

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1912.

CIVIC FINANCES.

The report of the City Chamberlain, which was submitted at yesterday's meeting of the Common Council, is worthy of a more careful perusal than it will receive at the hands of the majority of citizens. The report shows the city to be in a satisfactory financial condition. The expenditures have been kept within the income and there has been a reduction in the bonded debt of \$64,240. The reduction is even greater than that, as there are water debentures to the amount of \$12,200, for the payment of which provision is made and the interest stopped.

During the year debentures to the amount of \$397,500 matured and were paid, partly from the sinking fund and partly by another issue of debentures. Of the total amount maturing \$300,000 were for water supply. While this important department of the city was under the management of a Commission, practically no attention whatever was given to the sinking fund to retire the debentures, and the result of this neglect was that of the total amount \$189,000 had to be re-issued.

The extent to which St. John has re-issued debentures, which should have been retired at maturity, is much greater than it should have been. In 1894, \$527,646.66 in debentures, known as the Sterling Loan, were sold for the purpose of retiring maturing debentures issued for water and sewerage purposes and now more than half of the second issue has to be re-issued because of the neglect of the old Commission to fulfill their obligations to the bond holders by putting aside an amount annually as they are required to do by law.

Of the general city debt debentures issued from time to time by the Council \$535,500 have been re-issued, so that well over a million dollars of indebtedness are still outstanding that ought to have been retired when due.

The present Council can hardly be congratulated on the manner they have dealt with some questions connected with the management of the city's bonded debt. Instead of re-issuing this water indebtedness for a period of not longer than twenty years, which was the rule adopted by the Council at the time of union, they were sold for forty years the same as bonds for new work, so that there are practically two issues of bonds outstanding on account of the water mains and distribution throughout the city. Last year the Treasury Board acted wisely in appropriating a portion of the surplus revenue of the water department for the purpose of providing for the cost of replacing the distributing pipes throughout the city.

It is not good finance either to issue street paving bonds for forty years. It is all very well to say that granite block pavements on a concrete foundation will last forty years. The experience of many cities does not justify this claim, therefore, only a portion of the street paving debentures should be put on the market for such a long term. The same argument against the re-issue of bonds for the water supply system applies to those for the re-paving of streets with even greater force. A portion of the \$300,000 issued for street pavements is for work done on Mill and Dock streets, bonds for the paving of which are already outstanding. If this method is continued as pavements wear out the taxpayers will soon have a large bill for interest to pay. It is earnestly to be hoped that wiser methods than those of the past will guide the civic government in dealing with renewals of street paving.

As the result of the year's operation in connection with the bonded debt there is a saving of interest last year over the previous year of \$7,009.41 and next year there will be a further reduction. At the close of 1910 the sinking funds of the city amounted to \$971,425.87. After paying out of these funds during 1911 \$195,640, there was still to the credit of the sinking funds \$883,782.66. The sinking funds have been honestly maintained in recent years.

The receipts of the city show about the same percentage of collections on the current assessment as in former years, but there is a large falling off in the collections for tax default. In 1909 default taxes yielded \$111,603, while in 1911 the amount had fallen to \$65,127. The Chamberlain points out that this shows that fewer citizens are in default than formerly. He also calls attention, and very justly, to the difficulty in collecting the taxes on small incomes. He does not specify the number of ratepayers who are assessed on a poll tax alone, who are in default, but the number is usually about fifty per cent. of the whole. The legislation of a few years ago which fixed the poll tax at five dollars on all who were assessed on incomes of \$300 or under, has not helped collections any, as they are no better from this class of ratepayers than they ever were. Common sense would indicate to any ordinary person the uselessness of encumbering the assessment roll with a long list of names from which it is impossible to collect a single dollar. It is now proposed to obtain legislation reducing the poll tax to two dollars. Such a move is in the right direction, but it will be even difficult under our present method of collections to secure payments of even this amount from a large percentage of the small ratepayers.

The water department with the receipts of \$183,737.17, the largest in the history of the city, closed the year with a credit balance of \$8,000, whereas the balance for 1910 was over \$20,000. Probably there is no department in the city which is more recklessly managed from a financial standpoint than the water department. It has been a matter of comment for some years past that there are at least three men doing one man's work in this department, and that a large sum of money is being spent annually to demonstrate that the Loch Lomond extension was a very imperfect job. The necessity for this is hardly apparent, as everybody who knows anything at all about it is prepared to admit that some gigantic and very expensive blunders, which have already cost the city a lot of money, were made by someone in constructing this work. It is not necessary to inform the public annually by means of long bills that the blunders were not made by the present executive of the water department. A keener watch on the expenditures of this department would greatly benefit the taxpayers.

