

The St. John Standard

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ST JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1920.

THE BUDGET AND THE TAXES.

For several weeks past speculation has been rife as to what the Budget would bring forth in the shape of new taxation to meet the ever-increasing expenditures. Many suggestions have been put forward by amateur and other financiers, some of which have turned out to be correct, and others the reverse. The speech of the Finance Minister yesterday afternoon has now set all doubts at rest.

In a masterly review of the whole financial situation of the country, Sir Henry Drayton made it quite clear what that situation really is, and what the people have got to face. Additional taxation has been generally expected as the best means of meeting the increased expenditures that the Government is called upon to provide for; it is safe to predict, however, that the people as a whole will cheerfully fall in line, and accept the additional burdens imposed upon them, realizing that they are rendered necessary by the abnormal times through which the country has been passing, and that they are designed to impose the least hardship possible in quarters and upon interests where taxation would do most harm.

Put shortly, the estimated expenditure for the coming year is about \$550,000,000; and this estimate does not include any supplementary which may yet come—a possible railway deficit of \$50,000,000, and some increased pensions. In a word, the Government has to raise not less than \$625,000,000 either by taxation, or borrowing, within the next twelve months. The revenue, based on last year's taxation, is expected to amount to \$581,000,000, and there is approximately \$339,000,000 cash in hand and outstanding, including a balance from Great Britain, making a total of \$720,000,000 in all. In view of the fact that not all these outstanding accounts can be collected this year, the actual cash resources to meet the expenditure of \$625,000,000 is not expected to be more than \$571,000,000, and there is in addition \$74,000,000 needed to retire certain floating obligations which mature during the year. Thus the Government is faced with a probable deficit of \$122,000,000.

To meet this situation there were two courses open, either to make a fresh loan or increase taxes, and it has been thought wiser to adopt the latter course. To have floated another loan would have materially increased the national debt, which in turn would have reflected upon the national credit and currency. On the other hand, taxation was already exceedingly heavy, and in view of the proposed tariff inquiry, any increase in the tariff was not considered wise. Still, additional taxation had to be raised, and as one method of raising it the Government has taken a very wise course in establishing a tax on luxuries, or as it is called in England an "Economy" tax. This tax will be paid by those who can best afford to pay. No one need pay it unless he or she likes. The alternative is to do without the luxury. The amount of this tax ranges from ten to fifty per cent, according to the nature of the luxury. The imposition of this tax should discourage the spirit of reckless extravagance which is unfortunately so rife at the present time, and by checking this extravagance the tax will be the means of helping to adjust the adverse balance of trade, for which the importation of luxuries is largely responsible.

Other new taxes are the imposition of an excise duty of one per cent, upon the sales of all manufacturers, wholesale dealers, jobbers, and importers (meats, foodstuffs, coal and other necessities of life excepted); a slight increase in the tax on bills of exchange and notes; the imposition of an additional five per cent, upon incomes of \$5,000 and over; increased taxes on beers, wines and spirits; and an addition to the taxes on motor cars. These are all forms of taxation that the less well-to-do will be exempt from. It may be a matter of opinion whether the addition to the motor car tax could not have been collected in some other way than by penalizing a home industry. A very much stiffer tax on American-made cars would have raised a large sum, and would have been a protection to home industries of that class.

A reduction has been made in the business profits tax, a form of revenue that created a good deal of adverse criticism, although it brought in not less than \$40,000,000 last year; the tax of 15 cents per day on moving picture films has been abolished, and the war duties tax of seven and a half per cent, has also been discontinued. The net result is that while the taxes abolished or reduced will cut some \$30,000,000 off the revenue, the new taxes are expected to add at least \$100,000,000 to \$110,000,000 to it, leaving the Government with about \$75,000,000 to the good. This amount, with the other cash resources of \$571,000,000, should enable the Government to more than take care of the estimated expenditure of \$625,000,000 and still leave a substantial amount towards paying off the floating liabilities of \$74,000,000. The present occasion is Sir Henry

Drayton's first effort as Minister of Finance, and he is to be heartily congratulated upon his achievement. For months past it has been the practice for ignorant or partisan critics to picture the financial position of this country as hopeless, its currency absurdly inflated, and its note circulation out of all proportion to the gold by which it is backed. Sir Henry Drayton was able to show conclusively that all such statements are absolutely without foundation, and that, having regard to all the circumstances, and bearing in mind that during the war Canada not only financed itself but extended credits to other countries, the situation is one for congratulation and pride, and not pessimism.

One other announcement of the Finance Minister's is perhaps the most important of all, his statement with regard to the tariff. Briefly it was that the Government will adhere to the principle of the old National Policy, and that whatever tariff policy is devised during the recess, will be in the interests of, and have regard only to, the protection of Canadian industries and the development of Canadian resources. Protection for protection's sake, or for the sake of the cash register of the producer, will not be tolerated; but, on the other hand, the country will not be given over to a complete free trade policy, which would have no other effect or result than disaster to the great industrial fabric which forty years of Canadian enterprise and the National Policy have built up.

