

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 3, 1911.

MR. ROBINSON, THE CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

Mr. Robinson gave the Telegraph yesterday further opportunity for more severe headlines, but the criticisms which the Leader of the Opposition has to offer on the annual statement of the provincial finances, when analysed, only serve to show up in a stronger light the difference between the mismanagement and extravagance which prevailed while he and his predecessors were in charge of the treasury and the honest and careful administration of the public funds which now exists under the Hazen Government.

The Standard's explanation of the sinking fund item, in connection with the London loan, does not apparently satisfy Mr. Robinson. Why, he asks, is the year 1910 allowed to escape its share of the burden? And suggests juggling and manipulation. The explanation is so simple that a child could understand it. The year 1909 escaped four months' interest charge, from July to October, because the interest was not due until January 1910. For that reason and to even the expenditure up between the two years, 1909 was taxed with the sinking fund for twelve months, eight of which would otherwise have belonged to 1910. It was a common sense way of dealing with the matter and to any fair-minded observer is not open to criticism.

Suspense accounts should be a subject on which Mr. Robinson might be expected to give some expert information, but when he turns to discuss the methods pursued by his own Government, his memory suffers a surprising lapse. "Under the old plan," he says, "bills were paid by a loan from the bank, and the bank was in suspense until Parliament voted the money. Now these bills are not paid until after the close of the fiscal year." Will Mr. Robinson be prepared to say that the suspense account, which was rolled up by his Government from May until October 1907, was not charged up until after the money was voted by the Legislature in May 1908? His memory needs refreshing. In 1907 nearly \$70,000 was placed to suspense account. The public works account was overdrawn to the extent of \$11,032.24, and this amount was paid out before the end of the fiscal year. In addition the Hazen Government paid over \$150,000 in 1908 for bills contracted and payable before the close of the previous fiscal year. Yet Mr. Robinson would have it believed that his suspense account wiped out all the payments! Will Mr. Robinson say that payments made by the Public Works Department from the beginning of the fiscal year up to the opening of the Legislature have been greater under the Hazen Government than formerly? He knows the contrary to be the case.

Referring to the Public Works Department having exceeded its appropriation by \$60,000 the Leader of the Opposition shows a tender solicitude for the much abused audit act. "What has become of the audit act?" he asks. "Has the Auditor General no protest to make?" Mr. Robinson is well aware that the audit act provides that when public works are urgently needed in the public interest an expenditure can be made beyond the appropriation. Had some of the urgent work on the bridges covered by this expenditure not been carried out, he would be the first to complain that the Government were neglecting their duty. When he reflects on the Auditor General, in his capacity as an independent official, he does an injustice to a thoroughly conscientious officer.

With regard to repairs to the roads and bridges of the province it is of interest to note the increased expenditure which has been devoted to this important branch of the public service. The figures for the last five years are as follows:

| | |
|------|-------------|
| 1905 | \$1,058.48 |
| 1906 | \$6,201.54 |
| 1907 | \$4,179.78 |
| 1908 | \$10,762.43 |
| 1909 | \$15,916.40 |

The returns for the year 1909 show an increase of \$64,000 over the four previous years, and no doubt, when details of the expenditure for 1910 are available it will be found that the funds devoted to this purpose will at least equal the previous year. "Are the results in proportion to the cost?" asks Mr. Robinson. There are no two opinions in the minds of the people of the province that the results are very much better than in proportion to the expenditure under the old Administration.

"Are the bills paid promptly?" is another subject which is evidently causing Mr. Robinson much worry and uneasiness, and he suggests that an item of \$2,965.45, expenses of the Central Railway investigation, should have been paid in 1909, and is open to suspicion. Considering the nature of the findings of the commissioners as affecting Mr. Robinson's friend and ex-colleague, Mr. Pugsley, his solicitude that they should be promptly paid is to say the least magnanimous. If Mr. Robinson makes proper inquiry when the time comes we believe he will discover that all the items in this account were not submitted until after the close of the fiscal year. It is permissible to ask Mr. Robinson this question: If his own Government paid their bills promptly how comes it that ever since the advent of the Hazen Administration unsettled accounts have been continually presented which should have been paid before they came into power?

