

UNAUTHORIZED LOANS TO RAILWAYS.

THE annual report of the Auditor General of Canada, tabled in the House of Commons on February 9, throws a certain amount of light upon illegal issue of notes which the Government monthly statements indicated. The report shows that the Auditor General has protested against an advance, without lawful authority, of ten million dollars to the Canadian Northern Railway Company and a similar advance of six million dollars to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Both advances are spoken of as loans, and in the case of the Canadian Northern the loan is secured by a pledge of securities forming part of the \$45,000,000 of debentures guaranteed by the Government at the last session. The first advance to the Canadian Northern amounted to \$2,500,000 and an order-in-council authorizing it was passed on September 9. According to the report of the Auditor General, further orders-in-council were issued bringing the total to \$10,000,000. Some similar action was taken in the case of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The advances to the railway companies were made from an issue of Dominion notes placed to the credit of the Minister of Finance in two chartered banks, and the Auditor General finds fault with the fact that they were not placed to the credit of the consolidated revenue fund, as required by the Dominion Act. Therefore, in a letter to the Finance Department on September 22 last, he said:

"In my opinion the Government has no legal authority for making these loans, and therefore I cannot sign the certificate."

As already intimated by the Minister of Finance, these advances to the railway companies, which at the time the Auditor General's report was written amounted to \$16,000,000, will have to be legalized by special legislation at this session.

Militia Minister's 1913 Trip.

The report also draws attention to the fact that the Auditor-General objected to the payment of \$24,620 in connection with the trip of the Minister of Militia with Canadian officers to the military manoeuvres in England in 1913. The Department of Militia wanted this amount charged up to annual drill, but the Auditor-General objected that it was not a proper charge against that appropriation. The Treasury Board sustained his objection, and the amount now appears in the balance-sheet of the public accounts as a liability against the Department of Militia and Defence.

DIARY OF THE MONTH.

1915.
January.

- 1 HON. G. H. FERGUSON, Minister of Mines, (Grenville) and HON. THOS. MCGARRY, Provincial Treasurer (South Renfrew), new members of Ontario Provincial Cabinet, ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.
- 7 S. FRANK SMITH, (Gov.), elected over R. L. Simms in PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION in CARLETON COUNTY, New Brunswick, caused by resignation of former Premier Flemming.
- 7 HANTS COUNTY, (N.S.) CONSERVATIVES in annual meeting, endorse present member, H. B. TREMAIN, M.P.
- 9 HON. GEO. A. CLARE, M.P. (South Waterloo) died at Galt, Ont.
- 11 NORTH GREY (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES in annual meeting at Owen Sound.
- 11 GLENGARRY (Ont.) LIBERALS in convention at Cornwall, nominate JOHN McMARTIN of Cornwall.
- 12 WEST EDMONTON (Alta.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at Edmonton, nominate COL. W. A. GRIESBACH.
- 12 NORTH ONTARIO (Ont.) LIBERALS in convention at Beaverton, nominate FRED HOGG of Uxbridge.
- 13 LETHBRIDGE (Alta.) LIBERALS in convention at Lethbridge nominate the sitting member, W. A. BUCHANAN, M.P.
- 14 MacLEOD (Alta.) LIBERALS in convention at MacLeod, nominate the sitting member, DR. D. E. WARNOCK.
- 14 SALT COATS (Sask.) CONSERVATIVES, in convention at Melville, nominate RUFUS McNICHOL.
- 15 PRINCE ALBERT (Sask.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at Prince Albert, nominate S. J. DONALDSON, M.L.A., for Shellbrook, for BY-ELECTION caused by elevation of James McKay to Supreme Court bench.
- 15 NORTH WELLINGTON (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at Arthur, nominate sitting member, W. A. CLARKE, M.P.
- 15 VICTORIA (B.C.) LIBERALS in ANNUAL MEETING, election of officers, etc.
- 15 LONDON (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at London, nominate WILLIAM GRAY for BY-ELECTION caused by death of Major Thomas Beattie, M.P.
- 16 TORONTO CENTRAL CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION in annual meeting.
- 19 INVERNESS (N.S.) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting at Port Hood.
- 19 HUNTINGDON COUNTY (Que.) LIBERAL ASSOCIATION, annual meeting at Huntingdon.
- 20 MEDICINE HAT (Alta.) LIBERALS in convention at Medicine Hat, nominate DR. OLIVER BOYD.
- 20 LIBERAL MEETING at WATERFORD (N.S.) addressed by G. W. KYTE, M.P. (Richmond), W. F. CARROLL, M.P. (Cape Breton South), and D. D. MCKENZIE, M.P., (Cape Breton North).
- 20 JACQUES CARTIER (Que.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at Montreal nominate J. A. DESCARRIES, K.C. for BY-ELECTION caused by death of Hon. F. D. Monk.
- 21 TERREBONNE (Que.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at St. Jerome, nominate G. ROCHON for BY-ELECTION caused by appointment of Hon. Bruno Nantel to Railway Commission.
- 21 BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATURE opens at Victoria.
- 22 STRATHCONA (Alta.) LIBERALS in convention at Westaskiwin, nominate the sitting member, J. M. DOUGLAS, M.P.
- 22 DIGBY (N.S.) CONSERVATIVES in annual meeting, endorse CLARENCE JAMESON, M.P.
- 22 NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBERAL ASSOCIATION in annual meeting at Halifax, passed resolution APPROVING ACTION OF SIR WILFRID LAURIER in pledging support of Liberal party to war measures.
- 22 YARMOUTH COUNTY (N.S.) CONSERVATIVES in annual meeting at Yarmouth.
- 25 LUNENBURG (N.S.) LIBERALS in convention at Mahone Bay, nominate WILLIAM DUFF.
- 26 SASKATOON (Sask.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at Saskatoon, nominate DONALD MacLEAN.
- 26 DIGBY and ANNAPOLIS (N.S.) LIBERALS in convention at Annapolis Royal, nominate DR. L. J. LOVETT of Bear River to contest new Constituency.
- 26 QUEEN'S COUNTY (P.E.I.) CONSERVATIVES, in special meeting at Charlottetown, elected officers, etc. Deferred nomination of Federal candidate "until the number of members we are to have at Ottawa is settled."
- 27 SOUTH WATERLOO (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES in convention at Preston, nominate F. STEWART SCOTT for BY-ELECTION caused by death of Hon. G. A. Clare, M.P.
- 27 BATTLE RIVER (Alta.) CONSERVATIVES, in convention at Edmonton, nominate S. J. BLAIR of Provost. Major-General, Hon. Sam Hughes visited the convention.
- 28 BOW RIVER (Alta.) LIBERALS in convention at Calgary, nominate GEORGE LANE of Calgary.
- 28 PICTOU (N.S.) CONSERVATIVES, in convention at Westville, nominate ALEX. MCGREGOR of New Glasgow.
- 29 EDMONTON (Alta.) LIBERALS in convention at Edmonton, nominate the sitting member, HON. FRANK OLIVER.
- 30 CARLETON (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting at Stittsville.
- 30 WEST NORTHUMBERLAND (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting at Cobourg.
- 30 NORFOLK (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting at Simcoe.
- 31 PRINCE EDWARD (Ont.) CONSERVATIVES, annual meeting at Bloomfield.

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