Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."

(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, NFLD., MAY 14, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

HOW THE MONEY GOES

We begin the publication of the Auditor General's report under Sec. 33, covering the nine months from March 1st, 1913, to the end of the year.

It should be noted by our readers that all the expenditures enumerated and protested against by the Auditor General in this report for the short space of nine months in 1913—the year of the elections—are expended without Legislative authority. Not one cent of this money had been voted when it was spent and at the last session of the House the Government had to bring in a Supplementary Supply Bill in order to cover up their alleged doings in this respect.

Read it carefully, friends, in order to grasp the methods adopted by our so-called Government in order to buy up the votes of the electorate and gain their support in spite of the promptings of the electoral conscience. For be it remembered that fully three-fourths of the electorate knew last September that the Morris Government was a codd, and its policy meant certain financial disaster to the Colony if pursued—but the catch cries raised in so many places to save their schools and churches and to destroy the socialistic gang who would tear down and destroy and leave black ruin where ever they went, coupled with the deceptive cry of more branch railways, gave those spendthrifs a majority in the House, although they received 3300 votes less than the Opposition Party.

The result of such wasteful expenditure was the sole cause of the $750,000 increased taxation put on at the last session of the Legislature by a party that went to the Country promising to reduce taxation—a cry that all now know was intended only to deceive and secure the votes of the simple minded Toilers.

Now in addition to the $750,000 they thought to raise by increased taxes on goods, liquor, tobacco, butter and lumber, they find the revenue still short. They cannot raise a 3½ per cent. railway loan. They cannot raise the $750,000 local loans which must be raised somehow or blue ruin faces the Colony.

They will have to find $525,000 by July 1st to pay the half year's interest on the public debt. The reserve fund of $500,000 raised chiefly by the Liberal Government, which was to be held over for a rainy day, will now disappear, for there is no other way out of the muddle.

The people West and South have been asleep and are only now realizing just what has happened. The Northern people were fooled in 1909 but could not be fooled in 1913.

Now the day of reckoning has come and come with a vengeance, for if the F.P.U. don't step in, the certain outcome of this black financial muddle will end up with Confederation, and not Confederation on Terra Nova's terms, but on Canadian terms.

The public therefore should carefully weigh the words of Auditor General Berteau, as published elsewhere, and note when reading that the Auditor General is in no sense an opponent of the Morris Government. They had given him several good financial plumbs—one being the Acting Governorship of the Savings Bank for over two years at $2400 a year, in addition to his usual salary; and if Mr. Berteau is severe in handling the Government's illegal doings in finance, how much more severe would an Auditor General be that would write as he really felt,—$15,000 for this, $29,000 for that, $14,000 for something else, were only flea bites.

Note how easy the member for Ferryland secured an extra $1800 in July last when then usual grants for 1913-1914 were just placed to his district's credit but which apparently had all been expended before eleven days had expired.

Note with what ease the member for Placentia received an additional $1000 in July when all their new votes should be available for 1913-1914, but which the report states had all disappeared—had all been exhausted.

What tricks are possible to politicians when grants are required to catch votes? How easy to get a report from an inspector stating storms had prevailed in July—mid-summer—from July 6th to 11th, and necessary repairs must be made.

Oh ye gods and little fishes! The Premier and other of his friends ridiculed President Coaker's statement made in the House last winter as to how the Government increased the salaries of officials who had been talking anti-Morris last year up to June, but who had suddenly become silent.

Now those who read the Auditor General's statement will discover why such officials became suddenly quiet. Perhaps this page in the Government's history is as black as any of their five years doings.

Fancy, you Sons of Toil, only $49,000 given out a few months before the elections to Government officials as increased pay and for new jobs, every cent of which was illegally paid.

Of course the $49,000 voted for increases and new jobs was for the year past. This same amount has been included in the estimates for 1914-1915.

The report then goes on to enumerate another flea bite of $164,000, all spent without Legislative authority.

Then the Auditor General goes on to enumerate a number of votes overdrawn. The whole chapter show exactly what has been going on in a quiet way for five years—and ought to convince every reasonable man that the Country made a big mistake in placing such men in charge of the Government of the Colony.

The Supplementary Supply Grant passed by the recent session of the Legislature amounted to $244,719, which the Premier and Minister of Finance thought was only a flea bite.

