

THE HERALD

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JAMES McISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor.

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

Fielding's Budget Speech.

Our Ottawa letter published
on the first page of this
issue of the Herald furnishes
much useful information re-
garding the finances of Can-
ada. Our readers should
give their most serious at-
tention to the figures expla-
natory of the revenue, expendi-
ture and taxation of Canada,
therein set forth. As a
matter of fact Mr. Fielding's
financial statement this year
is far from encouraging. It
is largely a recital of the
Finance Minister's wrangles
with the money lenders dur-
ing the past year, in order
to secure, even as high rates
of interest, sufficient money
for his immediate needs, and
his anticipations for the coming
fiscal year are gloomy and
depressing.

Mr. Fielding places the
revenue for 1907-8 at \$96,
500,000. Of this revenue
\$73,500,000 is taxation. In
the year 1905-6 the taxation
was \$60,074,815, and in the
year 1896, the last year the
Conservatives were in power
the taxation was only \$27,
759,285. Let our readers
bear these comparisons well
in mind, and they will find
them very useful in punctur-
ing the sophistry of the up-
holders of the present method
of carrying on Canada's finan-
cial affairs.

Against this revenue, the
expenditure, on current ac-
counts was \$77,500,000.
That would leave an apparent
surplus of \$19,000,000; but
that it is only a surplus on
paper, we shall presently
show. In 1905-6, the cur-
rent expenditure was \$67,240,
614. But in 1896, under the
Conservatives, the current
expenditure was only \$36,949,
142, considerable less than half
what it was last year.

To this current expendi-
ture must be added the cap-
ital expenditure, which
amounted last year to \$33,
000,000. In 1905-6, the cap-
ital expenditure was \$16,037,
000 and in 1896, under the
Conservatives, the capital ex-
penditure was \$7,147,241,
considerably less than one
fourth of what is set down
for 1907-8. When Mr. Field-
ing's current and capital ex-
penditures are added together
his surplus not only disap-
pears; but is transformed into
a huge deficit. The total ex-
penditure for 1907-8, adding
the current and capital, was
\$110,500,000. The total ex-
penditure for 1905-6 was
\$83,277,641, and the total
for 1896, under the Conser-
vatives, was \$44,096,383.
From these figures it will be
seen that the expenditure of
1907-8 is two and a half times
as great as that of the
Conservatives in 1896.

Any one can see from the
above figures that instead of
a surplus on the financial
transactions of the Dominion
for the year 1907-8 there has
been a very large deficit. A
genuine surplus would reduce
the public debt; but as a
matter of fact, the next debt
of Canada has been increased
during the financial year end-
ed yesterday, by \$12,000,000.
That is not all, the estimated
increase of the debt, for next
year is from \$30,000,000 to
\$40,000,000. This is what
we have come to under the
inflated financing of Mr.
Fielding. The tax payers of

Canada are about to have a
rude awakening. The out-
look is not promising, and
the process of deception can-
not be much longer conceal-
ed.

When the Conservatives
were spending less than \$37,
000,000 on current account in
1896, and only \$44,000,000
altogether, they were de-
nounced as robbers and the
public were called upon to
believe the Government were
bleeding them white. Laurier,
and Fielding and Cartwright
declared the expenditures
should be reduced at least
three or four millions a year.
Now, when the Liberals are
spending \$77,000,000 on cur-
rent account and \$110, al-
together, they are lauded as
heaven-born statesmen and
financiers. This simply
shows the hypocrisy and de-
ception by which our Liberal
friends are actuated. Noth-
ing we could say could more
trenchantly illustrate this
phase of the question than
the quotation from the Ot-
tawa Citizen given below.

Hon. Mr. Foster's masterly
criticism of Fielding's budget
speech left the Government
forces without argument, and
Mr. Sifton, he who had been
kicked out of the cabinet,
undertook to break the force
of Foster's merciless logic by
a speech in which he pretened
to break away from the
beaten path and to criticize
both sides. This speech
starts the Citizen's editor and
this is what he says: It will
require more than Hon. Mr.
Sifton's "hair-splitting criti-
cism" to break the force of
Hon. Mr. Foster's trenchant
reply to the finance minister's
budget speech. If Mr. Foster
had at times to refine and
distinguish things that differ,
it was because Hon. Mr. Field-
ing had uttered fallacies that
had to be analysed and ex-
posed. The singular clear-
ness and cogency with which
the member for North Toron-
to did this work, exposing the
pretensions of the govern-
ment, and leaving it, so far
as these defences were con-
cerned, naked to its enemies,
has proved too much for his
opponents, who, forsooth,
would content themselves
with a sneer.

