

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1910.

Subscription—\$1.00 a year. To the United States \$1.50. Published every Wednesday at 81 Queen Street, Charlottetown, P. E. Island. James McIsaac, Editor & Proprietor.

We must ask those subscribers, who are still in arrears, to be so kind as to remit with as little delay as possible. We need the money to pay our bills, and a ready response to this request would be esteemed a very great favor.

Provincial Finances.

The report of the Provincial Auditor on the public accounts of this Island, for the fiscal year ended on the 30th, Sept, last was tabled in the Legislature, on Friday last. This report shows that notwithstanding increases of subsidy; roseate predictions of the Government and their supporters, and the boasting of the Government organ, there is a very considerable gap between the revenue and expenditure of the last financial year. The public accounts for 1909 show that the promises made to the electors of this Province nineteen years ago, that revenue and expenditure should meet; that the era of deficits should cease, and that the day of taxation was far off, still remain unfulfilled. Not only have the promises not been made good; but they have, for every one of these nineteen years, been most flagrantly violated. As a result of this broken faith, these violated pledges and unrealized promises, our Province is now saddled with a huge mountain of debt and throttled with an annual interest burden sufficient to sap the foundations of financial stability. For nineteen years our Liberal friends, in control of the Provincial Government, have gone on piling up an annual deficit, ranging all the way from \$12,000 to \$100,000, until the accumulation has reached the vicinity of the million dollar mark. While all this has been going on, the Government have been industriously extracting all kinds of taxes from the pockets of the people. This is how our Liberal friends have fulfilled the promises and realized the pledges given to the electors nineteen years ago. What do the people think of them?

The Auditor's Statement shows that the total revenue for the year amounted to \$375,374.45, while the total expenditure reached \$392,865.01. According to these figures, the excess of expenditure over revenue, or the deficit for the year was \$17,490.56. This deficit is not as large as the most of the annual shortages of the Government for the last nineteen years; but it is altogether too large for a Government and a party who gained power on the cry of economy and the shibboleth that deficits should cease and that revenue and expenditure should meet. Added to the huge preceding deficits accumulated by the present Government it constitutes a distinct contribution to the million dollar debt.

According to the Auditor's showing, the debt of the Province on the 30th of September was \$863,206.45. Of course the actual debt of the Province is very much more; but for the present we will deal with the figures presented in the Government's own statement. This statement of the debt shows it to be \$736,000 more than it was when the Liberals came into power in 1891, on the false cry of economy and a desire to make ends meet. The debt of the Province at that time was \$127,000, and the Lib-

erals went up and down the Province inveighing against this debt; and holding up their hands in holy horror at the sorry plight to which our finances were reduced. Let them only have power and all this would be changed; revenue and expenditure would meet and deficits would cease. On this specious cry they clambered into office, and now, at the end of nineteen years the sworn statement of their own Auditor shows that the debt is \$863,206.45. Are such a Government or such a party worthy of public confidence?

The auditor's statement makes up the Provincial debt in this way. Debenture debt, less sinking funds, \$745,411.71; temporary loans \$75,814.18; due to Banks \$41,980.56. These three items make up the \$863,206.45. The amounts due on temporary loans and to the banks, are much less than last year, and other previous years; but the debenture debt is vastly increased. This is in consequence of the funding of \$500,000 of the debt by an issue of debentures last year. For the \$500,000 of debentures, sold, the Government received \$498,250.00. That is to say, the Government paid to the purchasers of these debentures the sum of \$1,750 as a brokerage for consummating the bargain, and agreed to pay the purchasers 4 per cent interest on the face value of the debentures, for the thirty years they are to run. For every thousand dollars of debentures sold, the Government received \$996.50; but for this amount received will pay the interest on one thousand dollars. Is that the best bargain that could be made in the sale of our debentures?

The amount paid in interest on the Provincial debt last year is shown in the report to have been \$34,155.63. This is somewhat less than the interest charge for the year 1908. This is accounted for by transferring \$500,000 from the bank and temporary loans accounts to the debenture account, which is an investment of a more permanent nature, secured at a slightly reduced rate. But it is \$31,458.19 more than was paid by the Conservatives during the last year for which they were responsible for the financial management of our Province. The amount of interest paid by them during that year was only \$2,697.44.

