The Colonist.

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W. H. Ellis, Manager. A. G. Sangster, Secretary.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST.

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Parts of a year at the same rate.
Per week, if delivered..... 20

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States..... $1 00
Six months..... 75

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in advance.

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THE ESTIMATES.

The Province is to be congratulated on the estimates for the next fiscal year, which the Finance Minister was able to lay before the house yesterday. The government feels able to anticipate receipts during the year beginning on the first of July next of $1,288,089.45. The calculations upon which this estimate is based have been very carefully made, and the indications are that the amount will be exceeded rather than not reached. The estimated revenue for the current year was $1,163,789, and the indications so far show that the receipts will be about this amount, so there is good reason to suppose that the several increases counted upon will be realized. It is very interesting to know that the estimated revenue for 1894 was $821,060, thus showing an increase of 50 per cent. in four years. It is true that in two previous years this amount was exceeded, but the excess was due to exceptional land sales, which can hardly be properly classed as current sources of revenue. At the close of the present fiscal year it is expected that there will be a balance of $285,060 on hand, which added to the anticipated revenue for next year will give the very handsome sum of $1,573,089.45 available for appropriation at this session.

It will be observed that the expenditure contemplated, not including what may be brought down in the supplementary estimates, amounts to $1,566,765.10. Thus the estimates contemplate substantially the expenditure of all the anticipated revenue and the balance on hand; that is to say by the close of the next fiscal year the proceeds of the last loan will be exhausted. It will be noticed that there is an apparent decrease in the estimate for civil government salaries. This is explained by the fact that some of the amounts usually included under this head have been transferred to the administration of justice salary account and the public institutions maintenance account. The increase in the estimate for public institutions is in a large measure due to necessary outlay on the lunatic asylum. The increases in the other items are due to the general expansion of provincial interests. The demand for court houses, school houses and jails calls for an increase in the estimate for works and buildings. The very substantial increase for roads, streets, bridges and wharves needs neither explanation nor apology. It is worthy of note that of the total expenditure over $800,000 is for what may be called public works, that is, for matters directly for the benefit of the taxpayers, thus:

Public works	$395,150
Education	242,111
Public institutions	92,840
Miscellaneous	97,268
	$827,369

This is a very excellent showing, especially when we reflect that the expense of the government establishment will not much increase in the future, so that as the revenue increases there will be more to be expended on works directly for the benefit of the people who pay the taxes.

Our own expectation is that the revenue for next year will exceed the estimate and reach $1,300,000, and we think it not unreasonable to expect that by the year following, that is the year ending June 30, 1899, we may confidently look for a revenue from existing sources equal to the whole amount appropriated this year. If we may anticipate during the next four years an increase equal to that in the last four, and as we will receive a very considerable addition in the way of Dominion subsidy, the suggestion is by no means improbable, we may look forward in the year 1902 to a Provincial revenue of $2,000,000. We think this is a very promising outlook, and one that is by no means unreasonable. Of the estimates brought down yesterday it may be fairly claimed that they are the most satisfactory of any that have been submitted to the house in a number of years.

TO WILFRID LAURIER:—GREETING!

There has come to you, sir, an opportunity such as has never presented itself to any Canadian premier. Upon your illustrious predecessor, Sir John A. Macdonald, devolved the stupendous task of welding into permanent union the several provinces and the great unorganized territory forming British North America. The verdict of history will be that the work was well done. Even now, though we are yet too close to the picture to lose sight of the rough strokes of the artist's brush, the people of Canada, irrespective of party, recognize that the great Premier had a work to do and that he did it wisely and well. Your advent to power is due to the fact that the work of Confederation has been completed and that the people demand a new departure. It is not necessary to remind you that the history of national progress the world over shows that behind the advancing and recedding waves of public opinion, as expressed from time to time at elections, there is a force which, like the incoming tide, surmounts all obstacles. I am that distinguished and honorable gentleman, Alexander Mackenzie, who for five years occupied the position which you now fill as premier of the Dominion and leader of the Liberal party, Canada had a first minister whose integrity, ability and patriotism his most vigorous opponents always conceded. But his administration was a failure, because, unlike King Canute of England, he did not recognize the resistlessness of the force confronting him. He mistook the ripples on the shore for the full flood of the tide.