"Hair-splitting criticism"!
Surely the member for Bran-
don would not so characterize
the exposure made by Mr.
Foster of the heavier taxation
of the people by a party that
came into office pledged to
retrenchment, lessened tax-
ation, and free trade as they
have it in England. Is it
hair-splitting to insist that
taxation has advanced when a
30 per cent. ad valorem tariff
has been retained, while
goods that in 1896 could be
bought for \$1,000, ten or
twelve years later cost \$1,500,
giving a present revenue of
\$450 to the government from
the same article that in 1896
yielding only \$300?

Is it hair-splitting to show
that in 1896, when the taxes
levied in Canada averaged
\$76,000 per day, the Liberals
denounced such as robbery;
but when in 1908 the taxes
averaged \$200,000 daily, the
taxation is cited as evidence
of heaven-born genius and
statesmanship?

Was it "hair-splitting criti-
cism" when Mr. Foster faced
the prime minister with his
speech delivered on the pub-
lic platform in this city in
1893, when he was supposed
to be uttering principles for
which he was prepared to
stand, if he could, or fall, if
he must? Rather "side-split-
ting" was the laughter that
punctured the reading of the
speech in the commons.

That those who were not
present in the house to enjoy
the trial may know just what
the Liberals of 1893 thought
of themselves, we reproduce
from Hansard Sir Wilfrid's
speech. Pointing up to Par-
liament hill, he said:
"You have seen those beautif-

buildings on Parliament hill. The
government which has its head-
quarters in those buildings takes
\$38,000,000 or more in the form
of taxation every year.

The ministers who spend that
money may be sure do not
take it out of their own pockets;
they take it from you, from me,
from all the people of the country.
That money is taken from our
pockets by an ingenious system
of taxation. The government
yields a magic wand the touch
of which draws the money from
your pocket without your under-
standing that the money is taken
from you as taxation.

If our countrymen would but
reflect on these matters, I am sure
they would put an end to the
policy which makes such things
possible.

The tax is levied indirectly, the
effect of it is none the less to take
the money from you and to hand
it over to the government.

Every one of you knows how
much municipal taxes and how
much school taxes you pay, and
how much you pay for the sup-
port of the provincial government.
But how many can tell how much
they pay to the support of the
Dominion government?

Take all the other taxes you
have to pay and add them to-
gether, and they do not amount
to as much as you are required to
pay to the Dominion government.
Every pound of nails, every
axe, every yard of cloth you buy
from your merchant is a medium
through which you pay to the
Dominion government.

I hold that it is important that
we should have a series of meet-
ings in the Province of Quebec
and elsewhere to explain these
things to the people, for the peo-
ple do not pay as much attention
to these things as they ought. If
they were understood the present
government would be chased out
of power, just as the robbers were
chased out of the temple.

"Now," concluded Mr.
Foster. I commend that
speech to my right hon. friend
when the gentlemen on the
hill are taking, not \$36,000,
000, but \$73,000,000 out of
the pockets of the people. I
commend it to my right hon.
friend when every pound of
nails, every axe, every yard
of cloth, is still taxed. I com-
mend it all the more to my
right hon. friend when, where-
as in 1893, when he was mak-
ing that speech, \$530,000 a
week was taken out of the
pockets of the people; under
the present method, \$1,400,
000 per week is taken out of
them by this government.

Sessional Notes.

On Tuesday, March 24th, the
question of prohibiting automob-
iles on the public roads of this
Province and the streets of Char-
lottetown and other towns en-
gaged the attention of the Legis-
lature. The matter came up by
a resolution moved by Mr. Agnew
and seconded by Irving. Atten-
tion had of late been called to the
danger in connection with the
running of automobiles. Meetings
had been held in different parts
of the Province and the almost
unanimous opinion was in favor
of suppression. The letters ap-
pearing in the newspapers had al-
most all pointed in that direction
and had intimated that the repre-
sentatives in the Legislature should
act in regard to the question. The
mover and seconder of the resolu-
tion were strong in favor of pro-
hibiting the running of these ma-
chines.