Exception is taken by the Leader of the Opposition to the Standard's statement that the increased cost of stamperage is due to the increased collections. The Standard has nothing to retract from that statement. It may be pointed out, however, that the scalers are paid a slightly higher remuneration than they re-

ceived under the old Government, which wasted thousands of dollars on lawyers fees to benefit their friends and could only afford to give the scalers five cents per thousand for scaling lumber. This was not considered by the present Government fair payment for their labor. It is also worth mentioning that game wardens under Mr. Robinson's regime were paid \$1.25 a day and boarded themselves. The Hazen Government had more sympathy for the working man and increased the rate to \$1.75. Does Mr. Robinson regard this as an extravagance?

The size of the log is a never failing source for argument and complaint by the Leader of the Opposition and his friends. Will Mr. Robinson take the responsibility for the statement that under the old Government the regulation size of 18 feet 10 inches was adhered to? He attributes the increase in the stumpage to "the construction of enormous mills at Campbellton, Dalhousie and Bathurst." Will Mr. Robinson say that the export of manufactured lumber in 1910 has been increased in proportion to the increase in the stumpage collected? Or will he say that there has been any increase?

Finally, Mr. Robinson objects to the charges to capital account. The amount added to the permanent debt last year was \$198,050.28. It will be instructive to compare the items with the use made of capital account by Mr. Robinson during his last year in office:

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| Hazen Government, 1910. | |
| Wharves and Grain Elevator, St. John | \$ 2,500 |
| International Railway subsidy | 43,700 |
| Permanent Bridges | 148,552.82 |
| New Brunswick Coal and Railway Repairs | 3,297.45 |
| Total | \$198,050.28 |
| Robinson Government, 1907. | |
| Permanent Bridges | \$126,739.19 |
| New Brunswick Coal and Railway | \$2,251.26 |
| International Railway Subsidy | 20,000 |
| York and Carleton Railway Subsidy | 11,212.50 |
| Wharves and Grain Elevator, St. John | 2,500 |
| Provincial Hospital over-expenditure | 22,502.31 |
| Public Works Dept. over-expenditure | 197,065.97 |
| Total | \$462,271.23 |

Mr. Robinson and his friends are cursed with a record for extravagance and mismanagement from which they cannot escape. Criticism from politicians of their stamp fails to convince directly any comparison is made with their own Administration. The financial methods which ended in their utter defeat at the hands of the electors will not soon be forgiven or forgotten.

THE REFERENDUM IN AUSTRALIA.

In the discussion of the referendum in Great Britain much has been made of the fact that it is now a recognized means of government in Australia. The referendum has been in operation for some time, and is used there not only for the determination of matters of Federal importance, but of municipal questions.

Among the larger problems to which it has been applied may be mentioned the federation of the colonies, the introduction of the Bible in schools in Victoria and Queensland, the state debts, the financial distribution of burdens, and the licensing question, both in the general election just concluded in New South Wales and previously.

In every case an act of Parliament is necessary to sanction the application of the referendum to any question of the first importance. The electors receive a copy of the proposed measure, and answer "Yes" or "No," on a form provided for the purpose, to the question whether they approve of it.

A referendum is about to be taken under a recent act passed by the Federal Parliament on the question of transferring all powers relating to industrial legislation and arbitration from the states to the Federal authority. Such a transfer requires an amendment of the Constitution, because the Constitution only gives Federal authority at present in the case of disputes extending beyond the limits of any one state. It is now sought to give authority to legislate in all cases.

THE THEATRE HAT.

The problem of whether a woman shall or shall not wear her hat at theatrical and musical performances, says the Bangor News, is not so simply and easily soluble as, at first glance, it might seem. There is no doubt that "the man behind" is justified in a fervent, though suppressed, impatience when his whole view of the stage is blotted out by the monstrous headgear that is perpetrated in the name of millinery. He certainly did not pay to have his face tickled with the tip of an ostrich plume, or to have his eyesight threatened with a protruding hatpin. Nor should he be compelled to dodge from side to side, like an engineer looking out of a locomotive cab, because the vista is blocked by the portentous architecture of whalebone and ribbon lampshades and laundry baskets called hats.