NEW FISHERY RULES

1. No cod-trap, leader, moorings, twine or fishing gear of any sort shall be placed in the waters bounded by a line drown from the Ganett Rocks to Freshwater, in the Electoral District of Trinity, for the purpose of holding a trap berth, before noon of the 20th day of May in any year.

(a) No cod-trap shall be set in said waters nearer than eighty fathoms or at a distance greater than one hundred fathoms from any cod-trap previously set.

(b) Cod-traps shall be set in said waters at right angles from the shore or strand.

(c) Boats used or employed in the setting of any cod-traps at noon on the 20th day of May in any yar shall not be manned by more than four persons.

(d) All boats referred to in preceding Sub-section shall start in a line with the stage head of the fishing premises of Jas. George, when a gun is fired by a person authorized for that purpose.

2. It shall be unlawful to set any cod-trop on the grounds known as Dancing Cove Rock, Tinkers, White Ground, Swerry's Ledge, Halfway Ledge, Western Ledge, Shoal Rocks, Northern Ledge, and Logy Grounds in the District of Bonavista.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency the Administrator in Council has been pleased to appoint Simon Butler, Esq., (Deputy Registrar Supreme Court), to be Official Receiver, under Section 139 of the Companies' Act, 62 and 63 Vic., during the vacancy in the Office of Registrar, Supreme Court; Messrs. Ambrose Osmond, (Moreton's Hr.), and J. D. Boone, (Alexander Bay), to be Surveyors of Lumber; Mr. George Vey, to be a member of the Methodist Board of Education for the District of Fortune, in place of Mr. John Sydney Bennett, retired; Messrs. Ernest Parrott, Peter Kelland, John George, Jos. Harnum and Joshua Pitcher, to be the Road oBard for Winterton, District of Trinity; Messrs. Thomas Churchill, Joseph Marsh, Seth. Stoyles, James Frost, Edward Benson, Richard Loder and Joshua Benson, to be the Road Board for Hillview, District of Trinity; Messrs. Henry Greenland, William Parsons, Robert Badcock, Charles French and Isaac Dawe, of Nath., to be the Road Board for Coley's Point, District of Harbor Grace; Messrs. Patrick Tarrant, James Tarrant, Alphonsus Edwards, Joseph Murphy and William Lamb, to be the Road Board for Lawn (including L'Anse aux Barques, Roundabout and Sandy Cove), District of Burin; Messrs. George Francis White, Hubert White, William Pilgrim, Amedie Blanchard, Harold Morris, Kenneth White and William J. White, to be the County Council for St. George's, District of St. George; Messrs. Edward Dormedy, Arch. Mitchell, John Companion, Jas. Donohue and Thomas Broakway, to be the Road Board for Benoit's Cove, District of St. George's; Messrs. Jas. Sinclair, Augustus Penney, Thomas Quigley, Thomas Wheener and Walter Leader, to be the Road Board for Summerside, District of St. George's; Messrs. William Penney, Joseph Gushue, Edward Brake, Sr., John Park and John Pumphrey, to be the Road Board for Humbermouth, District of St. George; Messrs. John Legge, Israel Hines, John Hayes, Alexander McLeod and William Allen, to be the Road Board for Curling, District of St. George; Messrs. Joseph Jesseau, William Hackett, Sr., William O'Connell, Felix Gallant and Rev. S. Callan, to be the Road Board for Wood's Island, District of St. George.

Dept. of Colonial Secretary,
May 12, 1914.

POEMS OLD AND NEW.

SEA SUNLIGHT

The sun is warm, the sky is clear,
The waves are dancing fast and bright,
Blue isles and snowy mountains wear
The purple noon's transparent might,
The breath of the moist earth is light,
Around its unexpanded buds;
Like many a voice of one delight,
The winds, the birds, the ocean floods,
The City's voice itself is soft, like Solitude's.

—Shelley.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY

The finest natures like the truest steel must be tempered in the hottest furnace.—Whyte Melville.

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

Under Section 33 (b) of the Audit Act For The Period Ending December 31st, 1913.

Sir,—

(1). I have the honour to report for the information of the Legislature upon the expenditure (a) by Special Warrant issued under Section 33 (b) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, 1899; (b) under Order-in-Council directing an expenditure on services for which no provision has been made by the Legislature and (c) Overdrafts on Appropriation for 1913-1914 to the 31st December last, the date of the last monthly audit.