Mr. Prowse strongly emphasized
the necessity of removing this
menace to the travelling public.
In the country the women did
the most of the shopping; but
since the advent of the automobile
and in consequence of accidents
that have occurred from them,
women would not undertake to
drive a horse. It would thus be
seen that automobiles were not only
a great inconvenience to the people,
but also a great source of danger.
He therefore strongly emphasized
the necessity of absolutely pro-
hibiting their running on our
roads and streets.

Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the
Opposition, expressed his approval
of abolishing this fruitful source
of danger. He pointed out that
when the address in answer to the
Lieutenant Governor's speech was
under consideration, he had direct-
ed attention to this important
matter. It was unfortunate, he
said, that such legislation was
necessary; but our country roads
are required for the use of the
people, and it certainly was de-

cided wrong that they should
be driven off them by a few own-
ers of automobiles. If automob-
iles are to be permitted there
should be separate roads for them.
Knowing the universal desire and
the necessity for prohibiting auto-
mobiles in this Province, he was
surprised that the Government
had left it to a private member
to present the matter to the Legis-
lature. The people have a right
to expect that a measure of this
kind should emanate from the
Government. We were only
merely talking, when we should
be doing business. It was neces-
sary that a bill should be passed,
and the resolution should be one
foreshadowing such a bill. The
Government should have taken
the initiative in the matter.

Mr. McKinnon expressed him-
self as strongly in accord with
the opinion that prevails throughout
the whole Province. He did not
think that any regret need be
entertained regarding the introduc-
tion of legislation to prevent the
running at large of automobiles.
He was of the opinion, however,
that in view of the probable cheap-
ening of the automobile and its
possible coming more generally
into use throughout Canada, it
would be well to limit the opera-
tion of the act to a certain period
of years. The prohibition could
be renewed at the termination of
such a period if considered advis-
able.

Mr. McDonald had no doubt
that this was, at present, a great
question throughout the Province,
still he hardly agreed with the
resolution. He remembered that
a great uproar had been raised
when rearing and mowing ma-
chines had been introduced into
England. There was a general
demand that they should be driven
out of the country. But no one
would now wish it to be known
that he had been prejudiced
against them, they had come to
be recognized as universally valu-
able to the farmers. There were
many other things concerning which
people would now be inclined to
feel ashamed of the agitation that
had been raised against them. A
few years ago a general outcry
had been raised against the
bicycle, and now the automobile
was to the front. If prohibited
altogether the members of this
House may in after years be
ashamed of their action at the
present time. This is a horse
raising and horse exporting coun-
try, and the value of horses sold
abroad will be considerable in-
creased if they are broken to the
automobile. In view of these
facts he thought we should not be
too hasty or too extreme in this
prohibition. The resolution passed
without division.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr.
Mathieson, Leader of the Opposi-
tion, called the attention of the
Leader of the Government to the
question he had asked at the be-
ginning of the session, concerning
the claims of this Province against
the Dominion Government and
the Premier's reply. He then read
from the official report of the
House of Commons debates, a
statement of Mr. Alex. Martin,
M. P., in the course of a speech by
him on our financial relations.
Mr. Martin is thus reported:
"Here is an abstract from the
minutes of the executive council of
the province, dated November 28,
1907, with regard to our claims
against the Dominion Government.
It says: The council deem
it expedient that a memorial be
prepared and presented to the
Governor General at as early a
date as possible, setting out all
claims of this Province against
the Dominion Government in
terms of certain resolutions of the
legislature of this Province adopted
during the session of 1907, par-
ticularly with regard to the claim
for damages accrued since the
settlement of 1901 between said
Governments for non-fulfillment
of the terms of union with respect
to the maintenance of efficient
steam communication and freight
rates between this island and the
mainland, and strongly pressing
for payment of said indemnity up
to the present time; also urging
that immediate steps be taken to
establish continuous communication
by the best means that can be
devised. The following gentle-
men were appointed a special com-
mittee to prepare said memorial,
namely: The Hon. Messieurs
Peters, Hughes, McNutt, Hazard
and Captain Joseph Reid, M. L. A.,
and John Agnew, M. L. A. As
this is a matter of great import-
ance the committee are requested
to lose no time in preparing the
said memorial."