It has been the boast of St. John that the water department was its only paying utility, but this is no longer true. After many years the market has been converted into a paying proposition. The revenue for 1911 was \$183,737.17. In 1910 it was \$182,760.12. In 1911 there was a change in the method of collecting the tolls which seems to have been very much in the interest of the city. In 1910 the total amount collected for fees, rentals and tolls was \$7,820. For 1911 the sum was \$9,890.72, an increase of \$2,070. The other increases in revenue were from increased rentals of the street frontage of the market building. While some improvement has been made in the management of this property there is no reason

why there should not be a further addition of from twenty-five and in some cases fifty per cent. in some of the rentals of this building, which occupies one of the best sites, from a commercial standpoint, in the whole city. But if the market has been well managed from a financial standpoint, the city can hardly be congratulated on the financial management of the ferry service, its other utility. In addition to a large capital expenditure the city was called upon in 1911 to make good a deficit of \$11,143.11, between the actual revenue of the ferry and the cost of its maintenance. The ferry question is a very live one at the present time.

The report of the Comptroller on the expenditures of the year shows that the cost of maintaining the public services of the city is about the same as shown by the following table:

	1910.	1911.
Fire Department	\$58,198.76	\$63,831.70
Police Department	48,721.16	45,994.45
Lamp Department	30,287.60	26,111.64
Street Department	74,602.19	74,931.64

Taken as a whole the financial statement of the city must prove satisfactory to the citizens. Whether the money taken from them has been wisely or unwisely expended the accounts show no serious over-expenditure, and this was the great evil in civic management from which the city suffered before a Comptroller was appointed. The showing in the harbor account is not so good as last year and is a warning to the citizens that as the wharf properties owned by the city increase in age the cost of repairs goes up.

MARITIME PROVINCE REPRESENTATION.

The Toronto News, discussing the extension of the boundaries of different Provinces and their effect on the representation in Parliament, asks this question: "Suppose that in future time the population of Quebec should be 10,000,000 and that of P. E. I. should be 200,000, then the unit of representation would be 150,000 and the small Province would not be entitled to two members."

There is no doubt in the future that Quebec will be one of the most populous of the Provinces of Canada. Montreal is developing rapidly and the time is not far distant when the population of that city will be a million. The rural sections of the Province may not grow so rapidly as the commercial metropolis, but the existence of a city with a million inhabitants will encourage also the growth of suburbs. All the towns and cities in the Province of Quebec increased in population during the last ten years, and there is every likelihood that in the next decade many of the towns of the present time will be cities. For this reason, if for no other, the agitation to preserve the representation of the Maritime Provinces at Ottawa at not less than when they entered Confederation should be continued.

We are all hopeful that there will be a greater proportion of increase in the population in the lower Provinces in the next ten years than in the last decade. Without doubt the present Government will give the Maritime Provinces a fair deal in immigration expenditures than we have ever had before, but it will take time to overcome the large expenditures already made on behalf of the West. So much money has been expended by the Government and the railways having land to sell in the Northwest that the people of Great Britain, particularly, think only of the West of Canada, as a place in which to carve out a home for themselves.

It will take some years before the Maritime Provinces can hope to benefit much from expenditures for immigration by the Federal Government. Any increase of population will therefore be through retaining our own natural increase. This can be done only by the establishment of industries that will furnish employment to our young people. If this means is neglected, in the future as it has been in the past, the ratio of growth will remain about the same. The awakening to the great agricultural possibilities of the Province, will certainly add to our population and perhaps increase the ratio of our growth, but at the best we can grow no more rapidly than Quebec, while the Western Provinces, through the construction of railways at the expense of the Federal Government, will have a much more rapid growth than is possible in the East.

As pointed out on previous occasions, the Maritime Provinces have special interests totally different from those of the inland Provinces, and for this reason should be fairly represented at Ottawa. The present population of New Brunswick is less than 350,000. With a population of a million compared with the population of ten millions in Quebec, we would have but six representatives in Parliament. It is all very well for the Western newspapers to assert that the slow growth of the Maritime Provinces is the fault of the people themselves, but it must be borne in mind that at the time of the union there was no Northwestern territory and that what was fair at that time in the matter of representation has been greatly altered by the extension of the boundaries of the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario and the addition of the Northwest to the area of Canada. All the new Provinces have a minimum of representation equal to what they had at the start, and there is no reason why the same principle should not apply to the Maritime Provinces.

