

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1912.

## PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES.

The newspapers supporting the Opposition in the local House are endeavoring to make it appear that Mr. Fleming has committed an unpardonable offence in making necessary repairs to a large number of bridges in every section of the Province that were in a dangerous condition. It has already been explained that when the old Government went out of power in 1908 they not only left the treasury of the Public Works Department empty, as almost every dollar of the appropriation for 1908 was exhausted in the payment of accounts for work done the previous year, but they also left hundreds of bridges much out of repair. The worst of these bridges were attended to during the summer of 1908, and in the two years succeeding many more were rendered safe, but in 1911 the condition of some of the most important bridges in the Province was such that they had to be repaired or serious results would follow.

Two courses were open to the Government. One was to borrow the money as a special loan and the other was to overdraw the account, and either enlarge the grant for the ensuing year or curtail the expenditure. Both of these can readily be done, as so much money has been expended on the repairs of bridges and wharves since the present Government assumed office that it will not be necessary to continue expenditures on such a lavish scale as during the past three years. Still it must be borne in mind that the expenditure for this purpose will always be a large one, as the bridges, great and small in this Province, number thousands.

An examination of the expenditures of the Public Works Department for the past two years will prove to anyone that Mr. Fleming might very easily have avoided the so-called deficit had he allowed the bridges to remain out of repair as the former Administration had done. The total expenditures of the Public Works Department for the past two years are as follows:

	1910	1911
Legislative buildings and offices	\$15,769.29	\$16,496.32
Normal School building	4,098.20	3,967.06
Provincial Hospital building	9,544.55	3,244.64
Steam Navigation	10,605.49	17,219.73
Wharves	23,178.50	24,372.53
Roads	97,662.32	103,119.90
Bridges (ordinary)	102,524.35	236,128.95
Mace's Bay Sea Wall, etc.		5,809.81
Miscellaneous	4,503.26	5,402.54
Total	\$328,443.26	\$415,761.49

The above figures show that the Government spent \$57,818.23 more in 1911 than in 1910, of which \$73,604.60 was for bridges and \$5,467.58 was for roads, and a special expenditure of \$5,402.54 for sea walls which the old Government would certainly have charged to capital account. As already stated it would have been very easy for Mr. Fleming to have avoided a deficit and at the same time created a surplus of \$28,000 by following the precedent of his predecessors in office.

If anyone doubts that such methods were pursued let him carefully examine the reports of the Auditor General of 1906 and 1907 and the Public Works Report of the same year. On pages 74, 75 and 76 of the Public Works Report for 1906 the total expenditures are given in a tabulated statement as \$219,578.26 and the receipts as \$197,484.43. The balance against the department at the beginning of the year is stated at \$25,028.41, making the total over-expenditure for the two years \$47,122.24. No reference whatever is made to any other over-expenditure anywhere in the report and the details only are given of the expenditure made public in the report. In the Auditor General's consolidated revenue account published on page 81 of the Public Accounts Report the expenditure for public works is set down as \$197,250. Why there should be such a difference in the accounts of the Auditor General and the Secretary of the Board of Works can possibly be explained by the Auditor General who, on page 122 of his report of the same year, gives the total expenditures of the Public Works Department as \$242,663.26, which includes \$23,000 for interest and sinking, which agrees with the report of the Secretary of the Public Works Department. If the statement in the body of the auditor's report is correct, and as it is accompanied by vouchers it probably is, the surplus of \$3,136.01 claimed by the Government for 1906 was converted into a deficit of \$14,092.25, which depends entirely whether the statement on page 11 of the Auditor General's report or that on page 122 is accepted.

But this difference is as a mere nothing compared with what was the actual condition of affairs in this department under the old Government. On the liability side of the balance sheet on page 6 of the Auditor General's report, the following instructive paragraph appears:

Public Works Department—  
Over-expenditure on ordinary account .... \$47,122.24  
Advanced by Bank of B.N.A. for Public Works 149,943.73  
Total ..... \$197,065.97

Of the over-expenditure on ordinary account the public is made aware through the reports. Regarding the other and larger expenditure no mention whatever is made either in the report on Public Works or in the Consolidated Revenue Account. The amount was so large and absolutely without legislative authority of any kind that it is quite possible that the bank refused to carry it longer as a temporary loan and the Government obtained legislative authority to add the amount to the permanent debt. On page 13 of the Public Works Report for 1907 the Secretary, under the heading "Statement of Over-expenditure by Board of Works at 31st of October, 1906, provided for by 7th Ed. VII, c. 18, part II," gives the following details:

Balance ordinary account, Oct. 31, 1906.....	\$47,122.24
Supts. of Roads .....	79,146.97
St. John By-roads .....	3,962.67
Ordinary Bridges, Wharves, etc .....	62,394.66
Special Expenditure on Roads .....	5,255.12
Public Buildings .....	1,653.78
Government House .....	142.80
Normal School .....	1,114.96
Provincial Hospital Buildings .....	5,372.17
Steam Navigation .....	400.00
Total .....	\$197,065.97

Whether these over-expenditures took place all in one year or were spread over two or three is not known. Three years before there had been an issue of bonds of

\$150,000 on account of alleged damage by freshets which seemed at the time to have cleaned up all the over-expenditures of the Public Works Department and left a small balance to its credit. Therefore this large sum of money was over-expended in two or three years at most, and every year the defunct Government claimed they had a surplus of revenue over expenditure. It was easy to get such surpluses with their method of book-keeping.

In March, 1908, the old Government went out of power. They had claimed another surplus for 1907, but when the accounts were gone into it was discovered that a large number of bills in connection with the Public Works Department, all for work done prior to Oct. 31, 1907, had been paid. After the close of the fiscal year these accounts were charged and added to the funded debt. They were as follows:

Balance ordinary accounts .....	\$11,032.39
Supts. Roads .....	27,051.01
St. John County By-roads .....	1,237.16
Special Roads .....	6,949.53
Ordinary Bridges, Wharves .....	\$5,147.06
Steam Navigation .....	14,200.00
Legislative Buildings .....	1,393.80
Normal School .....	1,571.84
Provincial Hospital Buildings .....	\$1,119.25
Surety Bonds Supts. of Roads .....	\$73.09
Miscellaneous .....	204.51
Total .....	\$157,879.69

Thus in a few years the old Government not only expended all the legislative grant for public works but added to the public debt the following:

On Account Freshets .....	\$150,000.00
Over-expenditure to Oct. 31, 1906 .....	197,065.97
Over-expenditure to Oct. 31, 1907 .....	157,879.69
Total .....	\$504,945.66

Here is half a million added to the debt and practically no account given of the expenditure. Mr. Fleming has not added a cent to the funded debt for the same expenditures. Every dollar has so far been met from current revenue and every dollar is accounted for. Every safeguard that is possible is thrown round the expenditure. All the returns are made under oath, and if there is dishonesty there is also perjury. Mr. Fleming has certainly no reason to fear public opinion because he has honestly admitted an over-expenditure which his predecessors and their apologists in the present House would hide from the public if possible.

## CITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Kansas City has an interesting municipal department in its Board of Public Welfare that is proving, according to a report in the Winnipeg Tribune, even more satisfactory than was expected when it was established two years ago. It is a branch of the city government conducted by a nonpartisan board of five appointed by the mayor. The object is to insure proper attention and a square deal for those delinquents and unfortunate who are in need of a helping hand. The department is not organized as a charity institution. Its work is broader and more helpful than that of handing out temporary relief. It undertakes to assist those in need of help to get together accurate data on conditions in the city for the guidance of all who are working for the advancement of unfortunate; and it also co-ordinates the work of the various agencies.

The board conducts a Social Service Department in co-operation with other organizations that are working to assist the unemployed and the homeless. A municipal employment bureau and municipal stone quarry are operated by the board directly, in order to take care of those not provided for by the private societies and organizations. An anti-loan shark bank is conducted by the board with funds provided from private sources. More than 100 loans are made each month. A municipal farm has been established on which men sentenced to the workhouse are given employment. The old workhouse building has been converted into a reformatory for women. The board takes care of the families of men sent to the workhouse, when those dependents need such care, and provision is made to turn over to them what the husband or father earns. A parole department is conducted in connection with the municipal farm and reformatory, and it is proving of great benefit.

A Recreation Department looks after the condition of the dance halls in the city and sees to it that no girls under seventeen are permitted in the halls; that the places are closed at midnight and that the dances are conducted in an orderly manner. A Legal Aid Bureau is maintained to furnish free legal advice to those in need of it. A large percentage of the cases are wage claims that would not be collected without such an agency as the bureau. There are about fifteen of those handled each day, and during the first eight months \$6,046.40 was collected.

A Bureau of Research is maintained. Those in charge make investigations of unemployment, the social evil, the charitable situation, housing, wage conditions and other problems directly involved in the work of the department. The bureau also furnishes reliable information in regard to charitable organizations and other agencies that are at work. It is, in fact, a city department for handling in a comprehensive manner the problems that are found in every city and too often are bungled. The success Kansas City is having will prompt other municipalities to consider seriously whether they too would not profit by maintaining similar departments.

## Current Comment

(Toronto News.)

