

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS.

That the report of the Auditor-General would show a deficit of almost \$600,000 on ordinary account is not surprising, for the public, through the Royal Gazette, in December last, secured many of the figures that were laid on the table of the Legislature on Monday evening. But what will surprise the people is the manner in which the members of Mr. Foster's government chose to continue in the path of prodigal expenditure when they knew every week from the time they came into power to the close of the fiscal year that the revenues of the province were diminishing and there was every reason for the practice of the utmost economy. But they paid no attention to the handwriting on the wall, and as a consequence, face the people today with the largest deficit shown in the financial operations of the province for many years. Particularly noticeable is the decline in revenue. Since 1915, the total revenue has declined some \$61,000, while the difference between 1917 and 1918 is in the vicinity of \$85,000.

This decline must have been apparent to those in control at Fredericton months ago and it might naturally be supposed that, when the cry everywhere is for economy and care, the expenditures of the province would have been pared to keep them somewhere within the revenues. This was not done. With a recklessness unparalleled in the history of the province the Fosterites dipped deep into the public chest and literally made the money fly. As a consequence the Provincial Secretary Treasurer when he delivers his budget speech, as he will do on Friday, will be forced to explain a deficit that runs through every department of government and aggregates the sum of \$594,091.48.

It is not sufficient for the Fosterites to say that the services of the province were run down and required larger expenditures to put them in shape. The deficits were not created in that manner and also the people know that when Hon. J. A. Murray's Government left office in February, 1917, the services of the country were in better shape than they have ever been since.

The money represented in the deficit of \$594,091.48 was not created through extra large expenditures in the interest of the people. It is the result of extravagance and carelessness, personal extravagance in more than one case. Let us, for instance, take the items of executive government to illustrate this. The term executive government covers the cost of administering the different departments and includes the salaries and expenses of the ministers and their departmental help at Fredericton or elsewhere. It is a branch of expenditure directly controllable by the ministers themselves. If they desire to show economy in management it is the item of executive government that provides their best opportunity. Let us see how Mr. Foster and his associates embraced this opportunity in a year when the cry all over the world was for economy and thrift. Fortunately the Auditor General's report contains a comparative statement of the expenditure on this head since 1910 and from that we take the following figures: To administer the department of the Attorney General in salaries cost \$2,100 in 1910, the same sum in 1911, \$2,350 in 1912, ten dollars more than that in 1913, \$2,312.50 in 1914, \$2,432.50 in 1915, an even \$2,400 in 1916 and \$3,225 in 1917.

In other words Mr. Byrne requires \$825 more to run the department than was spent by the able men who preceded him in the past eight years. Is Mr. Byrne a good investment at the price? Judging by the exhibition he has already made of himself and the lax manner in which the business of his department is conducted there can be no doubt as to the answer the people would return to this question if given the opportunity. The expenses in the Provincial Secretary Treasurer's department do not show such an increase. In the secretarial branch there is an increase for 1917 over the preceding year of \$264.36, but in the treasury department \$27.10 was saved for which credit must be given to the government as it is the only saving recorded in the whole account. Crown and Department salaries show the largest expenditure in the past eight years. In 1910 this item cost \$9,850, the next year it was slightly higher, in 1912 it was reduced. Then it rose in easy stages until 1916, when it stood at \$12,883.33. Dr. Smith jumps at once to \$13,249.98, an increase of \$366.65.

Hon. Mr. Veniot in the Department of Public Works has the largest department and naturally the heaviest expenditure on salary account. But

he has shown no more desire for economy than his colleagues, for we find his expenses under the head of executive government at \$13,618.61, an increase of \$1,329.75 over the preceding year.

The salaries of the members of the executive council have increased from \$2,324 in 1910 to \$6,134.56 in 1917. The figure in 1916 was \$5,450, a difference of \$684.56. This item includes the salary of the premier and the members of the government who are not in charge of departments and it is here where we see the manner in which the country pays through Mr. Foster being obliged to take three forecast members into his cabinet, where the former administration had but one. We find that during the year Hon. Dr. Taylor in the former administration drew \$144 for twelve days' attendance at government meetings. That was the extent to which the former Government paid members who did not hold portfolios. But how do the Fosterites handle it? Page 56 of the Auditor General's report gives the details and from it we learn that Dr. W. F. Roberts collected \$396 for thirty-three days, Hon. C. W. Robinson got \$238 for twenty-four days and Hon. L. A. Dugal got \$264 for twenty-two days. Three forecast members in the Foster government cost the country \$948, for which there was absolutely no need. It is generally recognized that Hon. Mr. Robinson is Premier Foster's guardian in the cabinet. It is the function of the genial member for Moncton city to stoop down and fish the premier out when the administrative waters are too deep for him, but why should the people pay for this? And what duties of state do Dr. Roberts and Mr. Dugal perform that could not be amply covered by their seasonal indemnity?