Other phases of the financial statement in the public accounts will receive attention later. In the mean time let the electors of this Province bear in mind that those holding the reins of power in this Province at the present time clambered into office by falsehood and deception. They inveighed against a debt of \$127,000, and in stead of reducing it have added over \$736,000 to it. They feigned to regard an annual interest charge of 2,697.44 as ruinous; but instead of reducing that amount have increased it by \$31,458.19. Should they not appropriately be called the party of debt, deficits and deception?

SSIONAL NOTES.

The Legislative proceedings, so far this session, appear to afford evidence that the Government are more desirous than at previous sessions, to expedite public business. It is to be hoped these improved conditions will continue.

The House met at 3 o'clock sharp on Wednesday, assisted at prayers, read the Journal and heard the reading of the draft address in answer to the Lieut. Governor's speech and then adjourned. The whole performance occupied about twenty min-

utes. Certainly the reading of the draft address did not require any extraordinary exertion. It consisted of one brief paragraph formally thanking his Honor for the speech, and assuring him that the matters therein referred to would receive attention.

The House again met on Friday afternoon. After routine proceedings Mr Crosby rose to move the adoption of the address in reply. He occupied the best part of an hour in his remarks which covered most of the subjects referred to in the speech. The seconder of the address was Mr Cox. He spoke for about ten minutes.

Mr Mathieson Leader of the Opposition, followed. After the usual congratulation to the mover and seconder of the address, he dealt in an able manner with the public questions affecting our Province. He said that he had not been furnished with a copy of the address; but he did not think that made very much difference, as it seemed to be so insignificant that perhaps it would serve its purpose just as well if relegated to complete oblivion. The Leader of the Government, at this stage procured a copy of the address and sent it to the Leader of the Opposition. Mr Mathieson held up the diminutive document and remarked that it must have been produced under circumstances similar to those surrounding the cultivation of celery. No sun light or air was admitted, so that the product might be colorless. This certainly was an insignificant colorless document.

The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that the Speech at the opening was very much more remarkable for what it omitted than for what it contained. Mr Mathieson wanted to know how it was there was no mention in the speech of anything having been done by the Government in connection with our claims against the Dominion Government. He enumerated the most important of these claims and showed that, session after session, the Government had been reminded of these matters. The Government had last session appointed a committee to formulate and press these claims. He would like to know what the Premier had to say in this connection. Referring to the market prices for our agricultural products, he pointed out that the return of preferential trade relations with Great Britain, abrogated some 65 years, would greatly benefit our farmers. There were signs of a return of these conditions. As to the matter of immigration, he noticed the Government had gone to St. John N. B. for an agent to send to the old country. The agent was a clergyman; no doubt, chosen so as not to deplete the ranks of the farmers. The former immigration agent to Great Britain, was said to have sent out one immigrant; but no trace of him could ever be found here. He had not heard of any results yet achieved by the new agent. Cold storage, he said was a matter of much importance requiring careful consideration and attention.

Taking up the question of the Experimental farm station recently established, Mr Mathieson pointed out that the present Government's management of the stock farm had been as bad almost as could be. They had allowed it to go on deteriorating, year after year, till at last conditions became so wretched that operations had to cease and the farm had been handed over to the Lunatic Asylum. That was a scandalous condition of affairs; but nothing better could be expected to result from the Government's manner of conducting the Stock farm. If the management of the Experimental farm will be no better, very little benefit will accrue to the farmers of this Province. Referring to the insinuations sometimes given on matters agricultural Mr Mathieson showed that what we wanted most was instruction on the best method of dealing with poor soil. Anyone could raise a good crop from soil

in a high state of cultivation. He hoped the Experimental farm station would be the means of helping our agriculturists along these lines. After referring to a great amount of foolishness indulged in by the Government and their organ about our agricultural affairs, the Leader of the Opposition took up the paragraph in the speech referring to the school commission. He pointed out that the present Government had done much to deteriorate the Coles and Whelan free schools, throughout this Province. It is five years, he pointed out, since the Opposition had called attention to and asked for a remedy for the people in connection with the price of school books. Yet, up to the present, nothing was done. He called attention, for example to the Geography, inferior in almost every respect, for which we are paying 80 cents, while the Government of New Brunswick have reduced the price on the same book to 55 cents. It was high time this monopoly was ended.

In his reply to the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier was obliged to confess that no progress had been made in the matter of our claims against Canada. From what the Federal Government had told them, little hope could be held out for any tangible results in the near future. To advance the matter of cold storage, the Government had been asked to guarantee the bonds, to the extent of twenty-five thousand dollars, of the firm of Davis & Fraser. This matter would come before the House in due time.