IMMIGRATION TO NEW BRUNSWICK.

A movement has just been set on foot to promote settlement of vacant lands in Western Canada, and a Colonization Association, which includes many of the most influential men in the Western Provinces, has been founded to carry it through. Having thus banded themselves together, thirteen of the promoters came East with the object of endeavoring to interest Eastern financial leaders in the movement, with the result that fourteen of the most prominent men in Eastern Canada at once joined in, and these twenty-seven men between them subscribed no less than a quarter of a million dollars, which is about one-sixth of the objective aimed at. The remainder of the money required will, it is anticipated, be in sight before the end of the month.

With this money it is hoped to procure and settle 125,000 families of desirable immigrants, and an important feature of the plan is the setting up in every western community of an organization to welcome the newcomers, provide information and advice, and give them such aid and comfort as they may require, until such time as their diligence sets them in a profitable way of life.

Is anything being done to bring in settlers to New Brunswick? Did any one ever hear of any real efforts being made with that object? We have in this province as fair a land as is to be found in any part of the whole Dominion; we have a better climate than most parts, settled communities with churches, schools, railways and roads, and other conveniences of modern life, and yet we have vacant farm lands galore on every hand. Why is nothing being done to bring these into active operation? We have a Farm Settlement Board, a Soldiers Settlement Board, and other organizations ostensibly for the purpose of promoting immigration, but are they doing anything? It would seem not, judging by results.

The Provincial Government last year spent upwards of \$15,000 under the head of immigration, of which \$5,000 was spent by the St. John Office and \$10,000 on the London Office, the bulk of which appears to have been used up in the salaries of officials. The money spent on the London office is practically wasted. Instead of being the centre of operations for the carrying on of a vigorous propaganda throughout Great Britain, it seems to be little more than an office where visitors from this province when in London can call and sign their names in the visitors' book. The office itself is in a side street, where few people would ever find it, unless they were specifically looking for it, and then to crown all, as Mr. Hance Logan observed, "there is never any Agent-General there." What practical benefit is an establishment such as that? Compare this province's office with those of other provinces and other overseas Dominions, and then no one will wonder how it is that New Brunswick gets so few settlers.

Neither Maritime Union nor anything else will help New Brunswick unless her own people set out in earnest to help themselves. People will not come here unless it is pointed out to them in some convincing manner that we have much to give them. The agents of other provinces take good care that all the advantages of the Western Provinces are laid out temptingly before prospective emigrants, probably somewhat exaggerated no doubt, but this they don't find out till they get there. But the only policy that the New Brunswick Government

seems to be able to follow as far as immigration is concerned is one of drift, content to take just whatever comes along, if anything comes. If it doesn't, well, never mind, let it go elsewhere.

According to Maximilian Harden, the German militarists have by no means abandoned their wish for a return of the German monarchy and are continuing with their plans to bring about such a consummation, then to take the form of the election of General Hindenburg to the Presidency with the declaration of a return to a monarchical form of government by proclamation of Hindenburg after he assumes office and the selection of the former Crown Prince as ruler. Mr. Harden is recognized as one of the brainiest men in Germany and particularly well informed, but it is difficult on this side of the water to believe that Frederick William will ever assume the throne. We have been led to believe that the German people have little use for Frederick and unlikely to turn to him, even if they conclude to resume the monarchy.

There is a report abroad that the by-election in this city is to take place on Monday, the 7th of June. As the Government is reported to have met last night and is to meet again today, it is likely the matter will be settled at this sitting, if it has not already been.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Justified By Results.

(San Francisco Chronicle.) The British plan is to go right in and do the thing that will do the most good without hesitating. They have insisted not at all in Constantinople. The night before the third landing in the Turkish capital they sent a party ashore to grab the leaders most likely to make trouble after the occupation. They hustled these men on board a King's ship and sent them to do their plotting in safe cells at Malta. And ever since then they have been picking up and adding to the Maltese collection the troublemakers overlooked or missed in the first raid. The latest was a newspaper editor and a poet. The British propose to have nothing published that does not meet their approval, nor do they intend to let loose any Turkish or Armenian gothic self-determination in the Near East. But, after all, this is the method that will soonest end Armenian massacres and other strife between the jangled races and creeds of Asia Minor. The Turk respects the strong hand and nothing else. Liberty for him means massacre for his neighbors.

The Marriage Market.

(Buffalo Courier.) In some countries a man buys his wife or wives. In the United States instead of such crude barter, the man entices the wife from her husband, and then pays what he considers as the value of the woman's affections.

Work and Play.