By agreement between both sides of the House Parliament some years ago forbade civil servants to engage in politics, so that the guilty parties have gone wrong with their eyes open. But there should be no disposition whatever to remove officials who have abstained from partisan activity and performed their departmental duties efficiently. In each case the departure from duty should be clearly established. Conservatives who take the culprits' places should shed their partisan activities forthwith, and devote their remaining years exclusively to the service of the State which employs them and pays their salaries.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Two months' imprisonment is by no means an excessive punishment for the male suffragette who threw a brass-bound box at Lloyd George and cut his eye. British justice appears to go on the sound principle that the position of the injured man has nothing to do with the gravity of the assault upon him. If Lloyd George had attempted to knock out the suffragette's eye he also would have received two months.

(Philadelphia Inquirer.)

A woman can wear low shoes and thin silk stockings in winter time without feeling any ill effects, but she would rapidly go into a decline if deprived of her furs.

(Edmonton Journal.)

A young Georgian claims that a ghost paraded him from his bride. That is a very thin excuse.

(Detroit News.)

It is leap year, girls, but look before you leap.

## THE MORAL AND SOCIAL REFORM COUNCIL MEETS

The Council Endorses the Legislation which Calls for Removal of Screens from Windows of Saloons.

A meeting of the executive of the moral and social reform council was held yesterday at the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. There were present Bishop Richardson, J. Willard Smith, M. E. Agar, Dr. G. U. Hay, J. S. Armstrong, Rev. W. R. Robinson, Major Taylor, Amon A. Wilson, A. Malcolm and A. W. Robb.

It was arranged to hold the annual meeting in the Y. M. C. A. rooms on the 23rd inst. at 2 o'clock p. m. A communication having been received from Mrs. Shearer and Moore in reference to holding a conference during the first part of March to be addressed by some of the leading speakers of the continent on moral and social questions, it was decided to have the conference, and Dr. Flanders, A. W. Robb, Rev. W. R. Robinson, J. S. Armstrong, and M. E. Agar were appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements.

The following resolution was unanimously passed: That in view of the fact that the question has been publicly raised as to the moral value of the section of the liquor license act which requires a full view of the barroom from the street, the executive committee of the moral and social reform council of New Brunswick, hereby place themselves on record as being emphatically of the opinion that the said legislation has been productive of great good.

A number of questions in reference to legislation along the lines of moral and social reform were also discussed and referred to a committee to prepare and submit to a meeting of the executive.

Don't Blame Her.

Philadelphia Record.—Bloobs—My wife thinks it's wicked for me to play poker. Slobs—It is, the way you play it.



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Local Examinations in Practical Music for all grades will be held on April 13th, 1912.

Local Examinations in Practical Subjects will be held about a month later. Application forms, filled in and accompanied by fees, must reach the Central Office in Montreal on or before April 1st, 1912. Forms and free copies of the Official Syllabus containing full information are obtainable from the Local Secretary, Mr. D. Arnold Fox, 153 Princess St., St. John, or from the General Secretary, No. 223 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal. Information about the Yearly Examinations for Diplomas of Licentiate and Doctorate in Music is obtainable from the General Secretary, Montreal. The Examination Board, on application being made, will be glad to consider any additions to the present list of Local Centres.

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## INTERESTING VISITOR FROM NORTH OF ENGLAND

Miss Margaret Vereker, Famous Contralto, in St. John in Course of World Wide Concert Tour.

Miss Margaret Vereker, who is now in St. John for the purpose of holding a song recital in Trinity church school room on Thursday evening, is just completing a tour of over two years' duration. Starting from her home in the north of England, Miss Vereker's first recital was given in Paris, after which she visited Italy, Sicily, Gibraltar, Morocco, the Canaries, Madeira, Brazil and other South American ports, coming here from New York. After a brief tour of the maritime provinces, she intends returning to England.

Speaking of her former visit to Canada to a Standard reporter last evening, Miss Vereker said that she was surprised to find so wide spread an appreciation of music in a comparatively new country. Montreal in particular, where the annual opera season is an established feature of the calendar, shows an inclination to hear better music than the average city of its size will patronize. "I hope to return to Canada," said Miss Vereker, "and like your last governor general, when I return to England, I shall feel almost a native Canadian."

During her visit to Chile and Peru, Miss Vereker prepared some interesting notes descriptive of the country, which she intends for the basis of a series of lectures to be delivered at some future date.

An interesting event in which Miss Vereker participated in Naples was the memorial service to King Edward, held in the church at the English colony, which, she says, is quite populous. Miss Vereker has taken part in a number of large concerts, and during her last trip to this country, her concerts were under the patronage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, sister of the Duke of Connaught.

## CLOSING STOCK LETTER.

By direct private wires to J. C. Macintosh and Co.

