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C. F. HAYES,
Business Manager.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1910.

THE SURPLUS.

Canadians are surely enjoying prosperity. The postmaster general hinted the other day that the surplus of the Dominion for the present year will likely run to the enormous sum of 30 million dollars. If so, it will be by many millions the largest favorable balance in the history of the country. The largest to date was that of 1908, which exceeded 19 millions. The balance for the present year may fall several millions under the estimate and still be considerably in advance of all predecessors. The commercial significance of the prospective surplus can be gauged when it is remembered that from confederation down to the close of 1896 the total surpluses of all the years amounted to less than forty millions and that if the deficits which occurred in some years are deducted from this the net amount for the 28 years is 2 millions less than that expected for the present year. As the bulk of the receipts come from the tariff, the revenue reflects in a pretty accurate way the trade conditions of the country. Last year, when the stringency which had prevailed during the preceding couple of years made itself apparent in the returns, the receipts exceeded the outlay by only a little more than one million. That it is this year expected to be thirty times that amount indicates very plainly that the country has recovered from the effects of the depression and has taken a long stride forward of what might have been expected to be the normal expansion for the year.

The news will not, of course, bring any comfort to our Opposition friends. They have been long preaching pessimism that no demonstration of commercial well-being can cause them to a state of cheerfulness. They hold their doleful duty to lament long and loudly whenever the country is fortunate enough to take in more than it has to pay out. From the language they address to the finance minister when that gentleman tells them that he has spent less in a twelve months than he received they seem to think the height of fiscal policy to allow one's income to exceed his outlay. A surplus they seem to regard the proof of government incapacity, and a deficit the highest triumph of financial wisdom, attention and skill. It must be admitted that when they had the run of things the financial affairs of the country ran pretty well in accord with this theory. Usually the unfortunate gentleman who in those days had to inform the House what had been the results of the year's operations found it his duty to tell the members that the income had not been as large as the outlay and that several million more had been added to the amount which somebody sometime will have to re-pay. But it does not seem that the minister used to get much satisfaction from the task. In the budget speeches which Mr. Foster used to make there is room for the surmise that that gentleman would have been immensely pleased if he could more frequently have told the country that it had not been run farther into debt as the result of his year's receiving and spending. It is only the management of things which has fallen into the hands of their opponents that prudence has become a vice and extravagance a virtue. Before that, the frequent deficit used to be a painful necessity, not an ideal.

A surplus, now say those authorities, must be a wrong, because it represents an amount of money taken from the people more than is needed for the expenditures of the year. It is at least refreshing to find the protectionists admitting that it is the consumer who pays the duty. When they had the making of the tariff it was paid by the American manufacturer—according to their story. It was only when their opponents became the makers of the tariff that the makers of the tariff became tax-gatherers. It is of course absolutely true that the surplus is paid by the people of Canada; but this truth is advanced to instigate an untruth—that the people were more lightly taxed when the tariff was higher. True, the receipts were smaller when the tariff was higher—for the excellent reason that people could not afford to buy so much abroad. But the amount of money that reached the treasury did not represent the amount that was taken from the consumer because of the tariff. It represented only so much of the money as went into the coffers of the state. It indicated nothing of the other amount which went into the pockets of those who were enabled to mark their goods at higher prices than they could have

charged if the tariff had been lower or if there had been no tariff. The higher the tariff the smaller the proportion of the money paid by the consumer that goes to the state and the more that goes to the protected interest. That is the purpose of a high tariff as repeatedly declared by the Opposition member best able to pronounce upon the question, the late finance minister and the coming finance minister if Mr. Borden is allowed to form a cabinet—Mr. Foster. The difference between the tariff of Mr. Foster and that of Mr. Fielding is that the former was designed to enable the manufacturers of Canada to tax the consumers of the country for their own benefit, while the latter