The Leader of the Opposition
expressed his surprise that the
House had not been informed

about the minute of council and the
memorial referred to. Hon. Mr.
Hazard said the information
given to the House by the Leader
of the Opposition was not correct.
What was done was the appoint-
ment by the Government of a
committee to deal with the claims
of the Province generally. No
minute of the Executive Council
was passed. The information
quoted by Mr. Martin must be
imaginary, as it does not exist in
fact. How little Mr. Hazard
knew about the matter he was
discussing was shown on the
following day, when he confessed
he did not know that a minute of
Council had been passed. He
found that such a minute existed
and he now laid it on the table.
No memorial was sent to the Do-
minion Government, and no claim
or proposal was made. He desired
to withdraw what he had said
on the previous day, about Mr.
Martin's remarks in the House
of Commons.

The next thing was a fight by
the Opposition for information
that should have been furnished
by the Commissioner of Public
Works. Mr. Morson pointed out
that there were several papers
missing in a return he had asked
for. Mr. McDonald showed that
his question regarding rights of
way had not been answered, and
that the Commissioner be ordered
by the House to submit the in-
formation required. Mr. Com-
miskey said he knew of no right
of way that had been purchased
and paid for the road through
that had not been opened. Mr.
Mathieson said that the commis-
sioner surely could discover,
without difficulty, what rights of
way had been purchased since
1891, unless the books of the Pub-
lic Works Department were in
a state of chaos. There must be
a scandalous state of disorder in
his office, if he cannot produce
the information that is wanted.
The question had been asked
three weeks ago, and there was
no answer yet. Every member
in the House knows about some
of the rights of way that have
not been opened. We want to
know how much of the people's
money has been sunk in this way.
Not an election has passed, said
Mr. Mathieson, in which land has
not been bought and paid for by
the Government, and in many
cases the land so bought and paid
for is still used by its original
owner. If the Commissioner does
not know about this matter; if he
is ignorant of his duty why is he
unsatisfied in office?

Mr. Morson maintained that the
Commissioner of Public Works
should have in his office all the
information that Mr. McDonald
desired. He should know what
amount of money was paid for
every right of way and ought to
know every road that had been
opened and every right of way
that had not been opened. He
should know what goes on in his
office and he is held responsible
by the people. Mr. Morson re-
ferred to several roads of which
he knew, some of which had not
been opened or only partially
opened. But of these the Com-
missioner appeared to know noth-
ing. Mr. McKinnon referred to
the fact that the amounts paid
for rights of way were in variably
charged to capital account. These
rights of way are regarded as so
much capital in the possession of
the Government, and yet no in-
formation concerning them or the
roads that ought to have been
constructed can be obtained.
Surely the Commissioner ought
to inform himself on the subject
and not have to write to his in-
spectors and supervisors when
questions were asked. Year after
year money is paid away for
rights of way for roads that have
not been opened. It is not correct
to say, as the Premier has said
that the Opposition is asking for
this information merely to convey
to the people the impression that
information is being withheld.
Mr. Fraser urged that the infor-
mation be brought down. Surely
the Government did not seek to
conceal this information as it con-
cealed the date upon which the
\$35,000 were received? The
Leader of the Government had
instructed one of his officials not
to answer the questions of Public
Accounts Committee. Mr. Fraser
proceeded to demand the infor-
mation about the rights of way.
We have got the information about
the \$36,000, but we got it outside of
him. The Commissioner of Public
Works could supply the information
desired, if he chose to do so. Hence divided on
Mr. McDonald's motion and it was re-
solved on a strictly party vote of 14 to 8.

Mr. Mathieson expressed the hope
that the Premier would not press
the bill too strongly. We have had a long
experience in dealing with Canada, he
said, and Canada has invariably in-
sisted upon all her rights up to the
strictest interpretation of the law as
regards all matters affecting her. We
could not, he pointed out, by any act
of ours, diminish the rights of the Do-
minion in our public harbors, but for
fear that we should do so, they chal-
lenge the act and hold it up. Our
statute cannot interfere upon their
rights; but if we pass this bill as it
stands, we should distinctly know-
ledge the claim they make, and in the
course of this statute might be quoted
against us in future years to the great
injury of our Province. Therefore we
should be careful not to give away
our rights. We have been put in the
wrong over and over again. In the
case of our representation in the House
of Commons, one word would have
served us and one word has reduced
our representation to four, and may
reduce it to the vanishing point. Let
us be careful not to do a similar thing
here; let us not establish a precedent
that may be used to the prejudice of
the Province in future years. If we admit
the right to fish oysters in the
public harbors, we can never free our-
selves from that administration and
we shall limit the scope of the act so that
it will have no operation at all. The
cultivation of oysters and the naviga-
tion of public harbors do not interfere
with one another. The two rights may
co-exist.