The people of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island should look to the future and make a strong fight to prevent any further reduction of their representation at Ottawa. Premier Fleming has already taken the initial step in this direction and will follow it up with greater effort than in the past. There is no likelihood of the Dominion Parliament taking any step toward a redistribution at its present session, but immediately after prorogation of the Local Parliaments, directly interested in this important question, a conference of the Premiers will be held and the matter carefully considered.

In 1910 the Ontario Legislature passed an act which gives the city of Toronto power to lay tracks upon any street in the city if the Toronto Street Railway Company refused to meet the city's demands in this direction, but the act was only to come into force on proclamation of the Governor-in-Council. This proclamation has now been made and Toronto has arranged to construct a line on Danforth avenue which will provide a service with East Toronto.

Hereafter all communications to be published in The Standard must bear the name of the author for publication.

Current Comment

(Vancouver Province.)

The low attendance at the city schools is attributed to the disagreeable weather. The same excuse has been offered for the absence of elderly gentlemen at the mid-week prayer meeting.

(Nashville Democrat.)

The man who fired the first gun on Fort Sumter is dead again. This time he was sitting at his editorial desk in the office of a New York art publication when the dread summons came.

(Toronto Star.)

It is getting so that the most serious charge you can make against a citizen's veracity is to hint that he lies like a thermometer.

"VANITY FAIR" THE NICKEL'S FEATURE

Thackeray's Masterpiece Wonderfully Depicted in Motion Photography—Large Audience Delighted Yesterday.

The Nickel Theatre was crowded to the doors at every performance yesterday afternoon and evening to witness the great motion picture film "Vanity Fair." The production is shown in three lengthy reels and is one of the best ever shown in this city. It is presented by no less than twenty of the best performers in the Vitagraph employ, the costumes worn are gorgeous, and it is a most magnificent scenic production. "Vanity Fair" is taken from the great novel by William Makepeace Thackeray, the famous satirist and delineator of character and society of the early 18th century.

The first reel shows Amelia Sedley accompanying by Becky Sharpe returning from a boarding school. Becky is a natural born flirt. Joseph Sedley, a very bashful man falls in love with her and takes her to Vauxhall Gardens, where he makes such a fool of himself that he becomes ashamed of himself, refuses to keep an appointment with her the next day and sails for Scotland to escape her wiles.

Becky next becomes governess in Sir Pitt Crawley's mansion, where she meets Rawdon Crawley, the youngest son of Sir Pitt, who falls in love with her and marries her despite the displeasure of the whole Crawley family. Rawdon Crawley is an officer in the British Army and shortly after their marriage takes up elegant lodgings at Mayfair. They are visited by Captain Dobbin and Lieutenant Osborne, the latter having married Amelia Sedley. Lieutenant Osborne becomes fascinated by Mrs. Crawley. A week later they are at a ball in Brussels, given by the Duchess of Richmond, where Becky meets the old Marquis of Steyne, who becomes infatuated with her. It is while they are enjoying themselves at the ball that they receive notice of the battle of Waterloo. There is an excellent picture of the battle field where Captain Crawley and Captain Dobbin found the body of Lord Osborne, who was killed in the engagement. A month after the battle Becky Crawley ensnares Lord Steyne. At the gaming table Captain Crawley gets heavily in debt to Lord Steyne and is thrown in prison. Mrs. Crawley, who is entertaining the Old Lord. When Captain Crawley gets out of prison he finds his wife with Lord Steyne and leaves her forever.

Becky is abandoned by Lord Steyne and finally through dissipation is reduced to penury. She is found in a hovel by Captain Dobbin and Amelia Osborne. Becky refuses assistance and is left to her fate. Amelia becomes the wife of Captain Dobbin and so ends the drama.

John Kelly made his first appearance yesterday under the management of the Keith's and his beautiful tenor voice, captured the large audiences in a very pretty solo.

Miss Margaret Pearson, the contralto, who continues as a favorite with the theatre goers, was also heard in a catchy solo.

"Vanity Fair" is a production that should not be missed by any lover of first class motion photography.

AMUSEMENTS.

DANTE'S INFERNO.

Next to the Bible and Shakespeare the greatest monument in the history of literature is Dante's "Inferno." It has at all times, by the scholars of the ages, been praised as a revelation rather than a mere poem. With all its power, the great poem has heretofore been appreciated at its true value by a handful of scholars, while to the great masses it was a hidden treasure.

Edison's greatest invention, the moving picture has furnished the key to unlock this treasure for the benefit of mankind. The "Inferno" has now been made accessible to all. A noted band of Italian artists have for a period of more than two years, co-operated in an effort to give a reproduction of Dante in moving pictures which would be worthy of the immortal genius of the great Fuscan poet. The efforts have been crowned with success, and the 100 or more scenes of which this film consists, represent veridically the entire "Inferno." There is special music to accompany the picture, likewise an explanatory dramatic reading.