But great as was the opportunity before Sir John Macdonald, it was not equal to that before you. You are exceptionally fortunate in some respects. You have taken office at a time when Canada has awakened to a realization of its power. The Canada of to-day is no longer the chubby boy with a handsled, such as cartoonists are fond of portraying, but a vigorous, clear-eyed, resolute youth on the very threshold of manhood, confident of his strength, buoyant with that hope which springs from a consciousness of power, and ambitious to emulate the deeds of his great parent. Our southern neighbors, for reasons that do not specially concern us, have chosen to adopt a policy of commercial antagonism towards our country. They have done this at a time when their own internal affairs are far from being in a satisfactory condition. Their country is racked over financial problems; grave social questions imperil its future; the vast arable domain, which was the chief factor in its marvellous development, is substantially all occupied and so far from being in a position to invite the overflowing population of the old world to cast in its lot with it, the Republic is setting up barriers to immigration at the same time that uncertainty as to the future financial policy of the country is erecting barriers to foreign capital. There is throughout the British Empire at this moment a growing movement for closer unity, which, if its development is encouraged, will mean much for the great colonies of Canada, Australia and South Africa, which possess within themselves all the material for imperial development. Whether this closer union shall be of a political nature or whether it shall consist in a strengthening of sentimental and commercial ties is a matter for the future to determine; but there is no doubt that the hour is propitious for its promotion, and that its promotion means much for the material prosperity of the Canadian people. Amid this entourage of circumstances, the fortune of politics has placed the guidance of the destinies of the Dominion in your hands, has made it possible for you to give a new character to Canadian life, has cast upon you the duty of striking the key-note of progress. When we remember that the Dominion, whose welfare is for the time being in your hands, embraces half a continent and is the keystone in that matchless Arch of Empire, with which British pluck and energy have spanned the world, we realize at once the greatness of your opportunity and the gravity of your responsibility.

Canada has as great an arable area awaiting colonization as the United States had in the days when Ohio was "the West." We know what the development of the greater West of that Republic meant and can form from this knowledge some estimation of what the colonization of our great prairies, of the great interior of Ontario and Quebec and of the rich valleys of British Columbia will mean. Canada has as great mineral resources, at least, as those which made the United States for a long time first in the list of producers of precious metal. Our double ocean frontier enables the Dominion to compete for the trade of Europe and grasp the commerce of the Orient, with at least an equal chance with all competitors. Our resources are varied and of enormous magnitude. There is scarcely an avenue of human industry, open to the residents of the temperate zone, in which Canadians in Canada need to take a place second to any rivals. We enjoy the prestige and protection of the British flag.

Such are some of the considerations which will govern the Canadian people in judging the policy of your administration. You may in the present session of parliament give an earnest of your appreciation of them, you may [illegible] give the Dominion a new [illegible] aspects. If you do so, whether your term of office shall be long or short, you can gain the lasting gratitude of your fellow-countrymen, and Canada will be the better for your having lived in it.

THE TIMES'S ESTIMATES CORRECTED.

The Times referring to the estimates says: "[illegible] the deficit anticipated for 1897-8 is augmented by an increase all round in the salaries of officials. This increase will amount to about $20,000. This seems a most indefensible thing at the present time."

First and very briefly as to the "deficit anticipated." The Times knows perfectly well that no deficit is anticipated. The expenditure will exceed the revenue, because included in the outlay will be the balance of the last loan. The money raised by that loan was borrowed to be expended not to be kept to look at.

As to the alleged all round increase in salaries, this is simply a false statement, and if the Times can devise any more emphatic way of stating that what it says is untrue, it is at liberty to consider it as having been used. The increase in the salary account is not $20,000, but only a little over $19,000; but let that pass. The only matter of interest is how the increase is made up. This is the explanation:

Wages of additional employes in the printing office	$ 5,672 00
Fifteen new provincial police	11,000 00
Additional attendant at lunatic asylum	700 00
Sundry small additions to salaries of permanent officials	2,000 00
	$19,372 00

The increase in wages in the printing office, the revenue from which this year is about $18,000, was due to the increased amount of work to be done. Does the Times regard this as "indefensible"? The total of salaries and wages in that office is now $19,672.

The increase in the number of police is due to the expanding settlement of the province and the opening of new districts where officers must be stationed. Does the Times regard this as indefensible?

The proper care of the patients in the Lunatic Asylum calls for another attendant. Does the Times regard his appointment as indefensible?

We come now to the only increase in existing salaries—$2,000, or one-tenth of the sum which the Times alleges is in the estimates for that purpose. This sum is divided up among a number of old and tried officials. The government has thought that their services merit this acknowledgment. Perhaps to people of the calibre of the Times this is indefensible. We are quite prepared to believe it.

HANDS OFF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. McInnes, M.P., has given notice of motion for the disallowance of the British Columbia Southern Act. We submit that such a proposition is one that ought not to be entertained for a moment. We do not deny that there are no precedents for such a resolution; but we protest that such precedents are better honored in the breach than in the observance. The right of disallowance is vested in the Governor-General, not because he represents parliament, but because he represents the Sovereign. He exercises a royal prerogative when he disallows an act solemnly passed by the provincial legislatures.

We hold that if it becomes the practice of parliament to pass resolutions calling on the Governor-General to disallow local laws, the British North America Act may as well be repealed so far as it professes to vest any power in the provincial legislatures. The only object in moving such a resolution can be to secure the action of the Governor-General in accordance with it, and we submit that if parliament can pass a resolution of this nature the ministry is bound to advise the Governor-General accordingly or else be open to a vote of want of confidence. Hence a parliamentary resolution to compel the disallowance of a provincial statute is equivalent to the passage of an act repealing that statute, or if there is any difference it is too vague to be worth regarding. We hold, no matter what the precedents may be, and we have not had time to examine them, the passage of such a resolution would be a usurpation by parliament of powers which the Imperial statute vests in the provincial legislature, and a violation of the solemn compact of confederation.