The address was submitted to committee of the whole House and reported back agreed to, in about five minutes.

On Friday the House met at 11 o'clock. The members waited on the Lieutenant Governor presented the address got his reply and returned to the chamber. After the introduction of a few bills the House adjourned till Tuesday.

Dominion Parliament.

The past utterances of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in favor of complete independence of Canada, and her divorce from the British crown have been brought forcibly to the attention of the House and country during the debate on the naval bill which is now proceeding. Both Mr. Roche of Marquette and Mr. Foster in their Speeches have given the premier something to ponder over. The old saying that chickens come home to roost was never better exemplified. The record of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is studded with utterances in favor of cutting loose from Britain and though he and his followers would like to be allowed to forget these dark blots in his history they will not be erased. In view of the past performances of Sir Wilfrid small wonder is that Canada is now asked to spend millions on the creation of a small naval force which it is plainly intended shall never leave Canadian waters at the call of Empire. In 1888 Sir Wilfrid, then just plain Mr. Laurier made use of the following remarkable language—"The time is coming when the present relations between Canada and Great Britain must either become closer or severed altogether." Again at the Club National in Montreal in 1890 he made another sterling profession of faith. It was as follows: "I do not mean to say that we should remain always a colony; on the contrary the day is coming when this country will have to take its place among the nations of the earth. But I do not want to see my country's independence attained through the hostility of one race to another." Another astonishing utterance was this, "I do not want my country's independence to be reached through the normal and regular process of all the elements of its population towards the realization of a common aspiration." Then two years later the present premier whom his followers laud as the greatest figure in Canada's history and at whose shrine they bow down and worship, used the following ultra disloyal language. I hold out to my fellow countrymen the idea of independence. But whenever the day comes it must come by the consent of both countries, and we shall continue to keep the good will of the motherland. If we are true to our record we will again exhibit to the world the unique and unprecedented example of a nation achieving its independence by slow degrees and as naturally as the severing of the ripe fruit from the parent tree. I have again and again repeated

that the goal of my aspiration is the independence of Canada; to see Canada as an independent nation in due course of time.

Always the parrot cry of independence, and these past utterances of Sir Wilfrid Laurier have never been denied neither have they been retracted. This is the doctrine he has preached up and down the country, and it is small wonder that the opposition in parliament sees in the petty naval programme of the Laurier government a shirking of imperial responsibility, and a spirit of do as little as possible for ourselves and the motherland. As Dr Roche bluntly put it in the course of his excellent speech, he could quite understand why the creation of an independent Canadian navy would be welcomed by those who look forward to an independent Canada as the future national destiny, but he denied that there was any large sentiment throughout the country in favor of Canadian independence.

There is no gainsaying the fact that Canada is to day enjoying as large an amount of autonomy as is consistent with her remaining an integral part of the Empire, and the consensus of opinion and desire is that the overseas dominions and the motherland will be drawn together even more closely in fact, as well as in name under one sovereignty, one flag, one navy, each component part of the empire having a reasonable voice at least in matters pertaining to the defence of the Empire.

When the naval question was up a year ago and Mr Foster's resolution was before the House the voice of Mr Warburton, Queens P E I was heard. Mr Warburton was not in favor of the resolution, and he instanced what Canada was doing in the way of national defence. He took the ground that when we were developing our own resources, we were doing all we should be called upon to do for Imperial defence. The case of Mr Warburton is given as it provides a concrete example of what might be termed the true spirit of "little Canadianism." He said: "We are providing homes for the people of England, and relieving the congestion in that country." It might be pointed out to Mr Warburton and his followers in the ranks of little Canadians that we are allowing the Dukhobors, Galicians and Poles to come into Canada on the same terms as the Englishman. Each gets his 160 acres of land free, and while we are relieving these foreign countries of their congested population quite as much as that of England, we are contributing, according to Mr Warburton's theory, to the defence of Russia, Austria and Poland. If Mr Warburton's statement really means anything, and so few of his statements do, that is the logical conclusion to be drawn therefrom.

