The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 30, 1909.

MR. ROBINSON IS POOR AUTHORITY.

Ex-Premier Robinson has many times repeated the statement that Mr. Flemming had a deficit last year that was not acknowledged. It is not easy to understand how Mr. Robinson makes this out. The Provincial Secretary paid out of last year's current revenue a large number of Mr. Robinson's deferred and concealed overdrafts which were brought over from the year before, and came to light from time to time after the accounts for Mr. Robinson's year were supposed to be closed. There seems to be no doubt that in his first year Mr. Flemming paid for more expenditure on current account than accrued that year. The only year for which Mr. Flemming has yet given an account is that of 1907-08. Mr. Robinson was himself Provincial Secretary during four months and part of another that year. When he went out he had not yet settled all the accounts of the year before, and these Mr. Flemming had to pay. Nevertheless he contradicts the statements which Mr. Robinson makes about the deficit.

We cannot suppose that the ex-Premier or ex-Provincial Secretary is very good authority on Mr. Flemming's budget. The reason for this doubt is the profound ignorance which Mr. Robinson showed when in office about his own accounts. The overdrafts were a surprise to him. He had no knowledge of the suspense accounts. Of the condition of crown land finance Mr. Robinson had no sort of idea. He went about with a bogus audit and thought it was good. It required a tragedy, several long-delayed refunds and a genuine accounting to make him understand what the financial condition of the province had been under his administration. The whole thing was rotten and he says he never knew it.

Mr. Robinson has not shown that he has the qualifications for speaking intelligently of provincial finance.

A ROMANCER.

When Mr. Robinson, as Premier, was going about the province distributing financial misinformation, he seemed to be candidly stating the case as he understood it. After the books were audited, and the facts brought clearly to light, even his opponents were charitable and charged him with ignorance instead of deliberate misrepresentation. The Standard does this in another article.

Mr. Robinson seems determined that this excuse shall not be made for him, for he goes on saying things that are shown to be untrue.

But it is not only in the matter of finance that Mr. Robinson smashes his reputation for veracity. Here for instance, is a statement which is reported verbatim by his own organs. Speaking of Mr. Hazen, Mr. Robinson said:—

"You remember he told a deputation that his Government would guarantee $25,000 per mile for the St. John Valley Railway if the Dominion Government would "take the road over as part of the Intercolonial. When "the delegation went to Ottawa, they were well received "and the Premier asked Mr. Hazen to have his proposal "placed on the statutes."

This is absolute fiction. When the delegation went to Ottawa the Premier did not ask Mr. Hazen to do anything. Mr. Hazen was not there, and has not heard from Sir Wilfrid. The Premier did declare that the proposition was definite and would be answered. It has not been answered, and Mr. Robinson seems to be quite satisfied with the Premier's silence. But why should he invent a statement and place it in the month of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. A former Provincial Secretary who does this cannot expect that people will accept his statements about money.

THE SUN AND THE "DEGRADING INFLUENCES."

The Sun damns the McAvity-Moore-Telegraph ring, the party machine, and the late Provincial Government all together, with faint praise of Mr. Bentley. It is done thus with deliberation and care:

"Mr. Bentley has not been prominently connected "with past political affairs—and that is a good deal in "his favor, freeing him from the responsibility for the "past political errors of others. He is in no way a can-"didate of the old Government. * * * For himself, Mr. Bent-"ley is a man of honorable record, against whom there "is no whisper of disrepute, politically or personally; a "Liberal of the old-line type whose very nomination is "a protest against degrading influences which are threat-"ening the party in this constituency."

Leader Robinson will be charmed to hear Mr. Bentley defended from the suspicion that he is a candidate of the late Robinson Government. The praise would go farther if Mr. Robinson had not come to St. John, adopted Mr. Bentley, and apologized for the old Government.

The Telegraph, Dr. Pugsley, Mr. Moore, and Mr. McAvity will be equally delighted to learn that Mr. Bentley's honorable record, and his good repute protest against "degrading influences" which are threatening the party. But unfortunately nothing has been said as yet by Mr. Bentley in repudiation of the old Government record, or in condemnation of the degrading influences. On the contrary what is left of the old Government and all there is of the degrading influences, appear to be supporting Mr. Bentley.

Those who object to the old Government and its errors, and who protest against the degrading influences are supporting Mr. Mosher.

POEMS OF MR. H. L. SPENCER.

It was only the other day that Mr. H. L. Spencer was receiving congratulations on attaining the age of four score. Following hard upon this anniversary came the publication of a collection of his poems, containing so many as the author cared to include of those which have appeared in magazines, newspapers and anthologies during the last half century. Even those who have most felt the charm of Mr. Spencer's poetry will be surprised to find how large a contribution he has made to the pure literature of Canada, and how much of his poetry in various notes deserves to be printed in permanent form. Many a stranger and some of ourselves and our children in future years, taking up this book for careful examination, will conclude that we have had among us a greater master of verse, a more profound and subtle interpreter of man and his dreams, of nature and her moods, than his contemporaries knew.

