

THE HERALD

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 Editor & Proprietor.

Please don't delay your Subscriptions for 1907. We need the money, we have earned it and shall esteem it a great favor if you remit now.

At a largely attended and enthusiastic convention of Liberal Conservatives held at Eldon on Saturday last, Mr. A. D. Ross of Eldon and Dr. Rogerson of Vernon River Bridge, were unanimously nominated as the Opposition candidates for the Belfast district at the next Provincial election. The Leader of the Opposition was present and addressed the meeting on the public questions affecting our Province, and the utmost unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed.

It is announced from Montreal that Lord Strathcona is expected to visit Canada shortly in connection with the fast service question and in this connection it is stated that the Canadian High Commissioner in London, who has all along strongly advocated Halifax as the all-year-round port, has changed his view and that he now favors Quebec as the Summer port, following in this respect the view of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, of the Canadian Pacific. It is now believed that the Canadian Pacific will eventually get the contract for the fast service and that Quebec will be the Summer port and Halifax the Winter port.

By their frenzied antics the London women suffragettes show how unworthy they are of any more power than they already possess. The other day a band of them made a raid on the House of Commons and attempted to rush the doors of the lobby. Their attempt was frustrated, however, by the police, who had a sharp skirmish with the shrieking women. Two score of them were arrested for disorderly conduct and arraigned in court. They were condemned to pay a fine or be imprisoned for a month. They all went to jail. This shows how bitter and unreasonable these viragoes are.

Recent investigations at Ottawa indicate that the transportation of supplies in connection with the survey work of the Transcontinental Railway in Northern Ontario reaches very high figures. According to a return brought down the other day the Government paid \$90 a ton for the carriage of supplies for 42 miles. In another case 13 1/2 cents per pound was paid for a distance of 117 miles, and in two other cases, where the distance is to be covered was 120 miles, the price paid was 12 1/2 cents per pound and 16 cents respectively. This is surely a bleeding process of the most pronounced type.

In the House of Commons, Ottawa, on Wednesday last, the question of winter navigation of the Straits was under discussion and the debate was participated in by the Island members and others. The Minister of Marine stated that it was proposed to have a new steamer built in England, 250 feet long, 46 feet broad, 27 feet deep and 18 feet draft. She is to be 1,800 tons and to be 6,000 horse power. No contract for the steamer has yet been let, and as a consequence she will not be available for next winter's work. If the Government

are in earnest about procuring the new ice-breaker why do they delay? They are quite conversant with the disabilities under which we labor in this matter and know that any time we are liable to have our communication with the mainland cut off for an indefinite period. Under these circumstances there is no excuse for delay.

The Provincial Legislature is to meet for the despatch of business on Tuesday 25th inst. But there is no sign of the public accounts or of any of the other public reports. Shortly after the party at present in power came into office they made the official declaration that the public accounts and other public reports might be published at any time after the first of January in any year, no matter whether or not the Assembly was in session. At that time the Government's fiscal year ended on Dec. 31. Since then a change has been made and now the financial year closes on the 30th of September. That is over four months and a half ago, and still there is no sign of the reports. Shall we have to wait as usual until long after the session opens; until the eve of the delivery of the budget speech?

Evidences of a conflict between the Imperial Government and the House of Lords are looming up. The Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, has announced in the House of Commons, that two Scottish Land Bills, passed by the Commons last Session, and rejected by the Lords for their reconsideration. This, it is said, will be the first time a bill has been resubmitted to the House of Lords, within the life of a single parliament. The course proposed by the Premier may only be for the purpose of affording him a pretext to dissolve Parliament and go to the country. It is well known that some of the elements in the large majority with which he emerged from the last general election are becoming quite unmanageable, and the results of recent by-elections are emphatically against the Government. These facts and the failure of the Government to carry out their pre-election promises doubtless render the Premier's position rather uncomfortable. The resubmission of these rejected bills to the Lords, and the failure of the Upper House to concur would constitute a most plausible pretext for a dissolution and a new election. We shall see what we shall see.