For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain this government is certainly peculiar. Its juggling with the famous and ponderous piece of legislation known as the Insurance bill stamps it as a thoroughly unbusiness-like aggregation of political lightweights. All last session the Banking Committee of the Commons was invaded by a host of representatives of all interests, the insurers and the insured. The bill finally passed the House in the dying days of the session. It was too late however for the measure to reach the Senate, and it is now before the Banking Committee of that body where exactly the same representations are being made for and against it as were made last year in the lower committee. When finally it does reach the House of Commons again at the present rate of progress it will be too late to do anything with it this session and the poor old bill will again go over to be resurrected next time, if in the interim it has not died a natural death. Now it transpires that it is very doubtful if the legislation is constitutional, and one judge in Montreal, in a recently delivered judgment, has subscribed to this view. For two years this government has been trifling with insurance legislation. It has set the whole business interest of the country on edge with what at first appeared to be dangerous interference with the civil rights of citizens. Now the whole thing is likely to result in mere waste of time and breath because in the first place the government did not decide to seek advice from its own justice department as to whether its proposed legislation would bear the keen scrutiny of constitutionalism. Now Mr Aylesworth has decided after all this time to call a conference of provincial attorneys general, to decide at this eleventh hour this primary question, and

the general law of incorporation as it affects provincial and federal authorities. It is not under the circumstances a pleasant thought that the destinies of Canada are at this time in the hands of men who have proved themselves incapable in every sense of the word. It is to laugh. Canada has blundered through many a stormy sea more through good fortune than by the statesmanship of her men at the tiller.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday Dr. Roche commented upon the unanimity with which the Liberals had closed their ranks. It was absolute knowledge that great divergence of opinion existed among them but all had been suppressed. Talk about cement having cohesive and adhesive qualities, it was not in it with the spoils of office. Mr MacDonald had assuredly won his reward. Turning to the question of rendering aid to the mother country, he dwelt upon the fact that the country's present duty is to render immediate assistance so that neither Germany nor any other country will dare to challenge Britain's position on the high seas. Indeed immediate and effective aid by Canada might have the effect of calling a halt in German preparations by convincing that power that their efforts were in vain.

Continuing, Dr. Roche dealt with the reality of the German menace and the present emergency, pointing out how the facts point to the existence of a steadfast purpose on the part of German people and government to build up a navy large enough ultimately to wrest the command of the seas from Britain. Only those wilfully blind could deny that. Dr. Roche also laid stress upon the fact that Britain is Canada's sole overseas market. Dealing with the need for co-operation, he declared that before long all the Dominions and the mother country will be drawn together and confederated for many purposes all the parts having equal voices.

Dr. Roche went on to deal with the attacks made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other speakers on the Liberal side, reading once more several of the premier's disloyal utterances of the early nineties. Coming to a more recent date he created a great deal of fun by reading a number of extracts from speeches delivered last year. Senator Donville, Mr. Emmerson, Mr. Warburton, Mr. Roy (Duchester), Mr. Turcotte (Nicolas), and Mr. Congdon, all had expressed themselves in public as being abjectly opposed to a Canadian navy. Mr. Roy had said that under no circumstances should Canada assist the British navy.

He was not in favor, Dr. Roche said, of a Canadian navy which was in competition with the British navy. It was true that Australia was to receive a contribution from Britain, but Australia was supplying an effective fleet unit. If Canada had proposed to construct an adequate naval force no doubt Britain would have been glad to follow the same course as she had with Australia. The Canadian fleet would have no value in war time for ten or fifteen years, yet it would mean a heavy initial cost and a heavy annual cost for maintenance. The public should be allowed to pronounce upon this project and therefore he was in favor of that clause in Mr. Borden's amendment which called for an appeal to the people. He also was in favor of an emergency contribution of two Dreadnoughts and in voting for it felt that he represented the feeling of his constituents.

Dr. Roche also took occasion to correct Mr. MacDonald's singular statement as to German shipbuilding, pointing out that all the German warships on her effective list, some of them more than a third of a century old, were built in German yards while as for commercial shipping German built liners had won the blue ribbon of the Atlantic eight years ago.

