

The Auditor-General's Report.

(Continued)

Customs.
The original vote for 1912-13 was \$217,041.00
There was added thereto a Supplementary Supply 52,000.00
Again supplemented under The Audit Act by 29,258.88

\$298,299.88
all of which was spent. The original vote was therefore nearly forty per cent. short of the requirements of the service.

Public Charities.
The original vote for 1912-13 was \$367,542.00
Added as Supplementary 45,276.00
Expended under Audit Act 14,751.34

\$427,569.34
Less surrendered to Treasury 11,908.88
Amount actually spent \$416,560.26

Postal and Telegraphs.
The original vote for 1912-13 was \$592,605.40
Added as Supplementary Supply 45,537.00

\$638,142.00
Less surrendered to Treasury 5,902.00
Amount actually spent \$633,140.00

or nearly seven per cent. more than original vote.
Marine and Fisheries.
The original vote for 1912-13 was \$102,700.00
Added as Supplementary Supply 37,000.00

\$140,700.00
Less surrendered to Treasury 19,277.35

Amount actually spent \$121,422.65 or nearly twenty per cent. more than the original vote.

All of which shows the absolute necessity for a reconstruction of the Estimates. The total of Supplementary Supply for the account of 1912-13, was \$227,815.37, to which must be added the expenditure under the Audit Act of \$54,175.25, making a total of \$281,990.62 added to the original votes.

From this must be deducted the credit balances surrendered to the Treasury, viz: \$84,507.47—gross—(I leave out of account the small overdrafts on Legislation and Education) and we find that the requirements of the Public Service were short voted by \$197,483.15. If a due regard is had for economy, I estimate that the bonafide requirements of the Public Service calls for an annual expenditure, allowing for increase of interest on Public Debt and normal expansion of the service, of at least \$3,800,000.00.

28. Statement "B" of the Treasury Account shows the original and supplementary votes, the expenditure for the current year, the dropped balances and the overdrafts under the several sub-head accounts. The transfers between the sub-heads permitted by me during the past year have been few and unimportant. I have preferred to show the accounts as they actually stand in the books of the several departments, in order that the Legislature may become acquainted with the exact requirements of the Public Service and to see where sub-head votes have been short-taken notwithstanding the addition of Supplementary Supply.

29. The following statement shows

(1) the original votes and supplementary supply; (2) the expenditure and (3) the overdrafts under each sub-head of the public accounts, the vote for which was overdrawn together with an explanation of the cause of the overdraft.

(For statement see pages 12 and 13 (a).)

30. All these overdrafts have occurred notwithstanding the large supplementary vote taken to cover short-ages on the original vote. Special attention is called to the following overdrafts:

Education.

The grant for Augmentation was increased by \$10,000.00 appropriated from the Surplus Trust Fund. The overdraft of \$2,013.02 was covered by credits to other educational votes. Had not this vote received aid from the Surplus Trust Fund, it would have been hopelessly overdrawn. It seems to me unreasonable that the expenditure could not be kept within the amount provided for by the Act.

Salaries—St. John's Customs.
This vote is saddled with the cost of salaries to officials employed to do the work of the tideswaiters who have been on the sick list, in some instances for several years. The necessity for the employment of many of the outport supernumerary tideswaiters is open to doubt.

Customs Refunds.
The overdraft on account of Customs Refunds is due to the reduction in the tariff.

Coal Duties and Water Rates.
The expenditure under this head, being regulated by the importation of coal, is difficult to estimate.

General Contingencies.

The overdraft under the head of General Contingencies was under the

Audit Act and is referred to more particularly in my report under the 33rd Section (b) of that Act.

31. As I said above, in addition to the \$2,603,639.05 originally appropriated by the Public Service Act for the year 1912-1913, Supplementary Supply was taken to the extent of \$227,815.37 to meet current requirements of the Public Service not provided for, and \$54,175.25 was expended under the 33rd Section (b) of the Audit Act.

32. Out of this sum of \$3,885,629.67 there was expended \$3,803,561.42 leaving the amounts of votes surrendered to the Treasury at \$82,068.25 from which must be deducted the small overdrafts on Legislation and Education, viz: \$22.95, and the expenditure under the Audit Act which was also overdrawn viz: \$54,175.25. The net amount of dropped votes is thus \$27,870.05.

33. In addition to the expenditure above given, a sum of \$8,000.00 interest on the Old Age Pension Fund was expended for Old Age Pensions, thus bring the total current expenditure of the Colony for 1912-13 up to the sum of \$3,811,561.42.

34. With a current Revenue of \$2,919,040.13 and a current expenditure of \$3,803,561.42 (the \$8,000.00 interest on both sides of the account) a surplus of \$115,479.01 results. This surplus has been placed to the credit of the Surplus Trust Fund by order of the Government, against the \$150,000.00 expenditure of which was authorized by Section 4 of the Public Service Act, 1913. On account of this sum of \$150,000.00 the following was expended, viz:

Education, Augmentation	
Grant	\$10,000.00
Extension of Telegraph System	59,223.66
General Hospital Improvements	35,999.81
Addition to General Post Office	3,000.00
Public Buildings	

Grand Falls	12,562.65
Freshwater	5,010.00
Bay Roberts	11.00
Spaniard's Bay	5.00
	\$126,112.12

(To be continued)

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Owing to the big number of original poems sent in to this office we have decided to throw open a column for Local Poets and to use as much of the poetry received as possible.

It must be remembered, however, that we cannot use in their entirety poems that run to twenty, thirty or more verses. Keep down to about half a dozen verses and your poem stands a better chance of making an early appearance in this paper. Lengthy poems have to be cut down before they can be used.

Readers desiring to see old favorites or new and striking poems appear in *The Mail and Advocate* are hereby invited to send along copies or clippings thereof to this office.—Editor.

TOIL STAINED HANDS

By a Wage Slave's Wife,
New Liskeard
God bless the man whose hand is stained by work,
'Tis he who makes improvements on the land.
Where duty calls him he will never shrink
Nor will he blush to show the world his hand.
Dear honest worker! His reward is near,
Whose hand is rough, whose eye is frank and clear.

Who makes the world a picture to behold,
And builds the cities decked with steeples high?
Who spurns the yellow glint of tainted gold
And perseveres without comment or sigh?
The man who binds the sheaf and tills the soil,
The man whose hands are stained by honest toil.

Who dares to call the workingman uncouth?
Or say that labor lowers and degrades?
Oh, would that I might show to them the truth!
And laud the hand that uses picks and spades,
The hand that listless idlers scorn to clasp
Is just the one I thrill with pride to grasp.

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