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#### Newfoundland Financiers.

THE rumor that the British Government was objecting to one of the terms of the new loan being negotiated by Newfoundland may have arisen from enquiries which have been made as to the conditions of that loan. The feature which is said to have been objected to is the statement that, "by a special arrangement the interest on the whole public debt, also the sinking fund required for the present loan, is made a first charge on the revenues of the Colony." This seems to have been read as though it meant that the new loan of £550,000 would be in some special way a first charge on the public revenues, taking precedence of existing loans. The expression used, however, does not favor this view, for it reads, the interest on the *whole* public debt and sinking fund for new loan will be a first charge on the revenues. We do not see anything very special in this provision, for the funded debt of every country, and all its current charges, are first liens on the resources of such country, both of income and of property. Were this not so, if national bonds or municipal ones were ever liable to come in as claims after others had been satisfied, the value of such securities would be very seriously depreciated. What then is meant by the terms of the new loan to Newfoundland is, we believe, simply this, that it will rank equally with the existing funded debt, for to give it any precedence or put it in a secondary position, is not practicable. The Government of the Island makes one statement which is interesting, the present public debt includes all the municipal indebtedness of the Colony. St. John's city alone ranks for \$1,657,793 in these liabilities, but as there is no other municipality of any moment, this is doubtless the great bulk of the municipal part of the

Island's debt, and as such is not excessive. To institute comparisons, however, between the Island, or its only city, and Canada, and a city like Montreal is not wise, as the income resources of the respective places are not comparable. A poor man may owe nothing, and a rich one owe thousands, but that speaks nothing as to their respective financial positions. At the same time we do not regard the public indebtedness per head of Newfoundland, stated by authority to be \$58, as oppressive, especially considering it includes municipal debts for which the government is liable. What is of special interest in this connection is, the revenue of the Colony. Is it buoyant, increasing, equal to the strain of the interest and sinking charges? The government of the Colony takes a very sanguine view of these questions. The whole sum needed to pay all charges on the debt, with the new loan added, is \$591,682, the revenue is reliable for \$1,636,000, and economies are promised to increase this up to \$2,300,000. Now, if the balance left, after paying debt charges, say \$1,700,000, is not sufficient to "run" the governmental expenses of 207,000 people, it is high time some one took hold of the Island, and managed its expenditures more prudently. We believe, however, the present government is deeply anxious to leave no stone unturned to put the finances in good shape, and this being done, there will be a more favorable opportunity for discussing union with Canada.

#### The Armenian Question.

A EUROPEAN war means so much to Canada, we cannot be indifferent to the very grave difficulty which has arisen between Turkey and other European powers, in regard to alleged outrages committed by the Turks on its Christian subjects in Armenia. Exaggeration there may have been in the details published, as the Press is too apt to utilize such affairs for sensational purposes. But "where there is smoke there is fire," and the reported massacres are so like what have previously been brought home to Turks, that they can be believed readily without any lack of charity. The history indeed of the relation between this remnant of an ancient people and the Turks is written in blood; it is a story of oppression and massacres. In A.D. 1049 a whole community of Armenians was murdered by Turkish troops, and later these savages repeated their crime in another