In a time when the demand is for economy it is not good business to keep an over-stuffed cabinet at Fredericton. The travelling expenses of the executive were also considerably higher in 1917 than in preceding years. The 1917 figures were \$4,131.08, an increase of almost \$1,500 over the preceding year. This is in a measure also due to the presence of Mr. Foster's additional advisors. The totals for executive government make an impressive and significant showing. The last year of the former administration cost the province under this head \$45,852.89. The figures for 1917 stand at \$50,749.15, an increase of practically \$5,000. The question can be well asked: What has New Brunswick got to show for the money?

GERMANY'S DEBT.

All the facts concerning the financial conduct of the war by Germany cannot be learned, for the German government has thrown a veil of secrecy about every vital point connected with its finance and particularly its expenditures. But there are in existence two sets of figures which it has been impossible to suppress or distort. Professor E. I. Bogart of the University of Illinois has made a study of these and he deduces the approximate indebtedness of the German Empire at the present time.

The first set of figures to which Professor Bogart had access is the votes of credit by which the German Reichstag appropriated money for the use of the government. Under the German constitution it is necessary to have parliamentary approval before money can be raised or spent and therefore these votes are a matter of record and may be accepted as reasonably accurate.

The record shows that up to and including December, 1917, ten such votes of credit had been granted, aggregating 109,000,000,000 marks, or \$27,250,000,000. These votes are shown in the following table:

No.	Date of Vote.	Amount.
1	Aug. 1, 1914	\$1,250,000,000
2	Dec. 3, 1914	1,250,000,000
3	Mar. 22, 1915	2,500,000,000
4	Aug. 31, 1915	2,500,000,000
5	Dec. 24, 1915	2,500,000,000
6	June 9, 1916	3,000,000,000
7	Oct. 30, 1916	3,000,000,000
8	Feb. 23, 1917	3,750,000,000
9	July, 1917	3,750,000,000
10	Dec. 1, 1917	3,750,000,000
Total		\$27,250,000,000

An eleven vote of 15,000,000,000 marks was granted the other day, bringing the total up to 124,000,000,000 marks. This is the figure to which Count Von Posadowsky-Wohper referred. But this refers not to the debt, but to the expenditures. Inasmuch as some of the expenditures—though not many—have been met out of taxation, it is obvious that we shall have to establish the amount of the war debt in some other way.

Fortunately, we have one other set

of figures, which, while not quite as unimpeachable as those just quoted, are sufficiently trustworthy. These are the loans made by the Imperial Government of Germany. Down to October last the public war loans—seven in number—had amounted to 72,841,460,000 marks (\$18,340,415,000). These were as follows:

No.	Date of Issue.	Amount.
1	September, 1914	\$1,120,000,000
2	March, 1915	2,286,250,000
3	September, 1915	3,040,750,000
4	March, 1916	2,691,750,000
5	September, 1916	2,862,750,000
6	March, 1917	3,192,500,000
7	September, 1917	3,156,415,000
Total		\$18,340,415,000

As these loans have been made with clock-like regularity every September and March since the war began, it is evident that an eighth loan must soon be floated. As the loans are now 50,000,000,000 marks (\$12,500,000,000) less than the war expenditures, there must be an immense floating indebtedness which will have to be funded. Cash on hand at the beginning of the war, together with additional sums raised since by war taxes, cannot have amounted to more than 4,000,000,000 marks (\$1,000,000,000), leaving between \$11,000,000,000 and \$12,000,000,000 as the amount of the floating debt. Even if the next loan be as successful as either of the last two, each of which amounted to a little over \$3,000,000,000, it is clear that it will not even absorb the outstanding treasury bills and other temporary obligations.

While these figures make it evident that the imperial debt of Germany has not yet reached the sum of 124,000,000,000 marks, it is evident that it has already passed the limit of 100,000,000,000 marks which Herr Rudolph Haverstein, president of the Reichsbank, thought was all that Germany could stand, and which he was sure would never be reached. If this figure be compared with the modest debt of \$1,550,000,000 which Germany owed before the war, some measure of the financial burden imposed upon this empire can be gained. And this figure does not take into account the debts of the separate states or the communities, which are already large and steadily growing.

The total budget of the Imperial German Government in 1913-14 was \$330,000,000. The interest on the existing debt is already \$900,000,000 and the next loan will bring it up to \$1,000,000,000 annually, or more than all the peace and military expenditures before the war. Existing taxes are insufficient to meet these demands and interest is being paid out of new loans. Whether this situation will lead to repudiation or not, no man can now decide. But it is certain that the financial position of Germany, deprived of her expected indemnities, will be a desperate one after the war.

THE REACTION.

While the war news from the western front for the first few days of last week was not as favorable as we had hoped for, and while the result of the operation there is not yet assured victory for the Allies yet there are three features incidental to the German advance that must cause a powerful and probably far-reaching reaction in Germany. These are the casualty trains carrying back the wrecks of the Hindenburg drive who survived death but not disaster; the notification of relatives of the fate of the 500,000 to 700,000 Germans killed, wounded or prisoners and the realization that even at the time when it seemed the drive had reached the pinnacle of its success no objective was attained by the German army that can in any way compensate for the incalculable outlay of German flesh and blood.