Hon. Mr. Hughes thought this was a
very important question and he thought
the bill might have a tendency to limit
the rights of the Province. Mr. Prowse
thought before we should press the bill,
we should know just what a public har-
bor is. This was a matter of great im-
portance, and if Mr. Morson's amend-
ment would make the Province safe
with regard to the oyster fishery, he
thought, to let the matter stand over
until we knew what we were doing.
The Premier admitted he could not de-
scribe exactly what a public harbor is,
nor did he think any one in the House
could. It is a matter that would prob-
ably be settled at some future time in
the courts. After further argument on
the matter by Mr. Mathieson, the Pre-
mier decided to let the bill stand over.
He, accordingly, moved the Speaker to
take the chair and progress was made.

The most important question under
discussion last week was that relating
to our schools and school books. This
is a question that affects all the people.
The quality, prices and frequent changes
of school books are matters that come
home to all who have children attending
school. The Leader of the Opposition
brought the matter before the House by

Hon. Mr. Hughes moved the follow-
ing resolution: Resolved, that the
Legislature recognizing the difficulties

and loss entailed on the owners and
charterers of sailing vessels, also to
the consumers of coal in this Province
on account of the preference habitually
given to steam tonnage as distinguish-
ed from sailing vessels, at the piers of
the leading collieries in Nova Scotia,
respectfully request the Government of
Nova Scotia to exercise such powers as
may be within its rights to secure fair
and equitable treatment for the sailing
vessels at such piers, and if those
powers be inadequate to the end pro-
posed, recommend that said Govern-
ment have recourse to the Federal au-
thorities with a view to securing the
rights and privileges in the question.
This resolution asking for justice to
schooner owners and their captains, as
against the privileges accorded to
steamers and powerful corporations, was
supported in speeches by members on
both sides of the House. Mr. Mc-
Kinnon is in support of the resolution.
It is not a matter that affects the owners
of vessels and coal dealers only; it effect
every farmer in the country. Schooners
do the work for this Province which
steamers cannot do, and if schooners
are driven out of the business it will be
bad for the Province. He knew that
in August last as many as thirteen
vessels were laid up in Port Hastings at
one time by the larger steamers then
being loaded. Mr. Mathieson pointed
out that it is of great consequence to
Canada that the coasting trade should
be in the hands of Canadian seamen.
There is no better protection for the
country, he said, than the hardy fisher-
men trained upon our coasts, and
ready to defend the country from
attack. These men should be en-
couraged. The question is a large one.
Many of our seamen who work in the
coasting trade find it difficult to make
a living in competition with Norwe-
gians. After considerable discussion the
resolution passed unanimously.

A matter that elicited sharp debate
was the Premier's order Fishery Bill.
A bill relative to the leasing of the beds
of rivers and bays for oyster culture
was passed by the Legislature last year;
but word had been received from the
department of Justice, Ottawa, that the
act would be disallowed, unless amend-
ed in such a way as to remove all doubt
as to interference with any rights pos-
sessed by the Dominion Government.
The Premier proposed that the follow-
ing words be added to the bill. "Noth-
ing in this Act is intended to effect any
public harbor." Mr. Morson moved
that the addition be amended so as to
read: "Nothing in this act is intend-
ed to effect the rights of Canada in any
public harbor." The Premier did not
indicate his willingness to accept this
amendment, and then leave was joined.

Mr. Morson desired to know what
kind of a harbor is a public harbor.
If our harbors are public harbors that
do not prevent them from producing
oysters, and all the rights of Canada to
navigation would be safeguarded by his
amendment. Not only our Provincial
but the Federal rights were preserved
by this amendment. The rights of
public harbors and oyster fisheries
were protected. But if the bill is allowed
to pass as presented by the Premier,
we shall exclude ourselves, and Can-
ada will be able to drive us out of any
harbor which may be considered public.
Why should we put a millstone
around our neck, and legislate ourselves
out of any rights we possess in any of
our public harbors.

Mr. Mathieson expressed the hope
that the Premier would not press
the bill too strongly. We have had a long
experience in dealing with Canada, he
said, and Canada has invariably in-
sisted upon all her rights up to the
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Ask Your Neighbor
About her purchase of
Wash Materials

At the Always Busy Store.
Thousands of Yards of New
Goods Just Received.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes items like Heavy Printed Cotton, Extra Heavy Printed Cotton, Printed Cotton Ducks, English Galateas, etc.

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