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The Patriot says the Liberal Provincial Government had larger revenues annually than the Conservatives. That is very true; but they had \$64,000 a year in taxation while the Conservatives had none, and notwithstanding this they had annual deficits twice as large as the Conservatives. With all their revenue, taxation and deficits, the roads and public works generally are much worse under the Liberals than under the Conservatives.

The Patriot says, the Conservatives had average deficits of \$23,000 for eight years. That is nothing in comparison to the Liberals, who had average deficits of \$53,000 for seventeen years. For fourteen of these years they were collecting an annual average of \$64,000 in taxes; but in the years the Conservatives are alleged to have had deficits they collected no taxes from the people. Makes all the difference in the world does it not?

In his so-called manifesto, Premier Haszard says a commission has been appointed to enquire into the educational question and especially the price of school books. This is surely adding insult to injury. In the session of 1907, Mr Mathieson Leader of the Opposition introduced a resolution asking that a committee be appointed to enquire into these matters. On the promise of the Leader of the Government that the matter would be taken up, the resolution was withdrawn. Last session, he asked for information on the point and found that the only thing done was a report made by the Superintendent of education, justifying the frequent changes of school books, and stating, that some other places paid as high for their books as we did. Thereupon, Mr Mathieson again moved for a committee on the question. The Government immediately adopted the whole preamble and incorporated a resolution of their own, to appoint a committee. They never appointed the committee until the meeting of the Executive at which the Legislature was dissolved, three weeks ago. In view of these facts does anyone imagine the Government are sincere in this matter? Mr Haszard, is trifling with the intelligence of the electorate by such barefaced political hypocrisy.

At last, on the eve of the election, the Leader of the Provincial Government has issued, what the Patriot calls a manifesto. It certainly is the most insignificant, feeble mamby-pamby political document that ever emanated from the Leader of a political party. It is a mere squeak. It occupies what would make about a column of the Patriot, clear of the flaming headlines. It embraces ten propositions, of the most perfunctory nature, feeble imitations of the platform of the Leader of the Opposition. The questions mentioned are handled so gingerly that one is tempted to believe Mr. Haszard would prefer to have left them severely alone were he not compelled, for shame sake to say something. The Premier has nothing to say about pressing for a return to us of the cost of the P. E. I. Railway. He has nothing to say about our right to an equivalent for the increased subsidies granted to the larger Provinces. He says nothing

about the non-fulfilment of the terms of union respecting winter communication; nothing about reform of our election law; nothing about improvement in the keeping of our public accounts; nothing about numerous other important matters treated in the platform of the Leader of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, the document is much more remarkable for what it omits than for what it contains. Were the Patriot's scarehead lines not in evidence, the precious "manifesto" would scarcely be noticed by anyone. It is verily a case of the mountain in labor and bringing forth a mouse.

A Bad Record.

In the consideration of public questions up for discussion in the election campaign now going on, our readers should constantly bear in mind that Provincial, and not Dominion, politics is under review, and the line of cleavage between these two should be kept clear and distinct. The all important matter to which the electors should give their candid and honest consideration, is the manner in which the present Liberal Government of this Province have conducted our public business for the last seventeen years and upwards. How have they kept their prelection pledges; how have they lived up to their prelection promises; how have they husbanded our resources; how have they economized in the expenditure of the people's revenues? These are the questions of vital and paramount importance to the tax-payers of this Province and upon these the Government of the day should be judged. The Government's conduct, under these heads, can be fairly tested by examining their record; by viewing their performances in the light of their promises and by comparing their accomplishments with those of their predecessors in office.

Were the Government desirous of joining issue in this manner of comparison, it would not require much argument to prove them utterly unworthy of the slightest scintilla of public confidence. But our Liberal friends take particular pains to avoid all reference to the record of the Government of this Province for the past seventeen years, and devote all their energies and exhaust all their ingenuity to conceal that record from public view, as far as possible. The Leader of the Government, in his public utterances, in the House and out of it, usually dwells on ancient history, rather than the performances of the present Provincial Government, and the organ of the Government dishes up Liberal sophistry by the column in its endeavor to divert public attention from the real issues before the electors of this Province. Since our friends of the Government fight so shy of the Liberal Provincial Government's record it becomes necessary for us to throw some light thereupon.

