

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1911.

## THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Ton. Mr. Fleming gave the Opposition some very hard nuts to crack in the course of his speech on the budget in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. His plain statement of facts regarding the revenue and the expenditure of the Province during the past year makes interesting reading matter for those four gentlemen of Westmorland, who were so recently engaged holding "little missionary meetings" in that county.

In explaining the work done by the Government during the year the Provincial Secretary was able to point out that the revenue of the Province was the largest in its history and further that the Government felt justified in estimating the territorial revenue for the current year at the figure collected during the past year. This in itself is a gratifying statement to every person in the Province as under the old regime the revenue of New Brunswick seemed to have become stationary while the expenditure was constantly increasing. Instead of making an effort to increase the revenue to meet the increased cost of maintaining the public services the old Government had recourse to all manner of expedients to deceive the people into the belief that the public service was being maintained out of the revenues. While this dishonest method prevailed more than half a million dollars was added to the bonded debt of the Province for expenditures which should have been charged against the annual income.

If discussing the item of interest Mr. Fleming showed how by the manipulation of treasury bills, the interest on the additions to the public debt for several years instead of being paid from the current revenue was added to the principal of the debt. What the total of this amounted to Mr. Fleming did not state, but in the three or four years during which this vicious and dishonest method of finance prevailed—the last years of the old regime—the total was not less than \$100,000 and perhaps half as much more. All the time this sort of thing was going on the Province was being defrauded annually of a large sum, estimated by competent authorities as between \$100,000 and \$150,000, by the failure of the old Government to collect the stampage dues on lumber cut on the Public Domain.

In pointing out the change that had been made with the advent of the Hazen Government, Mr. Fleming stated that while more money had been spent by the present administration on roads and bridges, education, agriculture and all other important public services the additions to the permanent debt were less this year than in any year during the past six years. These figures are interesting and worthy of preservation. As furnished by Mr. Fleming they show additions to the permanent debt in the years named to have been as follows:

1906 .....	\$267,222.14
1907 .....	280,556.86
1908 .....	293,209.37
1909 .....	217,491.40
1910 .....	183,280.23

To have achieved such excellent results shows the care with which the financial affairs of the Province have been examined. More money spent for education, wharves, bridges, roads and agriculture, and all bills paid out of income.

Incidentally while dealing with this question, Mr. Fleming exposed the recent dishonest and untruthful statement of the Telegraph which attempted to prove by the Auditor General's report that a sum sufficient to wipe out the surplus had been purposely held back until after the close of the fiscal year. The Standard has already told how maliciously untrue this statement was and given the number of the page of the Auditor General's report on which the amounts the Telegraph said were not charged against the expenditures appear in the accounts.

Mr. Fleming made the further explanation that not only were these amounts all duly charged, but the accounts were kept open for ten days after the close of the fiscal year in order that all amounts that properly belong to the year's receipts and expenditures should appear therein. During the ten days the payments exceeded the receipts by \$30,000. In short had the Government closed the books on October 31st and allowed the receipts and expenditures to stand as they were on that date, the surplus instead of being \$6,000 would have been \$36,000.

Mr. Fleming dealt with every phase of the receipts and expenditures of the past year explaining that the payments for public works since the close of the year were largely for supplies purchased for the purposes of the department during the coming season. It is cheaper to buy lumber and other essentials and have them hauled to their destination during the winter months than in the summer. Besides, the work can be entered on earlier when the supplies are on hand. This does away with the foolish charge that the money was spent on the roads during the Autumn.

In connection with the large over-expenditure last year Mr. Fleming showed the complete insincerity of the Opposition by pointing out that no word of protest was raised in the Legislature against the increased sum voted for public works and no Opposition speaker had pointed to a single bridge or wharf or road which had been repaired out of an over-expenditure, and said the repairs should not have been made. The Government had the money to spend—they had not to go into debt to get it—and they had chosen to spend a portion of the increased income of the Province in repairing wharves, bridges, and roads neglected by the old Government.

The increase in the educational expenditures was accounted for by the increase in the salaries paid to the teachers and to a reduction of 200 in the number of vacant schools in the province compared with a few years ago. The practical benefits that have accrued to the farmers through the more liberal grants of the Government for the encouragement of agriculture, and the greater energy of the officials of the department were dealt with by the Provincial Secretary. New markets had been found for the surplus products of the Province, and a policy adopted that will in a few years make New Brunswick a great fruit growing centre and bring to the horticulturist a fitting reward for his labor.

The speech of Mr. Fleming was optimistic throughout, and showed a deeply rooted conviction that New Brunswick was progressing in every direction. That not only were the people better off at present than

they ever were before, but that the prospects of the future were brighter than they ever have been. The public domain is no longer being exploited for private gain. The revenue from stumpage alone has increased \$170,000 over the figures of the last year of the old Government. Mr. Fleming did not spare the present members of the Opposition in his allusions to the failure of the old regime to do their duty to the Province in this all important question.