New York, Jan. 8.—The action of today's stock market was extremely dispiriting to either bull or bear. Prices moved within a narrow range and the changes of undertone were influenced chiefly by professional scalping operations. Little significance could be attached to the fluctuation at any quarter. The undertone was heavy during the greater part of the day without, however, any particular pressure to sell. There was a complete absence of news that was at all likely to influence the list as a whole. In the last hour there was a moderate rally on room short covering leaving the average level of prices little changed from Saturday's close. There is nothing new to be said about the financial situation. Underlying conditions have materially improved but this appears to have been discounted. The market is too high to attract outside interest unless the big interests use the usual tactics to stimulate public demand. For the time being those interests seem to prefer a waiting position. Every sharp advance is met with distribution while ample support seems to be forthcoming on every pronounced reaction. The nature of developments in politics and in the business world at large during the next few weeks will determine the next wide movement of prices. Meantime a narrow and professional market seems in immediate prospect.

LAIDLAW & CO

## NEW YORK COTTON RANGE.

By direct private wires to J. C. Macintosh and Co.

	High.	Low.	Close.
Jan. ....	9.25	18	27-29
Mar. ....	9.45	34	Mar. -45
May ....	9.61	49	59-61
July ....	9.72	60	70-72
Aug. ....	9.74	63	73-74
Sept. ....	9.79	73	78-79
Oct. ....	9.84	72	82-84
Dec. ....	9.92	83	88-91
Spot—9.60.			

## CHICAGO GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

By direct private wires to J. C. Macintosh and Co.

	High.	Low.	Close.
May ....	101 1/2	102 1/2	101
July ....	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
Sept. ....	94 1/2	95 1/2	93 1/2
Jan. ....	61		61
May ....	64 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2
July ....	64 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2
Sept. ....	65	64 1/2	64 1/2
May ....	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2
July ....	45 1/2	45	45 1/2
Sept. ....	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2
Jan. ....	15.97	15.87	
May ....	16.35	16.25	
July ....	16.50	16.37	16.42



SAM CAME OUT OF A BOOZE SHOP AND WALKED RIGHT UP TO A COPPER AND SAID, "ANSWER MY QUESTION AND TAKE DOWN." "WHEN THE TREES LEAVE DO THEY TAKE THEIR TRUNKS?"

LIFT HIM OUT OF THE GUTTER AND LET THE WATER RUN.



## LISTEN TO US

"We are only little ones, but we know Zam-Buk eased our pain and cured our sores. Perhaps it would cure you, too, if you tried it!"

Isn't this sound advice from "babes and sucklings"? Take it! The speakers are the children of Mrs. E. Webster, of Seignours St., Montreal, and the mother adds weight to their appeal. She says: "My little girl contracted scalp disease at school. Bad gatherings formed all over her head, and not only caused the child acute pain but made her very ill. The sores discharged, and occurring on the scalp we feared she would lose all her hair. She was in a pitiable plight when we tried Zam-Buk, but a few days' treatment with this balm gave her ease. Then the sores began to heal, and we continued the Zam-Buk treatment. In a short time she was quite healed. My little boy sustained a serious scald on the neck. It set up a bad sore, and quite a few things we tried, failed to heal it or give him ease. Once more we turned to Zam-Buk, and we were not disappointed. It acted like a charm in drawing away the pain, and soon healed the wound."

Zam-Buk is "something different" in the way of balm. It contains powerful healing herbs and essences, which, as soon as applied to skin diseases, kill off the germs and end the painful smarting. Other ailments contained in Zam-Buk so stimulate the cells that new healthy tissue is speedily formed. Eczema, itch, ulcers, cold sores, abscesses, festering sores, blood poisoning, chronic wounds, cold cracks, etc., are healed and cured in this way. Use it for all skin injuries and diseases. It is also of great service for piles. All druggists and stores at 50 cents box, or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, 150 Dundas St. W.

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Fears. Life—"I'm so worried about the Christmas present I sent to Aunt Sarah," she says. "It cost only forty-nine cents, and I'm afraid I left the price mark on the thing when I sent it."

"I'm worried, too," says her friend. "I got one that cost \$60 for my uncle, and I'm afraid I didn't leave the price mark on it."

Safe. Fluddub—Why have you never married, Singleton? Singleton—Well, the women have always regarded me as an unfortunate fellow who wasn't bad enough to need reforming or good enough to make a desirable husband.

The Scapagat. Cleveland Plain Dealer—"You say the boy's maternal grandfather was a highwayman?"

"And his paternal grandfather was charged with arson?"

"Yes."

"And his aunt is a shoplifter and his uncle is a counterfeiter?"

"Yes."