WHAT IS THE PRICE?
Mr. Borden invites the public to forget his part in the "glorious" Drummond-Archibald victory. He would have them overlook the fact that he figured among the combatants at all, and consider the engagement there as merely a fight between the Nationalists and the Grits, with himself a disinterested and neutral party. It is not often Mr. Borden pleads to be ignored in this manner. Self-obliteration is not a common disposition of the Opposition leader. More often his efforts are directed to trying not too successfully to secure a reasonable share of the public attention. But for once he is getting more of it than he desires, and knows that he is getting no more than he deserves. He is not very proud of the role he and his lieutenant and his party machinery played in the Drummond affair. He was willing enough to promote the cause of separation as a means of destroying the prestige of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and of thus bringing himself supposedly nearer the Premiership. But when the fact is made known that he has made alliance real and effective—whether formal or not—with the forces of disintegration he immediately tries to get out of the spotlight and asks people to consider the encounter as a scrimmage between two forces with neither of which he has anything to do. So long as the participation of friends in the scrap was unknown or unnoticed he was entirely willing that they should continue to be partners in the business. But when attention is drawn to the fact that they have been playing a part he protests against publicity. While the issue in Drummond was in doubt he had no word to say against Mr. Monk going into the constituency and urging the Conservatives there to vote against Empire unity. But when the victory had been won and when the people of the English speaking provinces have begun to take note of how and who won it, Mr. Borden repents—not that he took a part in the fight but that it is becoming known to his disadvised friends. Immediately he seeks cover under the mask of an ancient and dishonorable slander upon the loyalty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. When there was fighting to be done in behalf of the principle that Canada should be a part of the British Empire Mr. Borden not only left it for Sir Wilfrid and the Liberals to uphold the cause he professes to have so much at heart but lent the influence of his lieutenant and the organization of his party to do his bidding. And when by his connivance and assistance the enemies of imperial solidarity have won Mr. Borden is not above assailing with what he knows to be an untruthful assertion the loyalty of the man who fought the battle as himself had not the courage to espouse. It is not the part he played in Drummond that draws protests from Mr. Borden, but the fact that his having played it is becoming known, and is little likely to do him benefit in the English speaking provinces. He is quite willing to profit by the victory, but he objects to having attention called to the fact that he sent his battalions into the fray. He has no objection to being helped toward power by Nationalists, nor to helping the Nationalists bring about that object, but he is unwilling to take in the English speaking provinces a manful responsibility for doing so. Canada has not known a cheaper politician than the leader of the Opposition. Knowing no other but that of attaining power, and regarding no principle but that of expediency, he is willing to profit by anything that seems likely to promote that end, and to strike hands with anyone who for the time will carry his cause. Nor has he the reticent hardness of a willingness to take the responsibility for the allies he has enlisted. Instead he buries his head in falsehood and imagines he can sell the newspaper-reading public that the fight in Drummond was merely a fight between the Liberals and the Nationalists, and that the Conservative party had no part nor lot in it. These diverting tactics may be very interesting to Mr. Borden. They are not altogether uninteresting to the spectators, but they convince nobody of anything save Mr. Borden's lack of scruple and want of courage.

Meanwhile the undecided public will be asking what price Mr. Borden has paid for the support of the Nationalists. That he paid a price is tolerably certain. One thing is beyond doubt: Mr. Bourassa will neither forego nor retract the cause of Nationalism. For it he gave up a leading position in the party to which he and his father and himself belonged, a party in power and led by one of his compatriots, a party which might with every reason have been counted on to put him in the cabinet at so very

short time. He will not give up to please Mr. Borden, convictions for which he looks with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberals. He holds to them, mistaken as they are, sincerely and with enthusiasm. What assurance has Mr. Borden given Mr. Bourassa that if Nationalism put him in power he will not violate those Nationalist principles as absolutes, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier has done? Mr. Bourassa is not a child in politics, and is not likely to undertake the big task of building up in Quebec a power strong enough to defeat Laurier and put Borden in power without knowing what Mr. Borden would do with Bourassa and his cause. At this business he has already been employed for years. With what assurance or understanding from Mr. Borden, as to the policy his government would pursue as to the Empire and Imperial relationship?

SORRY FOR IT.
The Toronto News "would welcome" a change of government at Ottawa, "but not by an alliance with the Nationalists. It would be against the true interests of the Conservative party of the Dominion and of the Empire; that Nationalist aggression should have power in the House of Commons to dictate the policy of both parties and practically to determine the relations between the Dominion and the Mother country" and drive us to a "war of separation and independence." If the News had impressed these sentiments on the attention of its honored leader four years ago, when the alliance began it might have saved its party from the humiliating suspicion that now attaches to it. It was only when the wicked Grit papers began to publish the fact that there was an alliance that the News academically rose to protest against one being made. Like Mr. Borden it seems to have been content to accept the assistance of Mr. Bourassa so long as it was not called on to countenance him in the English-speaking provinces as an associate. Even now it declines to admit the self-evident fact that an alliance existed, or to even consider the moral question of making one. It is solely concerned with the political advisability of the manoeuvre. And it only became uneasy on this score when letters like the following began to arrive:—

To the Editor of the News—Cut the Conservative party loose from Bourassa or we are done for. Otherwise it will be that Laurier has saved Canada to the Empire. Surely we must be Bourassa beaten—Conservative.
November 1, 1910.

