

THE HERALD

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
JAMES MCISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor.

Please don't delay your
Subscriptions for 1907. We
need the money, and
have earned it and
shall esteem it a great
favor if you remit now.

The Truth Distasteful.

The Daily Patriot is now
running as a serial an har-
angue, mostly fudge, recently
delivered in the House of
Commons by Mr. J. J.
Hughes, M. P. for King's
County. Instead of address-
ing himself to living issues,
such, for instance as the ap-
palling scandals unearthed by
the civil service commission
in the department of Marine,
Mr. Hughes manifests a
strong penchant for antiqua-
rian research. Like his polit-
ical friends in our Provincial
Legislature he delves into
ancient history in the hope,
doubtless, of contributing in
some degree, however small,
to obscure the real issues be-
fore the public. He takes
occasion, during his remarks,
to express his dissatisfaction
with the information furnish-
ed to the readers of the
HERALD, by means of our
OTTAWA weekly letters. The
writer of these letters is
to Mr. Hughes a veritable
bete noire. We are not at all
surprised at Mr. Hughes dis-
satisfaction with these OTTAWA
LETTERS. We have heard
several of his friends express-
ing similar dissatisfaction.
These letters are written by one
of the most accomplished jour-
nalists in Canada, and they
contain plain truths acquired
at first hand, right on the
ground. They contain but a
summary of the facts bearing
on public questions, under the
lime light at the Capital. The
verification of these truths is
to be found in extenso in the
leading daily papers of
Halifax, St. John, Montreal,
Toronto, Ottawa and other
cities of Canada, except
Charlottetown. The organ
of the Liberal party here does
not furnish its readers with
any information, relative to
the disclosures of depart-
mental scandals and other
evidences of graft, in connec-
tion with the public business
of the country. Oh no! the pol-
icy of silence and concealment
suits it and Mr. Hughes much
better under these circum-
stances. When the question
of increased subsidy to
Prince Edward Island was
up for discussion in the House
of Commons on March 25,
1907, Mr. Lefurgy moved
that the subsidy to this Pro-
vince, for government and
legislation, be \$128,000 a year
instead of \$100,000. This
motion was supported by Mr.
Martin and Mr. McLean, who
have the interests of our Pro-
vince at heart. But when a
division was taken on the mo-
tion, Mr. Hughes was found
voting against it. He had
the hardihood to stand up in
his place in the House of
Commons and vote to deprive
Prince Edward Island of
\$28,000, which was only a
fraction of what is her due.
That is how Mr. Hughes
exerts himself for the benefit
of his Province. Our readers
were made aware of this fact
at the time through our OTTAWA
LETTER. That is prob-
ably one reason why Mr.
Hughes does not like the kind
of information furnished our
readers, by means of these
letters. Numerous other in-
stances of Mr. Hughes's failure
to stand up for his Province,
and of his failure to keep his
promises have been recorded
in these letters and otherwise
in the Herald, hence his

chagrin. Instead of taking
exception to the facts record-
ed in our Ottawa letters, Mr.
Hughes should have told
why he has failed to keep his
promise to resign his seat, if
the Elmira branch railway
were not built, within two
years from the last general
Dominion election. He
solemnly made the promise,
at the opening meeting of the
election campaign of 1904, in
hall at St. Columba, that if
he were elected and the Gov-
ernment returned to power
he would have the Elmira
branch railroad built within
two years, or he would resign
his seat. He was elected, and
the Government he sup-
ports was returned; but the
Elmira branch has not been
built and Mr. Hughes has
not resigned his seat. Better
for him to furnish the public
some information on these
and other derelictions of pub-
lic duty and broken promises,
than haranguing the multitude
in his munchausen fashion.

The Financial Discussion.