When the Liberals came into power in 1891, they succeeded a Conservative Government that had held office by twelve years. During nine of these years, this Government had collected no direct taxes from the people of this Province, and altogether had taken from the people only \$83,000 by way of taxation. At the rate the previous Davies Liberal Government had taxed the people the remission of taxation by the Conservative Government had saved to the taxpayers the

sum of \$860,000. Notwithstanding this saving to the people, the debt of the Province when they retired from office was only \$128,000, in round figures. This certainly was an excellent record; but our Liberal friends raised the cry of Provincial debt, and blamed the Conservatives for withdrawing the sum of \$200,000 from our capital at Ottawa. This venerable chestnut has done duty for the Liberals for the last twenty years; but let us see what part they themselves took in procuring the withdrawal of this money. When the bill empowering the Government to withdraw \$250,000 from Ottawa was passed in the House of Assembly in 1888, there was a large Liberal majority in the Legislative Council and when the bill came up for consideration there, Hon Alex. Laird moved an amendment that the amount to be withdrawn should not exceed \$183,000. Eight Liberals in the Council voted for Mr. Laird's amendment, the three remaining members voting against it. When the bill, as amended came back to the Assembly the amendment was not accepted; the bill in its original form was sent back to the council and passed unanimously. This information is found in the Journals of the Legislative Council.

Now, if there was anything wrong in the withdrawal of this money from Ottawa the above evidence shows that the Liberals must bear their share of the blame. They were willing to withdraw \$183,000, and when their amendment in this direction was rejected, they could have thrown out the bill; but instead of doing that they unanimously passed it. The Government of the day, although having power to withdraw \$250,000, only took \$200,000, just \$17,000 more than the Liberals in the council voted for. Surely that should not constitute a serious wrong in the estimation of the Liberals. They simply have no case in the matter. If the Conservative Government of that day, reduced our annual subsidy, by this withdrawal, to the extent of \$10,000, they likewise increased the subsidy by \$20,000 a year, so that we are better off to the extent of \$10,000, through their exertions. When we consider that some Government had remitted to the people \$860,000 in taxation, we must conclude that their record was exceptional good.

We said above that when the Liberals came into power in 1891, the Provincial debt was \$128,000. But nearly \$52,000 of this amount was inherited from the Davies Government, as per the statement of Mr. Hyndman, auditor of that Government, found in appendix N of the Journal of 1879. It will thus be seen that the Conservative Government are responsible for less than \$77,000 of the debt of the Province in 1891. Chalmer's and Davison's report, found in appendix N of the Journal of 1891, places the balance against the Province on December 31, 1890, at \$128,429.21. This statement is proved by the Public Accounts of 1891, published in 1892, which shows the public debt on Dec. 31, 1891, to be \$158,450, and also shows a deficit for the year 1891 of \$30,439.20. From the public records we have fully established the fact that the debt of this Province in 1891 was \$128,429, and the further fact that less than \$77,000 of this debt is properly charged to the Conservatives.

This was the condition of affairs against which the Liberals raised such a hue and cry, and upon which they ultimately succeeded in defeating the Conservative Government. The Liberals proclaimed themselves economists. They declared the era of deficits was at an end; revenue and expenditure should henceforth meet, and the day of taxation was far off. This was their cry over the length and breadth of the Province; this was the shibboleth upon which they succeeded in displacing the Conservatives.

As we have just shown, the Liberals reached power in 1891 on the cry that this Province must not go any further in debt than it was then; revenue and expenditure must henceforth meet; no deficits were to be permitted and the day of taxation was far off. This was the platform on which Mr. Frederick Peters rode into power. He formed his Government and started in to carry out his policy. Let us pause here for a moment and fully consider the existing condition of things. We have shown above what the record of the Conservative Government had been, and we have pointed out what the debt of the Province

was when the Liberals came in in 1891. If the Conservatives were guilty of any political faults, they were punished for them by suffering defeat. The Liberals, as we have pointed out, promised to remedy the evils and right the wrongs of which they accused their Opponents. Now they are in the saddle and about to commence the political regeneration they had promised. Let us take them at their word and accept the public and official declarations of their Leader at the starting point, as the corner stone of their platform.