Mr. Bourassa, even in the hour of prospective triumph, is found to be more dangerous than he is. For that reason, and on that ground alone, the News objects to the "alliance." Its objection is belated, but no doubt sincere; and no doubt it gathers sincerity from the knowledge that it is too late to avoid the consequences. It is said to have the celebration of the victory marred by the unpleasant thought that the game was not worth the candle, but those who make alliances must assume the responsibility of acknowledging the friends who help them. If these make their appearance at an inopportune moment, or if their guile or demeanor is not what some other people approve of, that is merely an incident in the game and one must make the best of it. Letting the unpopularity of their articles do nothing to prove the moral propriety or the wisdom of the alliance. The News and all the other leading oracles of the party gave the consent of silence when Mr. Borden joined forces with Mr. Bourassa. It is not for them to denounce the party to join forces after the forces have been co-operating for years, and just because the fact of their co-operation seems to be more harmful than helpful. A rogue is often sorry that he is about to be hanged, but his regret does not go far to show that he was always governed by high principles; nor does it do anything to undo his crime. Mr. Borden entered into his alliance with Mr. Bourassa on his Nationalist-Conservative alliance with the apparent acquiescence of the party press, nor were there signs of protest or disagreement from the papers while the ruse seemed likely to work only good to the party he heads. Nor is there yet from them a proposal that the alliance should be broken off. So far they are merely squirming on the hook they baited. That they find the experience unpleasant and that they are making clear enough, Nor perhaps do they gather much comfort from the reflection that they are not to easily extricate themselves from this unhappy position. Academic essays on the inadvisability of getting into such predicament will do nothing either to lessen their pain or to secure their release. They are suffering not from an abstract principle, but from an uncompromising fact. They chose to put cunning before principle, to employ means that were disreputable and dishonest, and they are getting precisely what they deserve. They planned to deceive others and find they have only misled themselves. Perhaps they may gain some philosophical consolation by resolving to mend their ways. The practical problem however is to break off the alliance that is being found so unprofitable, and to convince the public that this has been done. Until Mr. Borden and his counsellors do this they must not lose their tempers when attention is called to their ally, nor complain if the calling of attention to it costs them some friends.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN.
Flegende Blaetter—Father (to his son, who has fished him some beer): You young rascal. You've drunk half of it on the way.
George: Yes, father; you see it was too heavy for me to carry full.
Ideas—"Do you ever think, George, dear," said she, and her voice was soft and low, as befitting the perfect beauty of the night—"do you ever think how closely true happiness is allied with tears."
"I don't believe I ever do," admitted George, dear, "but I will if you like."
"Yes," she went on, gazing up into his face. "When one is truly and wholly happy, George, dear, there is but little to divide laughter from tears."
"Well, that's a fact," assented George, dear, "but I never thought of it before. After all, there's nothing but the nose."
Puck—Willis: So the play will appeal to all classes?
Gillis: Yes, indeed. It's three-quarters full up-to-date slang to catch the young people, and one-quarter full of old, reliable cuss-words to get the old fellows.
Judge—Patient: So you want the money now before you perform the operation?
Doctor: Certainly. According to the law of this state a doctor cannot collect his bill from the heirs of a deceased patient.
Harpers Weekly—"Now, Tommy," said the teacher, "you may give me an example of a coincidence."
"Why—er," said Tommy, with some hesitation, "why—er—why—me fiddler and me modder was both married on de same day."
Washington Star—"That horse of yours looks terribly run down."
"Yep," replied Uncle Si Simlin.
"Why do you keep him?"
"Well, it's a kind of comfort to have him around. As long as I've got him, I feel that there ain't much danger of my belt' cheated in a horse trade."
Smart Set—"Here," said the editor, "you use too many words. You say, 'you was poor, but honest.' You have only to say that he was honest."
"Again you say, 'He was without money and without friends.' Sir,

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MAY CHANGE NAME.
Medicine Hat Voters Will Vote on the Proposal.
Medicine Hat, Nov. 7.—At the next municipal election the ratepayers will be asked to vote on the advisability of changing the name of Medicine Hat and also to make a pronouncement on the question of municipal government by the commission.

FRENCH LABOR LEGISLATION.
Paris, Nov. 7.—The ministerial program, which will be read in the Chamber of Deputies tomorrow provides for an elaboration of the existing legislation with regard to trades unions. The law as proposed will make impossible a repetition of the situation brought about by the recent railway strike. The legislation includes measures conferring upon the government extended powers for the military organization of railway employees and provides for penalties for those who provoke insubordination.

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L. TUR

REV. G. W. KERBY TO BECOME

Board of Governors Select Central Calgary College—Site is Deferred.

Calgary, Nov. 5.—The board of governors passed new college at W. Kerby was asked position of principal, pointed that no definite secured for the college, secretary, and is to be Calgary College, but plans would give the site Metawa Park, should temporary building accommodation should be started as possible.

BOOSTS THE
Austrian Consul Schlichty of Canada, Which He Has
Minnedopolis, Minn., Schwegel, of Winnipeg, sch for western Canada Minnedopolis today in New York, where he meet his wife. The ed Canada was the ideal man of small means, high term of the finiters taking up farms part of the Dominion.
Dr. Schwedel was stacago, Ill., four years as members the State but was in his new country all classes of grain, y fruit are being raised nothing but sunshine there who are fortun go into western Canada that Winnipeg, the western Canada, with leaps and bounds.

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