On the other hand, considering what a work of art is the 20th century costume, it is a good deal to expect a woman to dismantle the intricate scaffolding and dismantle that elaborate hirsute handiwork when it means that it has been so carefully designed to enhance her appearance at social functions following the concert or the play. It isn't the trouble of taking off her hat mildly minds. It is the fear that affects her lest the removal of pins and veil may cause the carefully imprisoned ringlets and tresses to stray, with a resultant aspect of careless disarray, and general dishevelment.

Current Comment

(London Free Press.)

Denmark has supplied precedent for many an agricultural innovation in recent years, and one of the most important of these, the co-operative poultry and egg circles, is now being adopted in Canada. The fact that Denmark was able to export eggs to the value of eight million dollars last year, principally to Great Britain, shows that the farmers of this little kingdom have worked out the co-operative problem successfully. It is not the first time that Canada has with profit gone to school to Denmark.

(Boston Transcript.)

Three hundred Free Masons having resolved nevermore to swear, an expectant world waits for: (1) their furnace fire to go out; (2) a door to slam on their fingers; (3) the plumbing to freeze; (4) their stenographer to have influenza; and (5) a fall down the stairs with two jars of preserves.

(Vancouver Daily Province.)

John D. Rockefeller declines to express an opinion as to whether Santa Claus is a myth or not. Mr. Rockefeller's reticence on this subject may be attributed to an excusable jealousy of a rival philanthropist whose methods are more popular than his own.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The advances of the Farmers Bank of Canada on the bonds of a mining concern appear to have been the direct cause of the suspension. The men who buy five-cent shares from the smooth-talking promoters are not the simplest gudgeons in the financial pool.

ACHES, PAINS AND RHEUMATISM?

Zam-Buk Will Give You Ease.

Have you a bad attack of "general aching"? You know the feeling. Limbs ache, muscles seem to have become tired out, your back aches, now and again a twinge of rheumatism strikes you here and there. Your chest feels tight, there is a pain between your shoulders, and altogether you need toning up.

It is responsible for this condition, and a vigorous application of Zam-Buk will put you right. Take a hot bath, if possible, and then rub your chest and the aching limbs well with Zam-Buk.

Mr. E. G. Gorie, 76 Berkeley St., Toronto, writes: "I cannot speak too highly of Zam-Buk. A few weeks ago I was suffering from a bad cold, which had settled in my throat, chest and limbs. I tried all kinds of remedies, new and old, and found very little relief until I used Zam-Buk. On applying this to my throat and chest I found such relief and relief from the tightness and soreness I determined to use only Zam-Buk. I also rubbed it on my limbs where I felt the rheumatic pains. In three days from the time I first began applying Zam-Buk I was free from the cold in throat and chest, and also the rheumatism in my limbs."

Zam-Buk will also be found a sure cure for cold sores, chapped hands, frost bites, ulcers, blood-poison, varicose sores, piles, scalp sores, ringworm, inflamed patches, babies' eruptions and chapped places, cuts, burns, bruises and skin injuries generally. All druggists and stores sell at 50c. box, or post free from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, upon receipt of price. Avoid harmful imitations and substitutes.

FALLING OFF IN EXPORTS

Exports from Parrsboro for the Past Year Show Marked Decrease — Outlook Encouraging.

Parrsboro, Dec. 30.—The exports from Parrsboro during the year now closing were much smaller than was anticipated a year ago, and show a marked falling off as compared with the shipments of 1909. The decreased output was largely due to conditions entirely beyond the control of Parrsboro exporters. One of these was the remarkably light snowfall of last winter, which caused many lumbermen to suspend operations sooner than they had intended and, in some cases, rendered it impossible to get the cut lumber out of the woods. Another unfavorable condition was the continuance of the coal strike at Springfield, which practically stopped the export of coal, and inflicted nearly as much injury upon this port as upon the mining town. As lumber and coal are Parrsboro's principal exports, it is not surprising in the circumstances that the output was smaller than was expected.