What then was the official declaration of policy of the Liberals, through their Leader, when they took up the burden of Government? It was this: Mr. Frederick Peters Leader of the Government, asked the Legislature for authority to issue debentures, to the amount of \$185,000. He declared that this money was for the purpose of funding the then existing floating debt, and to make some repairs to the Provincial building. He further said that the accounts being adjusted by means of the money thus raised, there should henceforward be a clean sheet; there would be no more deficits; revenue and expenditure would henceforth meet. Mr. Peters made these declarations with the full responsibility of his official position, as Premier of this Province. We must assume he meant what he said. At any rate, the Legislature gave him the necessary authority to issue the debentures. The money was raised and the new plan of conducting the public business of this Province was inaugurated. This was the starting point in the Liberal financial management of our Province. We can no more go back beyond this point. Our Liberal friends solemnly declare through their Leader that they found a certain debt left by the Government that had just gone out of office, and that \$185,000 was to fund this debt and have several thousand dollars for certain public improvements. All these things are accepted for argument sake as stated, and we are from that date to look ahead; never to look back. The Conservatives had been punished for their illegal short coming's. The Liberals came into power; propounded their financial policy and the new financial regime was launched.

Starting from this point, let us review the financial history of our Province for the last seventeen years. We were to have no more deficits, according to the Liberal platform; but they had scarcely warmed their official seats when the work of rolling up deficits commenced. As we have already seen, they created a deficit of \$30,500 the very first year they were in office, and from that day forward they have had annual deficits ranging in magnitude from \$12,000 to \$120,000. These deficits have kept piling up the Provincial debt until it is now in the vicinity of \$1,000,000. That means \$1.00 an acre on every acre of land in this Province. That is quite a mortgage for the farmers of this island to carry. The Provincial auditors report on the public accounts for the year ended 30th Sept. 1907, the last we have, placed the receipts at \$350,479.09 and the expenditure at \$361,158.94. These figures showed an apparent deficit of \$10,679.85; but this was very far from the real deficit on the year's transactions, and was arrived at by placing among the receipts \$35,000, half the increased subsidy, which was not received until two months later. Making this necessary correction in the accounts, as they stand, the apparent deficit would be \$45,679.85. But even this addition leaves an unpaid liability on unfinished contracts of \$48,304.34 as well as an item for interest on loans, amounting to \$11,004.33. These items taken together bring the deficit up to \$99,989.02 without taking into account other deferred payments which would swell the amount to an enormous sum. In his budget speech in the Legislature last session, Premier Haszard anticipated a deficit on this year's financial transactions of \$7,137. But we may be very sure the deficit will be much nearer seven times seven thousand; and this is not all. Statements submitted to the House last session by the Premier indicate that the deficit for the current year, up to the 29th of February last, supposing all bills and interest to be paid and the half yearly subsidy all used up, amounted to \$129,000. This added to the Provincial debt already admitted by the Government easily brings it up to

the million dollar mark. This is how revenue and expenditure have been made to meet; this is how deficits have been warded off. Surely the party that thus flagrantly broke their promises; deceived the people and ran our Provincial debt up from \$128,000 to \$1,000,000, are absolutely unworthy the confidence of a free and independent electorate.

A debt is measured by the interest paid on it. Given the amount of interest and the rate, the debt can be computed. In the case of the Provincial debt the interest is not uniform; but a fairly approximate calculation indicates a capital bordering on the million mark. To show how our Liberal friends distinguished themselves in the matter of interest as well as in every other phase of their financing it is sufficient to state that the interest charge in 1890, the last year for which the Conservatives are responsible, was only \$2,967.44, while the interest paid in 1907 was \$31,531.15 and to this must be added accrued interest on loans \$11,004.33, making a total interest burden for 1907 of \$42,535.48. This indicates splendid economy surely.

While our Liberal friends were thus creating deficits, amounting in all to \$900,000 and averaging about \$53,000 a year, they were also keeping "taxation far off," by bleeding the people to the tune of over \$900,000 or an annual average of over \$64,000 for fourteen years \$900,000 in taxation and \$900,000 in deficits. That is surely a splendid record for a party that promised to make revenue and expenditure meet and keep the day of taxation far off.

The Liberal Government of this Province have made a record for broken promises, violated pledges, extravagance and mismanagement unequalled in political history. Their disastorous management of our Provincial finances may be thus briefly summed up:

Provincial debt increased from \$128,000 to \$1,000,000. Interest charge increased from \$2,697, to \$43,000. Taxation increased from \$83,000 to \$900,000. The average annual deficits has been about \$53,000. The average annual taxation for 14 years is \$64,000.

What a scandalous record for a party that promised to make revenue and expenditure meet and keep the day of taxation far off!