(2). This report covers a period of time extending from March 1st, 1913, (the date of my last report under this section) to December 31st, 1913.

A.

Expenditure Under Section 33 (b) of the Audit Act, 1899.

(3). In February 1913, an Order-in-Council directed the issue of a Special Warrant for the sum of $15,000.00 to relieve the vote for General Contingencies ($10,000.00) of certain charges, borne by the said vote which practically absorbed the whole of it. I referred to this Special Warrant in my last year's report. At that time expenditure there had not been completed, hence the necessity for again referring thereto.

(4). The expenditure charged against the $15,000.00 authorised amounted to $10,165.23 and was for the following services, viz:—

Fees and expenses in Commercial Cable Company vs. the Government .....$	7,197.05
Payments to Messrs. Kent and Butler, Supreme Court, account fees	400.00
Paymentss to Assistant Superintendent of Education Lodge, for extra services.	460.00
Payments to Wm. Churchill Superintendent of Public Buildings, for extra services..	500.00
Payments to J. H. Penney, J.P., for Magisterial services, Labrador..	500.00
Pensions to sundry persons.	1,108.18
	$10,165.23

(5). As Supplementary Supply for General Contingencies had been subsequently voted, there was no further necessity to draw against the $15,000.00 authorized by the above Warrant.

(6). On the 8th July, 1913, and 9th, September, 1913, Special Warrants were issued authorizing the expenditude (a) of $29,258.88 by the Customs Department to meet Liabilities of the Department for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, last, and (b) by the Department of Public Charities of $14,751.44 for the same purpose.

(c). The sum of $29,258.88 for Customs was expended on the following services, viz:—

Salaries, St. John's.. .. ..$	74.50
Contingencies, St. John's....	2,388.91
Outport Supernumeraries ..	1,536.55
Boats and Boat hire..	92.74
Offices and Office Rents. ..	415.31
Commission on Duties... ..	2,704.40
Commission on Light Dues.	401.68
Outport Contingencies.	1,821.28
Labrador Salaries..	138.00
Refunds..	5,294.38
Coal Duties & Water Rates	13,939.94
Fines and Forfeitures.. ..	4.10
Bank Fishermen's Fund. .	30.00
Revenue Protection..	417.09
	$29,268.88

(b). The sum of $14,751.14 expended by the Department of Public Charities was for the following services, viz:—

Conveyance Sick Poor.. ..$	361.79
Shipwrecked Crews..	309.64
E. R. Circular, No. 2..	1,172.64
Public Health Contingencies:	
St. John's..	158.19
Outports..	1,941.66
Labrador..	62.50
Conveyance..	169.50
Permanent & Casual Poor..	9.00
Medical Attendance Paupers	2,215.04
Emergency Cases..	330.11
Pauper Lunatics..	62.05
Extraordinary Expenditure.	192.50
Sick Fishermen, Labrador.	132.35
Small Pox..	490.05
Charitable Societies..	4,385.10
Orphanages..	2,818.96
	$14,751.14

(7). As I had declined to pass the foregoing, all of which would have constituted overdrafts on the regular and supplementary votes and had also refused to permit of their being charged to the votes for 1913-1914; the payment of the liabilities under the Audit Act was the only legal course open to the Government.

(8). It is a course, however, which is inadvisable and I trust will not be adopted as a precedent in the future. Ordinary regard to the actual requirements of the public service when making up the estimates will prevent the necessity of having recourse to this highly undesirable method of providing funds to meet short votes and consequent overdrawn accounts.

(9). In July 1913, in consequence of a report from the Outport Road Inspector to the effect that "the Main Line of Road in both sections of the Cape Shore, District of Placentia, was in a dangerous condition and that the Legislature Grant for that District in respect of roads was exhausted" a Special Warrant was issued authorizing the expenditure of the sum of $1000.00 for the repair of the said road. This sum has been spent.

(10). In July 1913, in consequence of a report from the same official that "in the District of Ferryland during the rain storms prevailing from the 6th to the 11th July, very great and serious damage was done to the roads and bridges and that there is no Legislative vote to meet the cost of said repairs," the matter being urgent, a Special Warrant was issued authorizing the expenditure of the sum of $1800.00 in effecting the necessary repairs to the said roads and bridges. This amount has been spent.