As a result of the honest collection of the revenue the Government was enabled to further increase the grants this year for agriculture, education, and public works, and although the total of the appropriation reaches the large sum of \$1,313,632.32, there is still a balance of \$24,182.89 of the estimated income unappropriated. Judging from the past the estimated income of the Province is not too large, and is liable to be exceeded rather than to fall short.

In dealing with matters purely financial, Mr. Fleming was able to mention the floating of a temporary loan of \$400,000 at 4 per cent, effected to take up maturing 6 per cent. debentures, and to retire a temporary loan at five per cent. It is by such careful and prudent financing, by the reduction of contingency accounts and those for the travelling expenses of the Executive that there is more money for the important services, grants for every one of which have been increased.

The comparisons made by Mr. Fleming between expenditures for these services by the Hazen Government and those of the old regime, will give the Opposition food for thought and put an end to the misrepresentations of the press supporting those gentlemen. The whole speech was a clear and lucid exposition of the finances of the Province, which can be truthfully said to be in better position than they have been for many years.

## CHEEKY AND ABSURD.

The doctrine advanced by Mr. Fielding in his reply to Mr. Borden's amendment to postpone the consideration of the Reciprocity Agreement until the action of the United States Congress is determined, is strange doctrine for a Liberal and constitutional Government. It is well to see it in cold type:—"The president of the United States has loyally kept his part of the bargain; we are asking the Parliament of Canada to see that for the honor and good name of Canada, no matter what we may think of the details of this measure, this Parliament will keep the engagement which in the name of the Canadian people we made with the government of the United States."

"MEMBERS AGREE WITH THIS AGREEMENT OR NOT, THERE SHOULD BE NO DIVISION OF OPINION AS TO THE OBLIGATION WHICH WE, AS A YOUNG NATION, HAVE ENTERED INTO WITH THE GREAT NATION BESIDE US. The president of the United States is loyally doing his part, it remains with us to loyally do ours. How? By throwing it overboard and saying we will have nothing more to do with it."

"Mr. MacLean (York). Yes, we have that right. "Mr. Fielding. Shame on that suggestion. It finds no favor here."

This means in plain English that the whole process of submitting the agreement to Parliament and debating it on its merits is a mere farce. According to the minister the House has nothing to do with the merits of the agreement; that question has been already settled by Messrs. Fielding and Patterson. The only question before Parliament is whether it will "KEEP THE ENGAGEMENT WHICH IN THE NAME OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE WE MADE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

Two men go to Washington without any mandate from the people, come back with a pact, signed and sealed, which revolutionizes and reverses the policy of years, place it before Parliament, presumably for an opinion upon its merits, and after two months of discussion, coolly tell Parliament that it does not matter what it thinks of the agreement, it is bound to keep faith with President Taft, and pass it no matter what effect it may have upon the country. They, Messrs. Fielding and Patterson, have pledged Canada's faith to the United States' President, and Canada's honor is involved.

Mr. Fielding says:—"If the Government of Canada for the Parliament of Canada which supports this Government, should deviate one step from this arrangement it would be a breach of faith which would dishonor the Government of Canada, and through the Government, the Parliament and people of Canada." The doctrine boldly stated is that any Canadian Government can without mandate make any secret arrangement it pleases with any foreign government, and, once that is done, the Parliament of Canada must in order to save the National honor pass the arrangement without regard to its merits or consequences.

No loyal citizen can submit to such a perversion of the principles and practice of constitutional government. If that doctrine goes, what is to prevent Messrs. Fielding and Patterson going to Washington, making a secret agreement to abolish all duties between the two countries, and providing for a general foreign customs division for revenue purposes, and then coming to Parliament with the plea "We have pledged Canada's honor to the President and you must support us, whether you like the terms or not." Nothing more cheeky and absurd has before been uttered by a Canadian minister, and we mistake the temper of Canadians if it is not indignantly repudiated. Who authorized Mr. Fielding to place Canada's honor in pawn?

## MR. HATHEWAY'S SPEECH.

Mr. W. Frank Hatheway, in his speech on the address published in The Standard yesterday dealt with a phase of the administration of the affairs of the Province by the old Government which is new to many people. His reference to the sale in perpetuity of the magnificent water power of the Aroostook for a pittance of \$250 annually is timely. The gentleman who engineered this deal through the Legislature was none other than Mr. Tweeddale, one of the noisiest members of the Opposition.

When the bill was going through the House the people were told of the great benefits that would accrue to the upper St. John territory through the establishment of factories operated by electric power developed at Aroostook. It was a pretty picture that was painted by Mr. Tweeddale, but, alas! it has not been realized. No sooner was the charter granted than it was sold to a foreign company and instead of creating industries in this Province the power is being utilized for the benefit of the State of Maine.