Advices from British Columbia indicate that lively scenes are not impossible there in the near future. The Legislature of that Province, now in Session, has passed without a dissenting voice, what is known as the "Natal" act, and it has received the assent of the Lieutenant Governor. It will be remembered that a similar act was passed at last year's session; but had not received the Lieutenant Governor's assent. The Liberals generally, and members of the Federal Government, have sought to cast the blame for non assent on Premier McBride. He, however, has shown that he was not to blame and pointed out pretty plainly that disallowance had been advised from Ottawa. In vindication of his contention Premier McBride has had the act, or one of a kindred nature, introduced and passed at the present session, and has secured the assent thereto of the Lieutenant Governor. Now it is up to the Federal Government to show their hand. The act provides an educational test for all immigrants entering the Province,

and consequently brings the question of Japanese exclusion to a crisis. The feeling in British Columbia is decidedly opposed to the admission of Japanese; but the Laurier Government in consequence of the Anglo Japanese treaty and recent negotiations with Japan by special envoy, are forced to protect the Japs. The consequence can be nothing else than a sharp conflict between the people of British Columbia and the Federal

authorities, if the latter undertake to enforce their contentions. That the Ottawa authorities are going to protect the Japanese immigrants is evident, if reports be true. It is stated that Federal Government lawyers at Vancouver have been instructed to secure admission of all Japanese held up under the Provincial enactment, to the extent of applying for habeas corpus proceedings in the courts. Now for the tug of war.

A NEW GAG!

Minority May Not Appeal Against Suppression of Evidence Until the Investigation Has Been Permanently Blocked.

A Few New Brunswick Election Deals.

ANOTHER DREDGING STORY.

An Official Who Serves Two Masters.

A POLITICAL SEED BILL.

RETURNS THAT LIE.

200,000 Immigrants Who Cannot Be Found.

On Water As Well As Land.

Nearly whole Fishing Waters of West and North Handed Out to Favorites for \$330 a Year—A 21 Year Monopoly.

Ottawa, Feb. 15, 1908.

Parliament has once more given the party vote to choke off investigation into public expenditure. Last week the majority in the public Accounts Committee prevented Mr. Foster from questioning director Wickwire of the Sub-Target Company (which pays \$64 for machines and sells them to the government for \$250) about negotiations between himself and the promoter respecting the government contract. The majority in the committee, for first time in Canadian history, refused to allow an appeal to be taken to the House, and on Thursday of this week Mr. Blain brought up the matter in the Commons. He proposed a resolution that "the greatest possible freedom of investigation into the expenditure of public money" should be enjoyed by the committee and that any action of the majority in excluding evidence or restricting inquiry should be subject to immediate appeal to the House.

POST MORTEM APPEAL
 The Premier took a singular position regarding this motion. He admitted the right of appeal but objected to its exercise. He held that if evidence was shut out the minority had a right to seek redress from the House but not until the inquiry was concluded and report presented. That is to say after the inquiry is blocked and the witnesses are gone, and the matter is closed the House may be asked to say that the evidences should have been allowed. Sir Wilfrid permits a post mortem appeal against the suppression of evidence after the evidence is permanently suppressed. This is satisfactory to members professionally engaged in checking off investigation and to the hoodlums who desire protection. It suits the middlemen.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
 Obstructionists are now kicking themselves because they did not think of this trick two years ago. They might thus have choked off the disclosures of the Merwin contracts and many booting operations. Merwin is the middleman who bought ordinary engines for the Marine Department, paying the trade price of \$262 for one and turning it over to the Government for \$550, paying \$335 for another and passing it to the Government at \$960, and so on through a long range of articles. At first the witness refused to disclose the regular trade price, but when appeal to the House was ordered he and the majority backed down, and in fifteen minutes the Committee got information concerning \$18,000 worth of business out of

A FEW NEW BRUNSWICK DEALS.

Mr. Pugsley himself has gone to New Brunswick to steer the Provincial Government through the elections. The Dominion has already made some contributions to the campaign. It has provided a quarantine office at \$1,800 a year to a local member whose seat was wanted for the Attorney-General. It has furnished a \$2,200 office to another member who was in the way. On its behalf the Mayor of St. John has the promise of postmaster as the price of his candidature. An I. C. R. claims agent has been induced to become a candidate with his position held for him in case he should need it again. A Provincial member has been under Dominion pay of \$25 per day holding alleged investigations. A town postmaster has been permitted to speak at party rallies. Seven new post offices have been promised to one small county. A scheme to purchase for the Dominion fourteen railways connecting with the Intercolonial in the Province has been brought forward. A Grand Trunk Pacific terminus at Courtney Bay has been discovered. And the campaign is only well begun.