(11). On November 5th, 1913, the following Order-in-Council was issued, viz:—

"The Game and Inland Fisheries "Board having reported that they "require the sum of $10,000.00 to "meet liabilities incurred in respect "of the service of Game Wardens "and others employed in the protection of the inland fisheries and "there being no Legislative provision to meet the service, it was "ordered that, under provisions of "Section 33 (b) of the Audit Act, a "Special Warrant of His Excellency the Governor do issue for "the sum of $10,000.00 in favour of "the Game and Inland Fisheries "Board to meet the liabilities as "stated above."

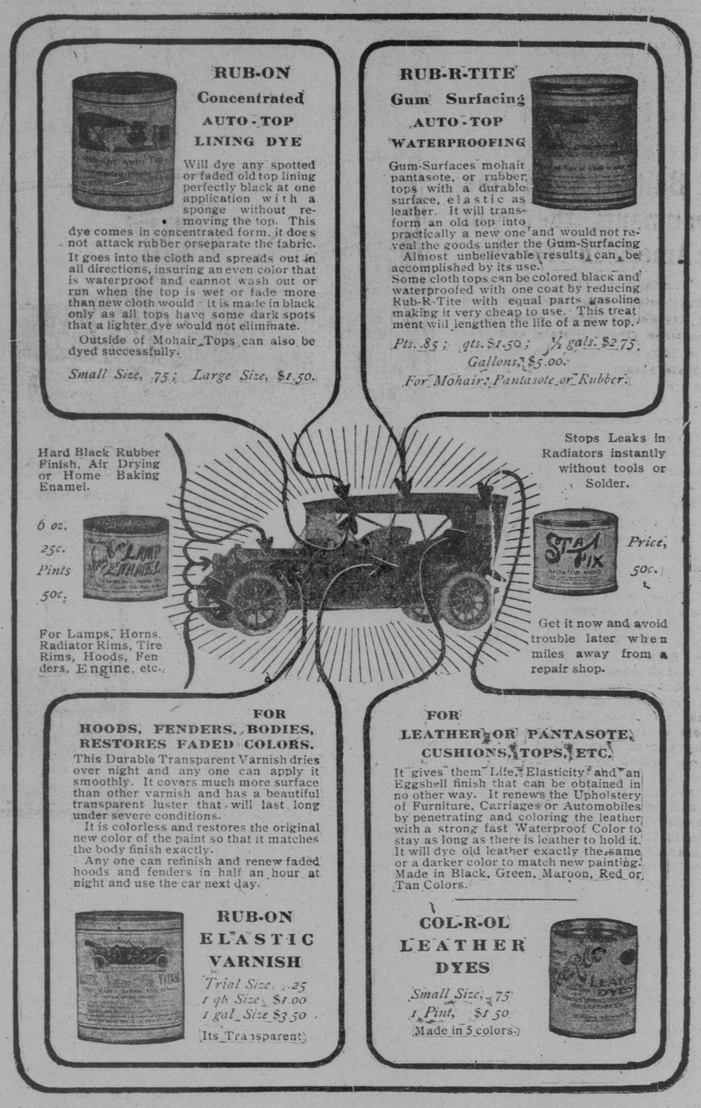
I am opinion that this expenditure is irregular. Section 33 (b) of the Audit Act provides as follows, viz:—

"If when the Legislature is not "in session any accident happens "to any public work or public building which requires an immediate "outlay for the repair thereof, or "any other occasion arises when "any expenditure **not foreseen** and "provided for by the Legislature is "urgently and immediately required for the public good then upon "the report . . . . The Government-in-Council may order a "Special Warrant . . . ."

I have underlined the words "not foreseen" for I hold that this expenditure could have been foreseen. The Dpartment of Marine and Fishries was quite aware that this sum would be required if the arrangements of the Game and Inland Board were carried out.

(12). With the exception of the Special Warrants for repairs to roads, all the expenditures, set forth above under the 33rd Section of the Audit Act, are irregular. To supplement short votes and expenditures which could have been foreseen by the issue of Special Warrants is undesirable and, I think indefensible.

(To be continued)



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