Mr. Stanley of Wentworth who followed referred rather soon to the paragraph in the newspaper that Australia's ship was already in the water. Canada's first ship would take the water from a Canadian yard. The Courtney Bay affair developed further mystery. The facts as disclosed are substantially as follows: On 5th October, 1908 tenders were opened for dredging in Courtney bay and Beacon bar. The Maritime Dredging Co., put in a tender in which the work was divided, 50 cents a cubic yard for Beacon bar and 25 or 35 cents, according to the type of dredge used, for Courtney bay. The Dominion Dredging Co., put in a tender of a flat rate of 39 1/2 cents for the whole area. On moving it out the engineers decided that the 39 1/2 cents offer would mean an expenditure of \$1,258,495, and that the other would mean \$4,102,300, making a difference in favor of the Maritime Dredging Co. of \$158,000. On 15th February, 1909 an order-in-council was passed giving the contract to the Maritime Dredging Co., but reciting that it had offered to do the work at 39 1/2 cents, it went on to award the company the Beacon bar work at 39 1/2 cents, and to leave the Courtney bay portion in the position that the Government could direct the company to do it, but the company could not compel the Government to let it do the work. Mr. LaFleur, the chief engineer, of the department, knew of no offer by the Maritime Dredging Company to do the work at 39 1/2 cents. On 10th May, 1909, the contract was executed. The contract recited that tenders had been called for and that the Maritime Dredging Company had tendered at 39 1/2 cents, and it accordingly gives the contract to the company. Now there had been no second call for tenders and the Maritime Dredging Company's tender of 5th October, had given entirely different figures. But appended to the contract is another tender from the Maritime Dredging Company bearing date 10th May, 1909, i. e., the exact date of the contract, offering to do the work at the figure mentioned by the competitor, the Dominion Dredging Company. Again, included in the pile is a letter from the department dated 27th August, 1909, complaining that the tender was not affixed to the contract. It therefore appears that this second tender, which was not advertised for, which the chief engineer did not know about, which bears the same date as the contract itself, was not affixed to the contract as late as August. This was the document whose sudden appearance caused the suspension of sympathy between Mr. Blair and Mr. Carvell.

On Friday Mr. Carvell achieved the feat of the public accounts committee, of twice withdrawing offensive expressions on each side.

(Continued on third page.)

You can distinguish MacLellan-Made

Clothes from other makes, no matter where you see them. At a distance they are distinguished by their distinctive cut and stylish appearance — and at close range the contrast is made more apparent by the faultless workmanship and good material embodied in their make-up. Let us make your next suit.

MacLellan Bros. THE EXPERT TAILORS.

Lime.

We are now supplying best quality of Lime at kilns on St. Peter's Road, suitable for building and farming purposes, in barrels or bulk by car load.

C. Lyons & Co. April 28-41

Morson & Duffy

Barristers & Attorneys. Brown's Block, Charlottetown, P. E. I. MONEY TO LOAN. Solicitors for Royal Bank of Canada.

J. A. Mathieson, K. C., E. A. MacDonald & Jas. D. Stewart.

Mathieson, MacDonald & Stewart,

Newson's Block, Charlottetown. Barristers, Solicitors, etc. P. O. Building, Georgetown.

Fraser & McQuaid,

Barristers & Attorneys-at-Law, Solicitors, Notaries Public, etc.

Souris, P. E. Island. A. L. Fraser, M. P. | A. P. McQuaid, B. A. Nov. 10, 1900-2m.

D. C. McLeod, K. C. | W. E. Bentley

McLEOD & BENTLEY

Barristers, Attorneys and Solicitors. MONEY TO LOAN. Offices—Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers.

Snappy Styles

—OF— Solid Footwear

Ladies! Here is your chance, one week only. Box Calf Boots, neat, up-to-date. Cheap any time at \$2.25, now \$1.50, all sizes. These Boots arrived a few days ago a little late of course, but they are yours at the above price. See them anyway. A. E. McEACHEN, THE SHOE MAN.



Price \$2.50

Amherst Boots

Are the Farmer's friends. Made from Solid Leather throughout, counters, insoles and heels. They stand up and hard the strain of stad wear through all kinds of mud, slush and wet.

Men's Amherst Boots, \$1.60 to \$2.75. Women's " " 1.25 to 1.75. Boys' " " 1.50 to 2.00. Girls' " " 1.10 to 1.35. Children's " " 1.00.

Alley & o.

MARITIME EXPRESS

—VIA—

Intercolonial Railway

—IS—

THE TRAIN BETWEEN

Halifax —AND— Montreal.

Meal Table d'hotel Breakfast 75c. Luncheon 75c. Dinner \$1.00. Direct connection at Bonaventure Union Depot with Grand Trunk trains for the West.

A. A. McLean, K. C. & Donald McKinnon

McLean & McKinnon

Barristers, Attorneys-at-Law. Charlottetown, P. E. Island.