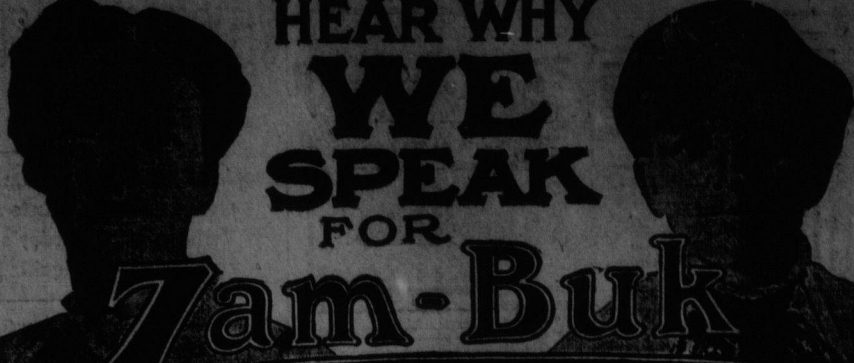
This unusual attraction will be presented at the Opera House beginning Wednesday, and continuing for the balance of the week, with a matinee daily. The performance is over two

AMERICANS ARE TO BE COMPENSATED FROM PERISIAN TREASURY

Teheran, Feb. 5.—Arrangements have been made for the payment of the Americans attached to the Persian treasury department, who claimed that their contracts had been violated. Ex-Treasurer Gen. Shuster's three principal assistants, Messrs. Cairns, McCaskey and Dickey, will receive three year's salary and their travelling expenses. The others will receive eighteen months salary and travelling expenses. All of the Americans will leave Teheran shortly, with the exception of two, who have joined the Swedish gendarmerie.

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"I speak for Zam-Buk because it cured me of a terribly bad foot," says Mrs. Alice Berryman of 190 John St. North, Hamilton. She adds: "The injury was caused by a wagon wheel, and the sore was on my right foot. It became very inflamed and swollen and so painful that I faintly away. In spite of treatment, the wound got no better and the foot became more and more swollen until it was several times its usual size. The flesh was terribly bruised and blackened and it was quite impossible for me to walk. My husband's mother at last brought me a box of Zam-Buk. This was applied to the foot and it was surprising how soon I found relief from the severe pain. A further supply of Zam-Buk was obtained and I persevered in using this balm alone. In a couple of days the swelling had gone down considerably, the discoloration was less distinct and the pain was banished. In four days I could go about as usual; the bruised and injured foot had been thoroughly cured by the timely use of Zam-Buk."

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POISONED FINGER HEALED.

Mrs. Frank St. Denis of 305 Thompson St., Winnipeg, speaks for Zam-Buk because it cured her of a poisoned finger, which had caused her days of agony. Hear her experience. She says: "One morning, while washing, I felt a slight pain in the end of my finger. This gradually got more acute until by the evening of the next day the end of the finger had become swollen and hard and so blue I became alarmed. "The pain from it was almost too much to bear. It made me turn quite sick. I consulted a first one kind and then another were applied, but seemed to give me no relief. My daughter-in-law, who had had some previous experience with Zam-Buk obtained a box for me. I anointed the sore place liberally with this balm, and in a few hours, the throbbing aching pains were subdued. Further applications of Zam-Buk gave me more ease, so that I could get a little sleep. In a few days the nail came off, but after that Zam-Buk seemed to reduce the inflammation quickly. I continued to use until in the end it had brought about a complete cure."

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EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.
Local Examinations in Theoretical Music for all grades will be held on April 18th, 1912.

Local Examinations in Practical Subjects will be held about a month later. Application forms, filled in and accompanied by fees, must reach the Central office in Montreal on or before April 1st, 1912. Forms and free copies of the Official Syllabus containing full information are obtainable from the Local Secretary, Mr. D. Arnold Fox, 143 Princess St., St. John, or from the General Secretary, No. 322 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal. Information about the Yearly Examinations for Diplomas of Licentiate and Degree of Music Bacc. can be obtained from the General Secretary, Montreal. The Examination Board, on application being made, will be glad to consider any additions to the present list of Local Centres.

For the Bride

No gift is more acceptable than beautiful, durable silverware. Remember that



IMPERIAL TROOPS SUFFER REVERSE

Peking, Feb. 5.—An invading force of revolutionaries which landed today at the mouth of the Yalu River, in Manchuria, encountered and defeated an army of imperialist troops which had come from Mukden.

WATCHES

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