The budget debate in the
Legislature came to a close
on Friday evening last, when
the motion to go into com-
mittee was passed, and some
progress was made in voting
supply. During the debate,
the Opposition members
strongly attacked the Govern-
ment position but the defense
from the Government side
was very weak. As a matter
of fact, the Government
scarcely attempted any de-
fence of their policy and record.
The line of action by the
members of the Executive
and those supporting them,
aimed at obscuring the real
issues before the public and
keeping in the back ground
their own record for the past
seventeen years. One after
another of the members on
the Government side rose
and discussed everything
under the sun, but the con-
duct of public affairs under
the Liberals since 1891.
Every one of them referred
to the \$200,000 withdrawn
from Ottawa twenty-five
years ago. It mattered not
that this matter had been so
explained, that even the dull
est could see that the Liberals
were responsible for that
withdrawal and that, after the
money was received, our capital
at Ottawa was yielding us
\$10,000 a year more than
what the Conservatives as-
sumed the reins of power. It
was so convenient, you
know; it required no thinking;
no origination of ideas; no in-
tellectual exertion or endeavor
to formulate arguments against
the heavy onslaughts of the
Opposition. All that was
required was to repeat, parro-
tically, what the Premier had
said about this matter. They
are his obsequious followers
and how could they better
prove their fidelity than by say-
ing what he said. Imitation is
the sincerest kind of flattery.
Even Mr. Smith, the mild-
mannered member from
Hampton, who seldom speaks,
and who would scarcely be
expected to throw very much
light on an important ques-
tion, had off by heart his little
piece about the \$200,000, and
repeated it just as nicely as
any of them.
The debate on the Opposi-
tion side was admirably sus-
tained. In addition to the
splendid speech of the Leader,
Mr. Mathieson, concluded in
this issue, able and convinc-
ing addresses were made by
Mr. Prowse, Mr. Morson, Mr.
McDonald, Mr. McKinnon
and Mr. Fraser. Besides
these Mr. Kickham, who sel-
dom speaks, and Mr. Ken-
nedy a new member, made
important contributions to the
debate. We hope, in due
time, to present some report
of these. Mr. Prowse dealt
very fully with the financial
problem staring us in the face,
and presented most valuable
calculations regarding our
debt and deficits. A report

of his speech follows these
introductory remarks.
The tactics of the Govern-
ment members throughout
the debate was most abject
and contemptible. When-
ever the Opposition pressed
them into a tight corner and
exposed something specially
rotten, the defense was put
up, that the Conservatives did
something nearly as bad when
they were in power. Could
anything be more despicable
than this manner of argu-
ment, or attempt at argu-
ment? Suppose we were to assume
for the sake of argument, that
these charges against the
Conservatives were true,
what then? When the Con-
servatives were in power, the
Liberals now in power, then
in Opposition, railed
against them on account of
their manner of conducting
the public business. Let but
the Liberals come into office,
they said, and all this would
be changed; an improved public
service would be given to the
Province. This everlasting
banging of the Opposition
had its effect, and the Con-
servatives lost the govern-
ment. Their opponents, who
had held up to condemnation
the actions of the Govern-
ment of that day, took office,
and have held it ever since.
Now, at the end of seventeen
years, their official conduct is
shown to be so rotten and so
deserving of utter condem-
nation, that they themselves
cannot say one word in its
defence. They can only hark
back, that these things were
no better under the Conser-
vatives. This shows, either
that they came into power
under false pretences never
intended to improve the pub-
lic service, or that they have
been utterly incapable of im-
proving it. By their own ad-
mission they have been either
deceivers or incapables.
Whichever horn of the
dilemma they choose proves
them absolutely unworthy of
the people's confidence. After
all these years in office, they
dare not refer to their record and
can only fall back upon any bad
features they imagine they dis-
cover in the conduct of a gov-
ernment, nearly every member
of which has long since dis-
appeared from political life. It
would be difficult to imagine a
more abject and despicable
position than this. Is that the
manner of Government the
people of this Province wish
to see continued in charge of
their business?

MR. PROWSE'S SPEECH.