The shipments of deals, battens and scantlings to the United Kingdom this year aggregated 24,563,365 feet, valued at \$340,344, as compared with last year's shipments of 33,796,746 ft., valued at \$456,436. The spruce and hemlock lumber and scantlings exported to the United States this season (to all) 6,350,201 feet, valued at \$86,087, and the laths exported numbered 10,690,100, valued at \$23,362. The piling shipped this year numbered 54,938 pieces, with a valuation of \$50,825.

Last year's export of boards, scantlings and laths amounted to 10,690,051 feet, valued at \$127,862, and the piling shipped numbered 50,115 pieces, valued at \$91,449. The total output this year was 33,083,786 feet of sawn lumber and 54,958 sticks of piling, the whole being valued at \$512,228. If the conditions had been favorable the shipments would at least have equalled the output of last year which totalled 34,394,807 feet of sawn lumber and 62,715 pieces of piling, with a valuation of \$636,745.

The coal shipments, as might be expected, show a very marked decrease as compared with former years. This year the total shipments are a little less than last year's, while the shipments last year in the seven months and nine days preceding the strike amounted to 149,044 tons, and 176,093 tons were shipped in 1908. The amount shipped to the town was, of course, much the same as in other years.

The Parrsboro fleet has more vessels and less tonnage than it had a year ago. The registry books at the end of 1909 showed 92 vessels of 17,942 tons. During the year three vessels aggregating 1,346 tons have been wrecked and another of 374 tons has been transferred to the registry. Seven vessels built on this shore and aggregating 1,504 tons have been added to the fleet and the registry books now show 95 vessels of 17,726 tons. Another vessel of 246 tons was built at Port Greville this season and is registered at Lunenburg. Some shipbuilding will be done at Port Greville next summer but it is probable that the tonnage turned out will be small in comparison with this year's output.

The year in Parrsboro has been uneventful and business as a whole has been remarkably quiet. There is a general feeling, however, that the coming year will show a marked improvement. The changes in the ownership of the Dominion Atlantic Railway and the Cumberland Ry. and Coal Company can scarcely fail to have a beneficial effect upon the town. The satisfactory results from the development work done by the Swan Creek Copper Company during the year are sufficient to justify the belief that extensive and profitable operations will be carried on next year. Several new industries are promised and there is likely to be something of a boom in the building line.

With even moderately favorable weather conditions there is reason to believe that the winter's lumber cut will largely expand the output of the present year, and thus give additional employment to all who have anything to do with handling lumber. With extensive mining operations near at hand, with coal and lumber shipments restored to normal conditions and

When a Man Praises His Watch

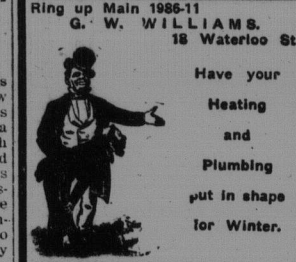
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with new industries fairly started, there should be no lack of employment. This has been an obstacle of progress in the past, and with this handicap likely to be removed, the outlook for Parrsboro is decidedly encouraging.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE CRICKET RULE

London, Jan. 2.—An important change in the laws of cricket is proposed by the Marylebone Cricket Club. This new rule is being submitted to the counties, and if it meets with favor it will come up at the annual meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club in May.

The proposition is to omit the greater part of law 16 and substitute the following: "The 'No-Ball' becomes dead immediately on its being called. Two runs shall be added to the score under the heading of 'No-Balls.'"

The chief effect of this rule will be that whereas, under the old code, the striker may hit a "no ball" and thus score runs off it, under the proposed new rule the ball will be deemed out of play or "dead," the moment a "no ball" is bowled and called by the umpire.

HOTELS.

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F. E. Stebbens, Moncton; T. R. Campbell, Salisbury; J. E. McCarthy, Miss Mary McCarthy, Fredericton; W. J. Carson and wife, Debec Jet; A. P. Murchie, Benton; E. B. Dakin, Digby; Fred S. Maher, Mr. and Mrs. Wasson, Chatham; J. H. V. Moore, Amherst; H. V. Brady, Boston; P. D. Duff, Bridgeport; E. H. Keith, Wolfville; B. B. Hardwick, Annapolis; R. A. Cross, C. W. McGraton, E. P. O'Neill, H. H. Lawrence, St. George.

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