We are not discussing the merits of the British Columbia Southern Act, and are not going to discuss them. The place to debate that question is in the legislature, which has the constitutional right to deal with it. If the Governor-General shall be advised by his ministers to disallow the act, and shall do so, his action must be accepted, however objectionable it may be, for it is within his authority. It would become then the duty of the British Columbia legislature to re-enact the law, and if it were disallowed to re-enact it again. If the coal lands were ea[illegible] times as valuable as they are, they would be a bagatelle as compared with the right of the people of this Province to legislate independence on local questions. Our protest is now against what we do not hesitate to class as a most impertinent attempt to usurp the functions of the local legislature. We suggest that the local house should place itself squarely on record on this question at the earliest possible day.

The Rosslander thinks it possible to have too much foreign capital brought into the Province for the development of our mines. We can hardly agree with this proposition. It is quite true that when outsiders control our mines the dividends are not spent in the Province as a rule, but if we only carried on such business in British Columbia as was beneficial to the people of the Province alone, there would be a curtailment of enterprise to an extent that would paralyze industry and destroy the value of property. The Rosslander would do well to return to its original policy of inviting all the outside capital possible to come into the Province.

We all knew what it meant to be "in it," or "strictly in it"; but it has taken the Full court to decide what it means to "be in on it." Is there a precedent for a judicial interpretation of a slang expression? Whether there is or not the court was certainly dead-to-rights on it. So our glorious language grows, for we assume that hereafter to be in on it becomes the Queen's English. It is one of the Jubilee contributions to the world encircling tongue.

Once more we must correct the evening prevaricator. Mr. Bryden did not follow the advice of the Colonist on the anti-Chinese bill. Mr. Macpherson did, however. He expressly declared himself in favor of the general bill, because it would obviate the necessity of putting the clause in private bills, which was all that the Colonist advised.

The prospect of a Canadian fast line of steamers on the Atlantic has revived the demand in the United States for a differential duty on goods carried in American bottoms. Uncle Sam has a good solid grip on his boot straps, and is straining hard to pull himself out of the mire. The harder he pulls, the deeper he is likely to sink.

The Republican Chicago Tribune is the latest and one of the most vigorous of protesters against the Dingley tariff bill. It singles out the wool duties and says that their reimposition will be a gross political and financial blunder. Signs multiply that the Republican party is going to pieces over the tariff question.

The suggestion is now made that the Crow's Nest Pass railway ought not to be built until it has been ascertained that the prosperity of Kootenay is permanent. Of the permanency there is no doubt. What this class of objectors mean by permanent is eternal.

The San Francisco Chronicle thinks that Queen Victoria wants to abdicate, but that the ministry will not consent for fear of a revolution. Great head, the Chronicle man has, certainly.

A Kansas legislature has introduced a bill to enact the Ten Commandments with a specific penalty affixed to each.

The unspeakable Turk seems to say nothing but get there just the same.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

DEVELOPMENT OF MINES.

Where the natives of a mineral country are savages the country must be developed by outside parties, but the people of Kootenay and of Canada are capable of operating mines successfully, and it is hoped that the proportion of foreign owned mines will never become so large that the majority of us will have to subsist on the crumbs that fall from the rich men's table.—Rosslander.

CANADA'S TURN.

The next rush of emigration from Europe will certainly be to Canada, as the United States has no longer the agricultural attractions that Canada has, and her mineral wealth has been pretty well exhausted.—Montreal Witness.

THOSE COMMERCIAL STATISTICS.

We fail to see that there is the least reason why the request of the Bureau of Statistics should not meet with a prompt and satisfactory response from all quarters, and we trust that those applied to will act in that way.—News-Advertiser.

THE OUTLOOK IN ALBERTA.

Barring unfavorable weather conditions, the outlook for Alberta ranching seems decidedly good, and we believe the present season will once more demonstrate the fact that a well managed cattle ranche is better than a gold mine. —Calgary Herald.

THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

When the Liberals get the tariff off their hands they will find a work cut for them in dealing with the superannuation question. There is no reason why the people should be taxed to keep it up; there will be no dearth of good men for the work if the fund is abolished. But if the system is to be maintained, it should be made self-sustaining. Cut it clear of the federal treasury, or abolish it entirely.—Port Hope Guide.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

In regard to the names of mines, there ought, for the protection of mine owners, as well as the public, to be some provision to absolutely prevent the duplication of names. For obvious reasons, the name of a mine ought to be as strictly guarded against infringement as is the trade mark or copyright of other business concerns.—Westminster Columbian.

"Now," said the lecturer on natural science before a Kentucky audience, "we will suppose a region in which nothing existed but water." "No! No!" replied a dozen indignant voices at once, "we will not suppose nothing of the kind."—Atlanta Constitution.

"That was a beautiful umbrella you carried last week. What became of it?" "Jones recognized it."—Chicago Post.

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