Mr. Prowse in opening re-
marked that the Budget Speech
he heard from the Premier took
us back to ancient history. He
might therefore perhaps be ex-
cused for looking back also. In
the year 1879 the Liberals went
out of office, leaving a debt accord-
ing to the auditor's statement of
\$51,740,000. That amount taken
from the \$128,429.21 shown on
the 31st December, 1890—just
before the Conservatives left office
—leaves a balance of debt
chargeable to the Conservatives of
\$76,688.34. So that in the twelve
years they were in office the Con-
servatives went into debt at the
rate of \$6,390.69 per year. For
the debt they incurred they could
show permanent buildings and
other public works.
While the Premier undertook
to give us a great dose of figures he
forgot to say that the Conserva-
tives obtained an addition to the
subsidy of \$20,000 per year. This
amount pays the interest on the
\$200,000.00 drawn from capital,
about which the Premier made so
much talk and it leaves a net gain
to the credit of the Conservatives
of \$10,000 a year for all time to
come. The Liberals have had the
benefit of this, but the Premier
quite overlooked the fact. Messrs
Chalmers and Davison reported
that on the 24th of April, 1891,
the date on which the Conserva-
tives left office, the total debt and
liability of the Province, immediate
and prospective, amounted to
the sum of \$171,000. But the
next report of the Public Accounts
issued by the Government's own
sworn auditor, shows the liabilities
to have been at that date \$158,
450.19—proving the amount as
reported by Messrs Chalmers and
Davison to have been unfairly
swollen for party purposes.
As the Premier has gone into
ancient history it may not be im-

proper to follow him there, and to
go over the series of deficits that
have been accumulated by the
Liberal party. Starting out with
a debt of \$128,429.21 on the 31st
December, 1890, just before the
Liberals took office, let us see how
the debt was accumulated.
First term of three years:
Dec. 31, 1890, debt \$128,429.21
" 1891, deficit 30,339.20
" 1892, 37,651.29
" 1893, 119,942.33
\$316,462.03
Second term of four years:
Dec. 31, 1894, deficit \$20,164.21
" 1895, 32,862.80
" 1896, 14,135.35
" 1897, 38,201.65
\$421,826.04
Third term of three years:
Dec. 31, 1898, deficit \$42,331.75
" 1899, 36,915.03
" 1900, 95,938.16
\$597,010.98
Fourth term of four years:
Dec. 31, 1901, deficit \$51,202.07
" 1902, 12,122.11
" 1903, \$20,471.94
" 1904, 68,149.63
\$749,956.73
Fifth term of 2 years and nine
months:
Dec. 31, 1905, deficit \$46,116.97
Sep. 30, 1906, 27,961.54
" 1907, 45,679.85
\$868,715.09
Deduct from this amount \$128,
429.21 due on the 31st December,
1890, and we have a total deficit,
accumulated in the last seven-
teen years, during which the
Liberals were in office of \$740,
285.88.

This is a fair statement of the
figures and the facts. It is a fair
statement of the case. During
that time be it remembered, the
Liberals drew from the people by
taxation the sum of \$855,641.43.
In the face of this fact, is it not
wonderful that the Government
press have the gall to tell the
people that the Liberals have re-
deemed their promises to make
ends meet. This is the worst
record that any set of men ever
gave to this Province. And re-
member, Mr. Speaker, that the
public works have not been kept
up as well by the Liberals as by
the Conservatives.