It is not in the management of our finances alone that the Government have been derelict in their duty and recalcitrant to the trust reposed on them. In every matter of public importance they sacrificed their rights, in obedience to the promptings of those high up in the councils of their party. On the subsidy question, they failed to present our claims to special treatment and allowed the golden opportunity of receiving an additional \$100,000 to pass. So far as our Government and their delegates to the Ottawa conference are concerned, they allowed the Federal authorities to walk over them and slam the door in their faces. Our delegates sat in the conference, as dumb as mummies with lock jaw, while the Premier of British Columbia was busying himself in securing better terms for his Province. Had we not been represented there at all we would have fared just as well off. With regard to pressing our claims on the attention of the Dominion Government, they have utterly failed. Session after session resolutions have been passed on this subject and inquiry at the next session elicited the information that the resolutions had never been presented. Information to which the people's representatives are entitled has been withheld from the members of the Legislature, by command of the Leader of the Government. The parents of the school children of this Province have been flooded to the tune of \$15,000, in consequence of the frequent changes and exorbitant prices of school books. These changes and these outlandish prices have been arranged by the monopolist publishers and the Government have favored them and encouraged them at the expense of the parents, who have to buy books for their children. In Ontario and New Brunswick, where the Liberal Governments have been turned out, the succeeding Conservative Governments have grappled with this evil and now in Ontario, school books that formerly cost 35% are purchased for 7% etc. In New Brunswick a saving of 40 per cent has been effected in the purchase of school books. The scandalous monopoly has been succeeded by the Government here, and all attempts of the Opposition to have a

remedy applied have failed. There are a hundred and one other subjects upon which the Government deserve the execration of the electorate; but we are not able to deal with them in this issue. For more extended explanation of these important public questions we recommend the careful reading and re-reading of the great speech of Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition.

We invite the earnest attention of our readers to what we have said, here and now on the different public questions of importance to this Province. A careful study of these questions will surely convince any unbiased honest and honorable elector that the present Provincial Government have forfeited all claim to the people's confidence.

British People on Preferential Trade.

In the course of his address before the Canadian Club of Toronto on Wednesday evening last, Lord Milner said that he had been reading the comment in the London papers in regard to the recent elections, and was amazed to find that some Rip Van Winkle had said that the result showed that the tariff of a scheme involving the taxation of wool stuffs. People who made such statements are entirely ignorant of the progress made in the last two years in England. None would now be so brave as to say that tariff reform was out of the question or even improbable in the early future. The English election of 1906 did not mainly turn on this question, though it did militate to some extent against the party in power, as it will militate at the next election against the present Government. If the question were to be "yes" or "no" on fiscal reform, he believed the answer of the people would be decidedly in the affirmative. The nation was now prepared to look at the proposals as a whole, and to favor the adoption of a fiscal policy combining a moderate, reasonable degree of protection to the productive energies of the country with arrangements for giving a preference to the products of the Empire. It was turning toward a tariff in no case embracing very high duties, but with a high scale for importation from foreign countries and a lower scale for importations from other parts of the Empire. The people were unable to withstand a combination of arguments, they saw the increased need of new sources of revenue and the necessity to secure new markets, and understood that the best and easiest markets to secure were those of the sister nations across the seas.

Lord Milner on Mr Chamberlain.

In the course of his latest address in Toronto, Lord Milner said that: It was hard for one not brought up in England to realize how difficult the change of mind as to preferential trade was for the English people. They had been taught free trade as the eleven commandment, and as such worth as much as all the others put together. It was a tall order for men brought up in that faith to abandon or even to modify it. Personally he did not believe that the truth lay entirely with the abstract free trader or with the extreme protectionist, but every proposal must be judged on its merits, and it was with the actual conditions of trade and industry today that the propaganda for tariff reform won. When considering the enormous change in public sentiment in a few years, they must appreciate the service of the great statesman who brought it about, and the courage of Joseph Chamberlain when he broke from the traditions of a lifetime and went out into the wilderness, forsaking defeat and long exile from power because he saw it was necessary to promote the idea of imperial unity. It was the bravest, (the most historically memorable thing ever done by a British statesman, (Lord Chamberlain) the fight in England was won unless a new factor were introduced at the eleventh hour. It remained for the younger members of the imperial family to continue their preference for the colonies now held in the hands of the Empire—that the influence of party politics was in nine cases out of ten always hampering and unfavorable to the great national movement. He was not prepared to say what the end of the great struggle would be but if freedom of any kind should ultimately prevent the realization of the great ideal to which they were all devoted, it would be all the greater misfortune because it would be contrary to the deepest wish and desire of the British race in whatever part of the world.

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