INSPECTING HIS EMPLOYERS.

It is a poor week which does not bring some new development of dredging operations. This time it is Dr. Spohn, former Liberal M. P., afterward Liberal office holder, now pursuing more profitable operations as a dredging contractor. Dr. Spohn's dredging company employs J. G. Gendron, whose brother is interested with Dr. Spohn in other dredging contracts. In the winter season Mr. Gendron works for Dr. Spohn's Company. In the summer he is the Government inspector certifying to the quantity and quality of work done in the Spohn company contract. But his relations with the contracting company go on through the summer, when he regularly takes the company's cheques and pays off the men on the dredges. He draws \$3 a day

from the Government as an independent officer supposed to be rigidly measuring the work done and determining whether it is worth 25 or 20 or 14 cents class. Sometimes Mr. Gendron makes more than \$3 a day. One summer another inspector drawing \$3 for watching other work in the neighborhood farmed out his job at half price to Gendron and went off about other business, taking half the pay himself while Gendron drew a pay and a half. As the country is paying many millions for dredging, and as the inspectors have the power to reduce or swell this amount by hundreds of thousands the public can judge whether this situation is satisfactory.

SEED GRAIN AND POLITICS.

The bill to provide money to purchase seed grain for Western farmers has been passed. Advances are limited to those whose crop failed and there is no help for new comers who never had a crop, and may be less able to buy seed than the older settlers, when the supply is scarce and the price high. The advance must be repaid in one year. Mr. Lake and other Western opposition members contended that if the advance were made at all the settler should not be forced to repay it all out of the next year's crop which may also be small. The Government plea is that the Minister may relax the conditions in necessary cases. As election time is approaching this power may be improperly used to favor or coerce the debtors on whose property the Federal and Provincial Governments are taking a mortgage. Mr. Lake's amendment for repayment in three annual instalments was voted down by the regular party majority. It is disclosed that the Government distribution will be in the hands of Leach, the chief perpetrator of the notorious "thin red line" scandal, by which 9,000 Manitoba voters were disfranchised in 1904.

BOGUS IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.

The Interior Department gives out glowing reports of increased immigration. These statements are clearly false. About half the settlers reported can never be found afterward. This is proved by the Northwest census of 1906, which shows the population of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to be as follows:

1906	808,863
1901	419,512
Increase	389,351

Returns of births and deaths make the natural increase of the population of 1901 41,951, leaving 347,400 to be supplied from outside, and by the natural increase of these immigrants. Now the number of homestead settlers in the Northwest from other provinces in the five years is represented by the Department to be 27,725. The Department counts two and a half persons for each homesteader, making 69,312 inhabitants from this source. A much larger number from the other provinces settled on lands which they purchased, or in towns and villages, or were employed in the various works and industries of the country. This would leave less than 200,000 to be supplied by immigrants and their children.

MULTIPLIED BY TWO.

Note now the number of immigrant settlers reported by the department as having located in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan in the five years preceding the June 1906:

1901-2,	61,129	see Int. Rept. p. 99
1902-3,	109,986	" 95
1903-4,	75,308	Canada 1906-7, p. 1083
1904-5,	74,676	"
1905-6,	90,652	"

Total, 411,652.

Here are more than twice as many immigrants reported to have settled in the West as could be found there by the census enumerators. The number of immigrant settlers reported from 1901 to 1906 is 22,301 more than the total increase of population from all sources.

THE LOST 200,000.

What has become of the 200,000 or 250,000 lost people? These include the 22,301 mentioned above, also the total natural increase of the older settlers, and of the immigrants, themselves, together with all that arrived from the older provinces and their descendants. Either these 200,000 never came or they came and went away. How many did the country pay a bonus of \$4 or \$5 per head? On how many did the mysterious North Atlantic Trading Co. draw \$5 for each imaginary head? How many of them were travellers coming into the country and going

out by another or the same gate? How many were Canadian travellers coming home? How many were mere picnicers from across the borders? How many were mere dead figures stuffed into the books to make glory for the immigration department, gain for the immigration contractors, and an excuse for an annual immigration expenditure which has jumped from \$120,000 to \$950,000 since the change of Government?