(Westminster Gazette.) Mr. Rudyard Kipling was surely the most misjudged of seers when he imagined in his "flannelled fool at cricket, and muddled of at the goal" that a nation devoted to sport must lose its military spirit. It is the young men who have seen war and all that it means who are responsible for such a mistaken idea as this. The country has never before manifested, Gates are bigger, events more numerous, and the public interest in every branch of play more keen than ever it has been. Football still holds the field, but its reign is hastening to a close, as the cricket and the lawn-tennis player are preparing for their season, while the golfer looks forward to a summer that will crowd the links to excess. All this is healthy enough, and yet strange when on all hands the gospel of work is being preached by megaphone. If the world must work more it is strongly determined to season its tasks with more play.

THE LAUGH LINE

Pools occasionally find opportunities, but wise men make them.

A cynic is a man who claims to be tired of the world. But in reality the world is tired of him.

Willing to Share Burden.

The Lady Straphanger—in all my affairs I insist on standing on the footing of men.

The Mere Man—I wish you'd divide your attention. For the last ten blocks you've stood on my footings alone.—Houston Post.

The Way It Goes.

Kind Old Man—Who is this little boy?
Edgar—Oh, he's my cousin.
Kind Old Man—Your first cousin?
Edgar—Not at all. I had lots more before he was born.

Waiting Nothing.

Perhaps it is merely German thrift that leads the Germans to use their ammunition in killing each other rather than destroying it, as the allies.—Chicago Evening Post.

A Willing Worker.

Kind Old Lady—What do you work at, my poor man?
Trump—At intervals, lady.—Answers, London.

The New Version.

Everybody loafs but father; He's working hard all day, Nose upon the grindstone, Keeping the wolf away.

Mother's joined the union, So has sister Ann; Everybody's strike in our house But my old man.

—Foster War.

An Irishman's Wonder.

An Irishman spent a day in London, and saw the electric tramcars. He stared in amazement at the trolley bus on top of the cars. Then he said:

"O' hev' seen cars drawn along by horses and driven by steam, but sure O'ive never seen a car drawn along with a sailing rod before."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was standing in the kitchen door watching Nora make rice pudding yesterday afternoon, and after a while I thurst, Gosh, she was putting any raisins in. And I sed, Ray, Nora, you was putting any raisins in.

Tell me something I don't know, sed Nora. Meaning she was out putting any in because she didn't want to. Me thinking, G, holy smoke, was rice pudding without raisins. And I sed, Well, what you going to put any in, Nora?

I am not, that's the answer to that, have you got any more puzzles you'd like to ask me? sed Nora. Properly thinking she was funny, being the only one that that the set so, and I went up to ma's room and ma was sewing on the sewing machine, and I sed, Gosh, ma, G, was you think, Nora making rice pudding without any raisins gosh ma, you can't make rice pudding rite without raisins.

You can't make it rite without rice, maybe that was you're thinking of, sed ma.

No mam, I'm thinking of raisins, was the use of making rice pudding if you don't put any raisins in, you mite as well not make it at all and be done with it, I sed.

Do you know what economical means? sed ma, and I sed, Yes mam, but gosh, G, ma, who wants a to be economical?

I do sed ma and I sed O all rite, but don't expect me to eat any of it. And ma sed, Very well, then there will be that much more for sumbody else.

And wen Nora bawt it in for dazert at supper I only ate 3 saweers full insted of 5, which I properly would of if it had of had raisins in it.

be mindful that the ring—which marks the step so vital in the life of womanhood—be of finest gold, with gem of purity beyond reproach.

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ARMENIA ASKS U. S. NAVY AID

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SOVIET DANGER GROWS

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He expressed the belief that the sending of arms and ammunition to the Armenians would require too much time and stressed the urgent necessity for sending naval units to Baku. He declared that sufficient military forces should be sent to maintain railroad communication between Baku, Erivan and Tiflis.

Soviet representatives in the Caucasus have presented an ultimatum to the Armenians to abandon Armenian provinces, and declaring that a re-

DECIDEDLY NEW AND DISTINCTIVE.

Two charming frocks are here offered for the consideration of the woman in search of a smart vacation wardrobe. The first in rose colored voile, is trimmed with narrow bands of imitation diet lace. Collar and cuffs are of the same trimming, but of greater width. The belt is of striped ribbon. Medium size requires 5 yards 36-inch voile. 7 yards inch-wide and 1 1/2 yards three-inch wide lace.

The second frock in black satin has a straight gathered tunic and upder blouse of satin-striped taffeta, making a very striking effect. The overskirt falls to the hips and is free from the restrictions of a belt. The sleeves are short and cut in one with the underblouse. There is no crumpling about the square neck.

Medium size requires 4 yards 40-inch black satin and 2 1/2 yards contrasting silk.

First Model: Pictorial Review blouse No. 8702. Size 34 to 44 inches bust. Price, 20 cents. Skirt No. 8835. Sizes, 24 to 36 inches waist. Price, 25 cents.

Second Model: Blouse No. 8705. Sizes, 34 to 44 inches bust. Price, 25 cents. Skirt No. 8815. Sizes, 24 to 36 inches waist. Price, 25 cents.

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