are peerless—and the best
proof is your comparison. Let us demonstrate
to you the essential points.

Fit-Reform

DONALDSON HUNT

17-19 CHARLOTTE STREET

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ARRESTED

Does Not Know What He is Going to do to Policemen Who Took Him In

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of South Norwalk, Conn., and six of his
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25,000 BOYS FOR THE

Soldiers Of the Soil

An army of twenty-five thousand boys from 15 to 19 years, inclusive,
working on Canada's farms this summer can produce enough
food to feed several hundred thousand fighting soldiers at the
front.

Because soldiers must eat to fight, producing food for them means
just about the same thing as fighting itself.

Last year eight thousand boys went on the farms of Ontario and this
year most of them want to go back again.

—And most of the farmers they served with want them back again.

Why?

Because those lads went at farm work patriotically, the same as the
soldiers fight patriotically in the trenches—they took the work seri-
ously because they realized it was for a serious purpose.

And to-day the production of food looms more seriously, impera-
tively urgent than ever before.


**Starvation faces millions of people among our
Allies, and the cry reaches Canada for food,
more food and yet more food.**

This is where Canadian Boys can do, if not a grown man's part, a
very manly part, for his country.

Full information, enrollment blanks, etc., from High
School Teachers, Y. M. C. A. Secretaries, Scout Masters
and others who take an interest in boys and their welfare.

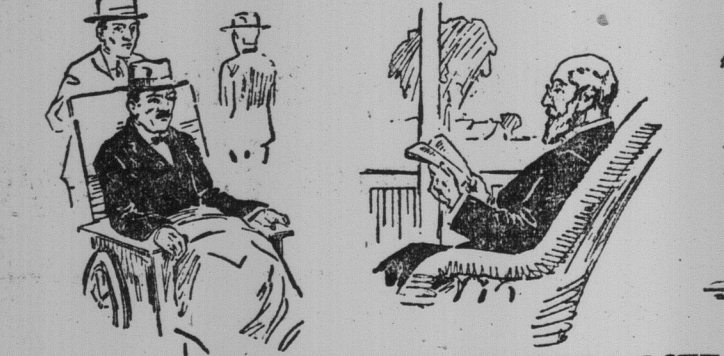
Enrollment week begins April 8 and ends April 13.

Boys who serve three months on farms will be pre-
sented by the Dominion Government with Bronze Badges
of Honour which correspond to the Military Service
Medals of the soldiers.



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EVERY CONTINGENCY PROVIDED FOR



THE MANUFACTURERS LIFE WAY

Our guaranteed Life and Endowment Policies carry a Disability Privilege which is the last word in
complete protection. This privilege provides that in case of total and permanent disability not only
does the payment of subsequent premiums cease, but in addition, the Company will pay a monthly income
of Ten Dollars for each Thousand Dollars of insurance, and at maturity of the policy,
the full amount will be payable without any deduction whatsoever. This multiple pro-
tection provides for every contingency. Write for full particulars to-day.

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