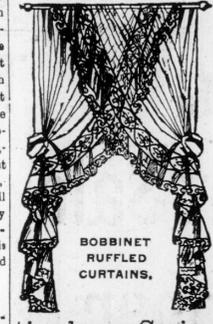
For instance: The Conserva-
tives spent on bridges in nine
years the sum of \$213,536.13, or
at the rate of \$23,726.23 per year;
while the Liberals spent in the
seventeen years they have been
in office \$366,590.41, or at the rate
of \$21,565.14 per year. So that
the average excess of expenditure
by the Conservatives on bridges
was \$2,162.09 per year. Then the
Conservatives spent on wharves
in nine years, \$64,883.41, being
\$7,209.26 per year; and the Lib-
erals spent on wharves in seven-
teen years, \$87,905.18, being at
the rate of \$5,170.89 per year—
showing an average excess by the
Conservatives spent on wharves
of \$2,038.37 per year. That is to
say, the Liberals spent on bridges
and wharves \$4,200 less per year,
during the past seventeen years
they have been in office than the
Conservatives did while they were
in office.
Again, as to roads, the Conser-
vatives spent in nine years \$215,
008.30, being at the rate of \$23,
888.00 per year, and the Liberals
spent during thirteen years of
their term \$29,763.89, or at the
rate of \$2,243.38 per year. In
addition to this, in the four elec-
tion years there have been while
they were in office, they spent
\$132,327.82. That is to say in the
thirteen non-election years they
spent \$1,445.32 less per year than
the average of the Conservatives
on roads.
But the Liberals spent on roads
in election years more than in the
non-election years \$10,638.57 per
year. These figures tell their
own story. This House and the
country know that the roads have
not in recent years, been half
looked after. They are not nearly
as well looked after as they
were eighteen years ago.
Now a few words as to the fi-
nancial condition of the country
as it affects the people. Suppose
we had put on the brakes and
stopped the expenditure on the
31st of December, 1890—how long
would it have taken to wipe out
the debt then due? The subsidy
would have supplied the money
required in just 267 days, or in a
little less than nine months the
subsidy—which was only \$183,
519.86 per year—would have
squared the account. Now let us
turn to Liberal side of the account.
On the 30th September next, only
seven months in the future the
debt will be \$1,045,452.01, and
although the subsidy received

from the Dominion, including the
last increase amounts to \$272,
181.88, it would take 1400 days
or three years and ten months of
that subsidy to square the debt.
Now, let us compare the debts.
In 1890 the debt including un-
finished contracts, was \$134,048.04;
and the population was 108,928,
so that the debt per head was
\$1.23 and per family \$6.15. In
1908 the debt, including un-
finished contracts, will be \$1,045,
452.01; and the population 100,
000, so that the debt per head will
be \$10.45 and per family \$52.25.
Then look at the taxation the
people now have to pay. The
people have paid taxes to the Lib-
erals to the amount of \$938,614,
14, or to the amount of \$9.38 per
head, and \$46.90 per family. So
that we have a burden of debt
and taxation amounting to \$19.88
per head and \$99.15 per family.
This is represented by debt and
liabilities to September 30th, 1908,
\$1,045,452.01; taxation \$938,
614.14, showing a grand total of
burden on a population of 100,000
people amounting to \$1,984,066.15

Let us hope that the men in the
government will be men enough
to give us the public accounts of
the current year before they go
to the people. The Premier ad-
mits that there will be a deficit at
the end of this year. He admits
that the party has failed in the
past seventeen years to make
ends meet,—and now he hopes to
work up a surplus by borrowing
money. If a man should attempt
to run his business in that way,
he would soon come to ruin. It
is not right that the public busi-
ness should be run, in a way that
no man with any sense would
think of running his own busi-
ness. A great deal of fault has
been found, with the Conserva-
tive party by the Premier, for
taking off the taxes, but the Lib-
erals went to the country in 1891
and again in 1893 declaring that
it was not their intention to im-
pose taxation. They imposed
taxation, however, immediately
after the election of 1893; and
they have imposed taxes ever
since. The Premier also states
that the Conservatives were able
to obtain large amounts from the
Dominion government. The Lib-
erals should have helped the Con-
servatives to obtain the amounts
of those claims, instead of oppos-
ing them as they did at every
point.
Mr. Prowse maintained that
it was never anticipated that
a tax would have to be imposed
upon the people of this Island.
In support of this statement, Mr.
Prowse quoted the words of Sir
George Cartier and also the words
of Mr. (now Sir) Louis Davies,
showing the belief of the public
men prior to confederation, that
taxation of the land would not
have to be resorted to.
With statements like these be-
fore them, how can the present
party justify the enormous expen-
ditures they have been making
during the last seventeen years?
According to the report of the
Public Accounts, the debt on the
30th of September last was \$801,
022.47, add the interest in loans
\$11,004.33, unfinished contracts
\$43,304.84 and you've a total of
\$855,331.64. Between the 30th
of September 1907 and the 29th
of February, 1908, there were ex-
pended \$185,308.96, and there
were received by the government
\$175,807.36,—showing a deficit
from those five months of \$9,501,
00 and the debt of the Province
at that date, \$864,833.24. The ex-
penditure for those five months,
as stated was \$185,308.96, equal
to \$37,061.79 per month. At the
same rate, there being seven
months yet to pass before the
end of the fiscal year, the ex-
penditure would at the end of the
seven months of the current year
be \$74,135.08 receipts for the
same time \$185,296.73—showing
a deficit of \$74,135.80 for the last
seven months of the current year
and the debt of the province at the
present rate, \$938,969.04. One
year increase of interest due on
loans and the unfinished contracts
that will then be outstanding, may
be fairly estimated at \$36,000. A
doubtful part of the subsidy that
will be received July 1st,
1908, which is for use for six
months, while the account closes
September 30, 1908, only three
months after July 1st, 1908,—
\$70,842.97—and the total debt
and liabilities of Prince Edward
Island on the 30th of Sep. 1908
will be \$1,045,452.01.