Mr. Spencer calls his volume "The Fugitives," apparently meaning that the poems went their various ways, and are now gathered in. The second part of the book under a sub-title contains some forty sonnets, a form of verse which requires the skill of an artist along with the gifts of nature.

The opening poem is one far better known among English-speaking people than Mr. Spencer himself is, "A Hundred Years to Come." The haunting melody is suited to the pensive undertone of this lyric, which composers have made many attempts to set to appropriate music, none of them bringing out the poet's complaint over the tragedy of life and death—

We all within our graves shall sleep,
A hundred years to come!
No living soul for us will weep
A hundred years to come.
But others then our lands will till,
And others then our homes will fill,
And other birds will sing as gay,
As bright the sunshine as today,
A hundred years to come.

Here is a more stoical philosophy:—

He mused by mossy rock and rill—
He dreamed by cliff and tide-washed shore,
Did good to some—to no one ill,
And nothing more.

And nothing more! What more do men
Whose hearts in strife go sick and sore,
Who frame deceit with lip and pen,
And nothing more.

Some sneered and said, "A dreamer this,
Versed only in unfruitful lore."
He surely pitied them, I wis,
And nothing more.

He died, as every man must die—
('Twas in the goodly days of yore,)
You question where his ashes lie,
And nothing more.

Some antique verses to the dying year close in the same spirit:—

Go, yeare! for thee the grave doth ope!
For thee, there is no fear nor hope!
Though many wrongs me thou hast done,
I do forgyve them every one!
I do forgyve thee! and may I,
Poor wretched sinner, by and by
So be forgyven, for I know
How prone my footsteps are to goe
Where they should not. But soon to me
Ye clod shall as a brother be,
And I, oh yeare, shall sleep with thee.

Mr. Spencer's tribute to his friend, William Cullen Bryant, shows how in the sonnet form he "builds the lofty rhyme."

With eyes suffused and heart dissolved in sorrow,
How often have I fled the realm of sleep,
And sought, not vainly, from thy page to borrow
That which forbids or eye or heart to weep!
Thy Thanatopsis! fraught with tenderest feeling,
Is like a June breeze to the ice-bound heart;
To us, thy humble followers, revealing
The sage, the seer, the poet that thou art,
Still roll "The Ages," still "Green River" flows,
And odorous blossoms load the "Apple Tree"—
Into "The Lake" still fall the fleecy snows,
And nature everywhere doth speak of thee.
Oh, for a poet's tongue to name thy name!
But does it matter? Thine is deathless fame.

Mr. Spencer is neither a cheerful nor a despondent muse. He is no wise cynical, but breathes the spirit of kindness and brotherly love. The melancholy which has marked him for her own has nothing ungenial in it. Like all men of his temperament he is acquainted with grief, but also has had his share of the poet's consolation. He has heard "the still sad music of humanity," but has also been disturbed with "the joy of elevated thoughts."

A personal sketch of the author by Mr. A. M. Belding, introduces this volume, giving a few external and biographical facts, with a gracefully expressed appreciation. The publisher, Mr. John A. Bowes, has done his share to give the volume permanent value. The book is printed on heavy paper with generous margins, in type that delights the eye.

THOSE UNHEALTHY SYMPTOMS.

The convention at Berryman's Hall Monday evening did not consider the following situation described by the Sun, an organ of their party:—

"And the impression is general among the Liberals "of this constituency—whether well-founded or not we "cannot say—that federal favors here have been unduly "centralized and that those who profit thereby do not "show sufficient gratitude in the aforesaid time of need.

"From this seed of discontent there has grown and "is growing, a lack of harmony in the local Liberal organ-"ization, which on the verge of an election, is not en-"couraging. Men upon whose efforts the party has large-"ly depended heretofore, are holding aloof, frankly dis-"contented with existing conditions.

"Present symptoms are not altogether healthy and "some radical remedial process would seem essential to "success in the coming contest."

The Sackville Tribune (Liberal) refers in this way to the attempt of the Pugsley organs to read the St. John Globe out of the Liberal party:

Some of the St. John papers continue their unnecessary attacks upon their city contemporary, the Globe, because of its editorial opinions. If they enjoyed the Globe's deserved reputation for sincerity their own expressions of editorial opinion would offset those of the other paper, partially at all events."

Superior Dentistry

Emerson puts the POINT pithily:—
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PERSONAL

Mrs. George Y. Dibblee arrived from Fredericton ast evening. She is at the Royal.

Mr. A. R. Wetmore, engineer of the Provincial Public Works department is at the Dufferin.

Mr. P. S. Marsten and wife of Fredericton arrived in the city on last night's Boston express.

Miss Jennie Maxwell, of Portland street, left by boat Saturday to visit friends in Boston and Everett, Mass.

Mr. A. McN. Shaw, of Toronto, came in on the C. P. R. express at noon yesterday.

