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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH THE EVENING TIMES New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1912.

THE CLOUD IN THE WEST

Before a committee of the Senate the other day at Ottawa, Mr. E. J. Fream, secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta, an organization having 15,000 members, said that the West had lost \$20,000,000 this year through the defeat of reciprocity.

BLAKE'S WILL

There is a provision in the will left by Edward Blake that no tombstone shall be placed over his grave. The expression of such a wish by so thoughtful a man will stir others to thought upon the subject.

THE WEST INDIA CONFERENCE

There is now going on in Ottawa a conference between representatives of the British West Indies and the Dominion government relative to closer relations between the islands and Canada.

dad, and other places, and they come with power to negotiate a trade treaty of a permanent character. Upon their arrival in New York Lieutenant Colonel Houston, C. M. G., explained concisely the object of the present conference.

WAXING AND WANING POPULARITY

Some 'malefactor of great wealth' might well leave a legacy for the pious purpose of determining the causes of the American public towards its favorites. A politician finds himself today the idol of the crowds and tomorrow he goes forth as at other times to call upon his gods, but they have departed from him.

THE AVERAGE INCOME

One might think from a careless reading of certain American newspapers that most American citizens owned automobiles and had money to waste. A scientific writer of sound reputation gives this roseate picture a drab color by producing some instructive facts and figures.

THE OLD GUARD

Are we going to adopt the rule, 'Once an alderman, always an alderman'? Does a man who has been elected often to the Common Council 'get the habit' and become consumed by a desire to go on year after year?

NOTE AND COMMENT

A writer in 'Pearson's Magazine' estimates the number of unemployed in the United States at present at 5,500,000. High protection does not cure unemployment even in a country of vast extent and immense natural resources.

rule they would be much better off at home. THE OLD GUARD Are we going to adopt the rule, 'Once an alderman, always an alderman'?

DISCONCERTING

What is the Flemming government going to do with Mr. Bentley? He insists upon presenting the most awkward facts for the consideration of the public. There is not one of the more pretentious fallacies of the administration through which Mr. Bentley has not driven a coach and four this session.

BATTLES COST MORE THAN BATTLESHIPS

That battles cost more than battleships is the conclusion of the British sea lords and statesmen, so they quietly settle down to the rivalry which the ambition of other nations makes imperative. No one knows where it is going to end, but if the burden is not carried now, war indemnities later may greatly exceed the naval estimates.

ROTE AND COMMENT

The expected has happened in British Columbia where Premier McBride swept the province with a lavish programme of provincial aid to railways. The Liberals are weak in British Columbia at present, just as the Conservatives are weak in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and a victory for Hon. Mr. McBride was regarded as certain.

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SCATHING INDICTMENT OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

How They Have Spent an Enormous Revenue and Increased the Debt Largely Hon. C. W. Robinson, in His Valedictory to the Legislature, Takes His Facts and Figures from the Auditor General's Reports to Prove His Statement—New Brunswick's Liabilities Have Been Increased Over \$4,000,000 by the Present Regime, and Bonded Indebtedness by More Than a Million—Contrasts the Policies of the Administrations, and Shows the Liberals Inaugurated Many Measures of Lasting Benefit to the People.

Fredericton, March 29.—In speaking on budget debate tonight, Hon. C. W. Robinson said in part, according to the official report:

Mr. Robinson said that this would probably be his last opportunity to address the house on general subjects under the latitude accorded speakers in a budget debate. He did not intend to enter into a frezied discussion of subjects which had been brought up, because he did not intend to again seek a seat in this house.

Public Works Department.

Table with 2 columns: Department Name, Amount. Includes Expenditure due Oct. 31, 1911, and Expenditure due Oct. 31, 1910.

Contingent Liabilities.

Table with 2 columns: Liability Name, Amount. Includes International Railway guaranteed bonds, Cold storage guaranteed bids, and Town of Campbellton.

Authorized By Law.

Table with 2 columns: Liability Name, Amount. Includes International Ry. Balance of subd., St. John Railway, and St. John Valley Railway.

Amount in 1908, per Hon. Mr. Fleming.

Table with 2 columns: Liability Name, Amount. Includes Increase, International Ry. Balance of subd., and St. John Railway.

St. John Valley Railway, 207 miles. Estimated balance required to construct bridges as provided by VII. Ed. 7, Cap. 18. Total \$10,233,192.32.

It was only right that these figures should be given to show how the province stood, and as comparison with the status of the finances of today when the total liabilities were shown as \$14,657,104.35 as follows:

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There was evidence to show that the lumber industry was not most satisfactory. The old government had its faults, as all administrations had, it must be admitted that they had managed the affairs of the province with a fair degree of economy and sagacity.

It had been claimed that the cut for the first year under the present government was more than the year previous. Assuming that these statements were true, the time would arrive that the revenue would be less than the year previous.

The extension of territorial boundaries of the province of Manitoba by the Dominion government had meant the granting to that province the hinterland of the north, which was the property of all the provinces under the provisions of the act of 1870.

At first glance this seems to be a scheme worthy of consideration here. It would not be difficult to find in St. John several blocks which might well be subjected to the treatment outlined.

Mr. Bentley points out that the Flemming regime has piled debt upon New Brunswick at a really alarming rate, without having produced any corresponding improvement in the public services. He is the proof of this? In 1883 when Hon. Mr. Blair took office the net debt of the province was about \$1,000,000.

When they are confronted with facts like these the Flemming coteries attempt to dodge the issue by claiming that their expenditures have been unavoidable because of the policies of their predecessors.

Mr. Bentley was no less effective when he took up the matter of territorial revenue. When first the present government disclosed an increase in its stumpage returns, it asserted that there had been no increase in the cut, but that it had merely collected the revenue more honestly than the old government.

Not only had the old government been blamed for the great increase in bonded indebtedness, but the honorable gentleman opposite now sought to lay the blame for the over-expenditure of \$6,000,000 against them. It would be only fair to make a statement as to the debt as it stood at the present time and he would take as a guide the statement given in 1908 by the present premier in his budget speech, when he had placed the total bonded debt of the province at \$10,233,192.32, as follows:

Liabilities, October 31, 1908, as per auditor's report.

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