This is the way the old Government did their business. It was apparently necessary to retain Mr. Tweeddale as a follower, and he was handed out one of the most valuable franchises at such an attractive figure that it was immediately snapped up by foreign capitalists, and is now being operated to benefit a foreign state. Mr. Tweeddale is still in the Legislature, but is now a pronounced reformer with only the interests of the Province at heart if all that he says of himself is true, and the Tobique Dam bill, which bore a close resemblance to the Aroostook Falls deal, could be forgotten.

## (Vancouver World.)

The man who winds up the clock, puts out the cat and the milk bottle, banks the furnace fire and goes to bed at 10 p. m. never gets killed in a joy-riding disaster.

## INSURGENTS TO FIGHT TO FINISH

Mexican Insurrectos will Not Give Up Until Demands are Granted—Secret Aid from United States.

New York, March 14.—Dr. Francisco Gomez, leader of the Washington junta of the insurrectionists in Mexico, ordered a general defiance of the Mexican government this afternoon, just before he departed for Washington.

Dr. Gomez, who has been here several days in consultation with Gustavo Madero said: "The revolutionists will by no means fight for the insurgent demands are granted. If the demands are not granted we shall continue to fight to the death. We are not worried over the presence of United States troops in Texas."

"There are 12,000 men under arms in twenty states out of thirty-one states fighting for the insurgent cause. In addition to our physical strength actually in the field, we have many American men in high places who are not only sympathizing with us in our struggle, but are secretly aiding us with resources."

## CARROLL SENT UP FOR TRIAL

Preliminary Hearing of North Shore Assault Case Concluded at Chatham Yesterday—Inquest Resumes Tomorrow

Newcastle, N. B., March 14.—The preliminary hearing of the assault case against Patrick Carroll was concluded here today before Magistrate Mathy, the accused being sent up for trial. The evidence of four witnesses was taken but their testimony was irrelevant to assault. One witness had gone to the assistance of Mr. Phinney. The accused strongly denied his innocence. The case will come before Judge McLachy at the next county court session here. T. W. Buller prosecuted and R. A. Lawlor, K.C., defended.

The inquest into the death of Harvey McDougall will be resumed here at 10 a. m. tomorrow. It is hoped to complete the collection of the evidence in this session. An official railway enquiry will follow immediately at the conclusion of the inquest.

## DEFENCE OPENED IN MUNROE CASE

Salesman for English Marconi Wireless the First Witness Called at Yesterday's Session in New York.

New York, N. Y., Mar. 14.—The defence of George H. Munroe, formerly of Montreal, in the three sets of charges of misuse of the mails in connection with alleged fraudulent stock sales upon which he is being tried in the federal court here began today.

George H. Robinson, the first witness for the defense was questioned regarding an agreement alleged to have been entered into between him and Frank L. Crocker, Munroe's counsel and Dr. John A. Munroe, the defendant's brother in 1908. The purpose of the document was not immediately brought out. Robinson who is said to have been a salesman in this country for English Marconi Wireless Co. stock, testified in direct examination to delivering some shares of English Marconi to purchasers in 1908. He was then closely cross-questioned by the defense.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of The Standard: Sir.—It appears to me there is one feature of the commission proposition, that has not yet been developed, and if the public had the information it would help many a person at present in doubt to decide. I refer to the men who are going to run for the position of commissioners.

I don't think it may be taken for granted, that no system is better than the men who are its administrators. For this reason whether we have commissioners or aldermen, if they are not good men, we will not get good government. This explains the fact, that in some places there are cities governed admirably by aldermen, such as Glasgow, Birmingham, and many others, and at the same time there are many places where the same form of government gives poor results.

The same remarks apply to the commission form of civic government. Now it seems to me the advocates of the commission plan should publish a list of the men who intend to offer for commissions, should this plan be adopted. Doubtless the list will include W. H. Thorne, Thos. McAvity, W. H. Harnaby, T. H. Estabrook, Jos. Manchester, L. P. D. Tilley, A. O. Skinner, Ald. Potts, M. E. Aear, Ald. Scully, W. Allison, Ald. Kilkin, Ald. Lively, J. W. Eastman and many others. Liberal and conservative, Protestant and Roman Catholic.

If the argument be sound, viz.—that it is the men who govern, and not the system such a list, if authoritative, and published, would go far towards settling the public mind. And I can see no difficulty whatever in securing it.

When one considers the money subscribed by the advocates of the commission plan, and the energy they are displaying, the only wonder to my

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mind, is the fact that their list has not already been handed out to the public:

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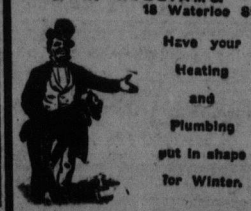
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