Mrs. Thomas D. McKenna, (nee Pierce) left on Monday evening to join her husband in the west.

Ottawa Journal: Mrs. Palmer of St. John is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. S. F. Dawson.

Mr. R. B. Humphrey writes from Sussex that Mrs. Humphrey is now believed to be out of danger and is progressing very favorably at the Sussex Cottage Hospital, so excellently conducted by Dr. J. Upham Burnett with an efficient trained staff. Mr. Humphrey writes in very high praise of this admirable institution which has recently been started, chiefly through the bounty and public spirit of Captain Calhoun, of Rothesay. It has already done considerable good, and is of such a character as should commend it to others for support.

Mr. T. M. Murphy of Glace Bay was at the Park yesterday.

Mr. F. McConkey of Halifax is at the Victoria.

Mr. T. R. Blaine and wife of Fredericton are at the Dufferin.

Mr. John M. Lyons and wife of Moncton are at the Royal.

Mr. J. J. Anderson of Moncton was at the Victoria yesterday.

Dr. T. E. DeWitt of Wolfville is in the city.

Dr. L. Belleveau of Shediac is at the Royal.

Mr. J. E. Baker, of Baronsfield, N. S., is at the Victoria.

Mr. O. H. Sharpe of Fredericton was at the Royal yesterday.

Mr. A. McN. Shaw of Toronto is in the city.

Mr. A. M. Proctor of Halifax is at the Dufferin.

Miss A. Young, of Middleton, is at the Royal.

Mr. W. K. Brennan of Summerside is in the city.

Mr. H. MacNeil of the National Transcontinental, Chipman, was at the Dufferin yesterday.

Mr. W. H. Berry of St. Stephen is in the city.

Mr. J. H. Tabor of Wolfville is at the Dufferin.

Lieut. J. B. P. Dunbar, R. M. C., who has just received a commission in the imperial army (Royal Canadian Engineers) is a son of Colonel Dunbar, of Montreal, formerly of Fredericton. Lieut. Dunbar was born in Quebec on Aug. 20, 1889.

Mr. F. D. McDonald of Summerside is at the Victoria.

Mr. Alfred Whitman of Halifax is registered at the Royal.

Mr. H. R. Lawrence of St. eGorge, is in the city.

Mr. A. A. McLellan of Pictou is at the Victoria.

Dr. T. F. Macdonald and wife of Truro are at the Royal.

Two nieces of I. R. C. Police Officer Scovil Smith, arrived in the city yesterday from Boston. They will spend a few days in the city, the guests of Miss Smith, daughter of Officer Smith.

THE LAST FUNCTIONS

Special to The Standard.

London, June 29—Yesterday saw the last functions in connection with the Imperial Press Conference. At the suggestion of Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M. P., Hon. Winston and Mrs. Churchill gave a garden party in the Board of Trade gardens. A very distinguished company, including dukes, lords and commoners was present to greet the overseas delegates.

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Victoria.

L. J. Lyman, Everett; Gordon Todd, Fredericton; Wm. R. Todd, Fredericton; J. H. Hunt, New York; F. A. Scanlon, New York; T. McConkey, Halifax; T. W. Johnson, Truro; Mrs. R. B. Williams, Strandsburg, Pa.; Mrs. C. B. Anderson, Newport; Miss B. Anderson, Newport; J. E. Baker, Burrowsfield, N. S.; Miss Atkinson, Boston; Walter Rens, Baltimore; W. A. Nash, wife and child, Boston; W. C. Cosey, Moncton; T. J. Anderson, Moncton; A. L. Hoyt, McAdam; Frank D. Seeby, Grenwich; A. McCanslana, Montreal; F. D. McDonald, Summerside, P. E. I.; J. W. Lowe, Aylesford; John P. Weir, Moncton; H. P. Lawrence, St. George; F. W. Whelpley, Greenwich; P. E. Watson, Milford; W. C. Stewart, Waterford; H. B. Stratton, Portland.

UNDERWRITING LARGE LOAN

Special to The Standard.

Montreal, June 29—A London cable says—The Bank of Montreal is underwriting today, for issue on July 1, $32,500,000 Dominion Government inscribed stock at three and a half per cent, the issue price being 98 1-2.

The price is generally considered highly favorable to the Government and the successful underwriting of such a large loan, the largest ever issued by any colonial Government, reflects great credit upon the Hon. W. S. Fielding and is an achievement of which his advisers, the Bank of Montreal, and Canada may well be proud.

Mr. H. F. Allbright, who has been spending the winter in Florida, returned yesterday by the Calvin Austin and will remain for the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Erb.

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Mr. T. F. Foley and family have removed to Crouchville for the summer.

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Lv. West St. John..	7.45 a. m.
Arr. St. Stephen..	12.00 p. m.
Lv. St. Stephen..	1.30 p. m.
Lv. St. Stephen..	1.30 p. m.
Arr. West St. John..	5.40 p. m.

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