FISHING MONOPOLIES.

It is not only on land that the public wealth of Canada has been divided among favored persons, exclusive fishing rights on the rivers, lakes and bays in the Canadian North and Northwest have been parcelled out in the same way as the land and the timber and the minerals. Mr. Herron of Alberta questioned the Minister of Marine on this subject the other day and ascertained that the following grants had been made:

A GOOD \$10 WORTH.

F. W. Markey of Montreal has obtained exclusive fishing privileges in the great Nelson River and all its tributaries from West River to its mouth in Hudson Bay; also of the Bay or Estuary of Nelson from Cape Tatnam to Owl River, a distance of more than 100 miles extending 3 miles from shore; also of the Hays and Pigeon Rivers in Kewatin, two very large tidal streams emptying into Hudson Bay; also of the whole of Great Slave Lake, which has an area of 10,719 square miles, and is larger than either Lake Erie or Ontario. For all this he pays \$10 a year and his lease runs for 21 years from 1904.

J. K. Mackenzie of Selkirk has obtained exclusive fishing rights on the whole of Lake Athabasca, 2,812 square miles, and also of Lesser Slave Lake, 480 square miles. His lease runs till 1913 and he pays \$10 per annum.

A JOURNALIST FISHERMAN.

Arch MacNee, whose regular business is connected with the Government newspaper in Windsor, Ontario, has been granted the exclusive right of fishing around James Bay from North Buff to Moer's Island, a distance of more than 100 miles by the shore line. His right runs out 3 miles from the shore and includes the tidal waters of a large number of streams discharging into James Bay. Mr. MacNee will enjoy these exclusive rights until the year 1924, and will pay \$10 a year.

NOT MUCH LEFT.

Altogether for the price of \$330 a year these favored persons have acquired the monopoly of fishing on the best part of the coast of Hudson Bay and James Bay and in all the large rivers in that region, and of all the fishing of nine lakes having an extent of over 15,000 square miles. They have hundreds of miles of sea coast, thousands of miles of river, and some 2,000 miles of lake coast under their exclusive control. They seem to have captured nearly all the sources of fish supply between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains in the North Country.

Terrific Explosions.

A terrible calamity occurred at Ile Perrot, near Vaudeuil not far from Montreal the other day when two buildings of the Standard Explosives Company were destroyed and nine workmen were killed, and one man who was working outside was injured. With one exception, all were married and fathers of families. They were all residents of Vaudeuil. The two explosions took place immediately one after the other. They came like thunderbolts, and when the terrified people of Vaudeuil looked in the direction of the factory all was over, and the two buildings collapsed, and the men's bodies had been blown to atoms. Nobody knows the cause of the accident, which will probably remain a mystery, as all in the buildings were instantly killed. One hundred men are employed at the works. The greatest consternation reigns in Vaudeuil, friends and relatives of victims being terrified with the sudden calamity. The Standard Explosives Co., works on Ile Perrot are the largest in the Dominion. Three hundred acres on the Island are used for the purpose and there are over forty buildings, the number of hands employed when in full operation being about one hundred and fifty. The cap city of the plant is two car loads of dynamite and one car load of blasting powder a day.

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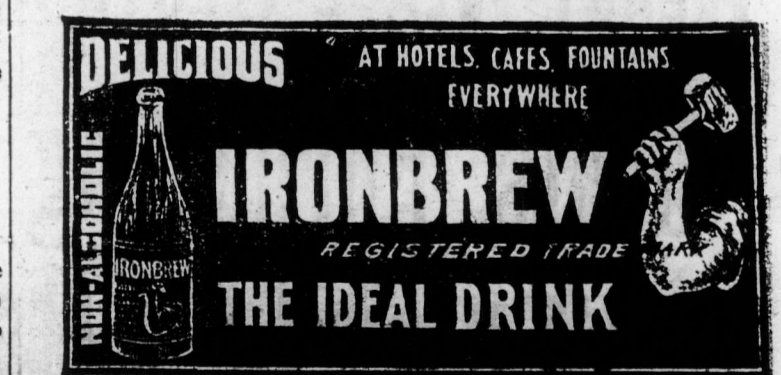
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