The Allies have had a similar experience though in lesser degree. A famous French general, a hero at Verdun, later essayed an attack on the German lines in another area. He gained considerable territory and for a time there was considerable rejoicing in France and other Entente countries over what was thought to be a real triumph. But, notwithstanding his brilliant record, the leader of that attack has been sent to an indifferent post in Africa disgraced. And why? Because when the gains and losses of his aggressive campaign were balanced it was found that the expenditure of men had been far beyond the value of anything achieved or planned in his assault.

Germany has sung her hymns of praise of the work of her generals. Her Emperor has telegraphed his wife and made the telegrams public. The Crown Prince has been congratulated by his father. Von Hertling has sent a message to Hindenburg and Hindenburg has replied, all in the great game of bluff at which the Germans are masters. The other side of the story has now to be experienced. Germany has to discover that while her armies made progress over a battle-scarred field fifty miles long and twenty to forty miles wide she has paid the price of upwards of 500,000 dead and wounded men. As for the territory, she knows that her military leaders yielded it to the enemy a year ago and that they may have to do so again. While the lives wrecked and lost—these may never be reclaimed. When the realization of this fact comes to Germany it will turn the sweetness of a seeming victory into the bitterness of continuing defeat.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Puds Simkins was walking along just wawking along, and a little man with glasses on his face and a lot of cards under his arm stopped us, saying, Do you boys want to make 2 cents apiece? Me and Puds saying we did, and the man sed, Well take half of those cards and give them out on this side of the street while I give out the other half on the other side. Theyre very important, and I dont want you to jest stick them under the doors, I want you to ring every doorbell and hand them to the people wen they open the door.

And he gave us each some cards, saying on them, Joseph Moses, ladies and gents tailor. My motto: The best work at the worst prices. And other, and the big fat lady saw the lady with the red hair and called up to her, Well, upon my word, Mrs. Flannery, did one of them play the same trick on you, did you ever see such impudent and silly life? And the lady with red hair called back, He rang the bell 3 times as if he was the president himself, and I came all the way from the back kata and look wat he hands me.

And both lads went back in their houses and slammed their front doors, and I went up to Puds, saying Wat do you say we put the cards down on these steps and run? Wich Puds sed all rite and we did.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE MARCH PAST.
Moses from the east side, Paddy from the west side,
Tony from the upper side of town,
Blended in a brotherhood, for every side is best side
When you go a-gunning for a crown!

The clerk who in evenings of leisure Gave all to the cabaret dance
Has mastered the military measure So popular over in France.
His turkey-trot, mocks at the goose- (A very hard step, you'll allow),
Where once he was tripping the two-step He's tramping the true step now!

Jimmy of the Battery, Fritz of the Bronx,
Tommy of the farther side of Queens,
Ready for the summons when the big horn honks,
Knowing what the honking means:

I see my ex-claimant parading; No longer he's slouchy in gait.
By Uncle Sam's fatherly aiding He now is up-standing and straight.
And out of the drumming and hooting all I hear Tony say,
"I save all da ice doesa morning To put on da Kaiser some day!"

Billy of the beachcombers down on Staten Isle,
Bobby of the hinterland of Kings, Gazing with the clear eye, set above the smile!
Hey! but those fellows' eyes have wings!

My butcher's stout words in the levy He walks with a smile on his face.
In fancy his cleaver so heavy He'll use in a bayonet's place.
I hear him remark, "O, hereafter Who slaughtered the lambs that were new?"
I'm going to you with my cleaver! The chopping block, Wilhelm, for you!

Baker from the breadtrough, digger from the street,
Worker from the steeple and the stall! Marvellous the magic that has made their hearts to beat
With one great heartbeat for them all! —John O'Keefe, in N. Y. World.

A BIT OF FUN

MISNOMER.
"Why do they call baseball a noble game?"
"Why not?"
"Are there not a number of base men engaged in it?"—Baltimore American.

SWEET INNOCENCE.
"Nerissa, I see it is considered advisable for the troops to screen their positions."
"Well, fly time is a long way off, but I have some screens I can spare." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

SHE KNEW HIM.
Mab—I hear that you are going to marry Jack Swift. Congratulations! Rhel—But I'm not going to marry him.
Mab—Oh, then, my sincere congratulations.—Boston Transcript.

VERY LIKELY.
"I see the American dentist of the Kaiser has come home. I wonder why?"
"Maybe he got too much on the Kaiser's nerves."—Baltimore American.

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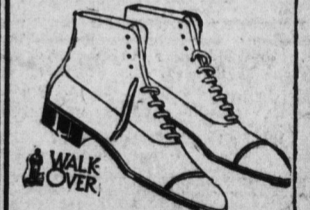
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