Our assets at Ottawa on the
31st of December, 1890, amount-
ed to \$962,182.40; and we had
liabilities of \$128,429.21—making
the balance in favor of the pro-
vince on the 31st of December,
1890, of \$797,753.19. How stands
our assets at Ottawa now? Pre-
mier Hazzard said in the course
of his Budget speech, that we
have now added at Ottawa assets
amounting to \$943,847 with li-
abilities of \$866,485. So that the
balance in our favor on the 30th
of September last had been re-
duced from \$797,753.19, when the
Liberals came in to \$77,363. Let
us follow this out to the 30th
September 1908. The assets at
Ottawa will then be \$943,847, and
the debt and liabilities of the Pro-
vince will then be, as shown \$1,
045,452, making a balance against
us at the end of next year of \$107,
605. All our capital at Ottawa will
then in fact be wiped out and nearly
\$102,000 more. How can this gov-
ernment contend, in view of this
statement, that they have fulfilled
their promises?
How can supporters of the govern-
ment throughout the country con-
fess their support of men who have
so lamentably failed? Reasonable
men must withdraw their support
from the Liberal party now in office.
There must be in this Province, ere
long, just as big a sweep as there has
lately been in New Brunswick.
It took the Liberals twenty years
to get an increase of subsidy amount-
ing to \$70,000. The delegates who
went to Ottawa to negotiate on be-
half of this Island were asked to put
in their claims. They failed. They
missed their opportunity. In 1886,
when the Island had been only three
years in Confederation the Sul-
ivan government did the best they
could so far as they could then see.
They obtained an addition to
our subsidy of \$20,000 per year on
account of the great public works
that had been undertaken in Canada
up to that time. Now we have been
twenty-one years longer in the Union
and members of the government
should have seen, long ere this, that
our expectations had not been fulfil-
led. It has been shown by the
Leader of the Opposition that we pay
\$700,000 a year more than we get
from the government at Ottawa. We
are being bled by high taxation and
we are not getting our proper share
or nearly our proper share of the public
expenditures. In 1886 our delegates
made a claim for \$5,000,000. The
claim was not too high, and when the
men now in office, sold out that
claim for \$30,000 a year, they made
a wretched bargain. Continuous
communication has not yet been ob-
tained. The government have not
insisted as they ought to have done
that the terms of Confederation in
that regard should be carried out.
In conclusion, Mr. Prowse expressed
the hope that united action would
be taken. It was unfortunate that in
the past there was some influence al-
ways working against us, our repre-
sentatives at Ottawa and the Press
have taken the matter up and he
hoped that the day is coming when
the people will be heard and when
justice will be done. (Applause.)

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