

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1911
 SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
 TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
 AT 81 QUEEN STREET,
 CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
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 Editor & Proprietor

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Provincial Finances.

In its attempt to deceive the people regarding our Provincial finances, the Patriot presents some extraordinary statements. As usual, that venerable chestnut, the \$200,000 withdrawn from capital, is trotted out. What would the Patriot and its friends do if they did not have this chapter from ancient history to fall back upon?

It should be borne in mind that the Conservatives of those days added \$20,000 a year to our annual subsidy from Ottawa; so that if the withdrawal of \$200,000 from capital reduced our annual revenue from that source, we were still left \$10,000 a year better off than when our Conservative friends assumed power in this Province. These are facts with which the electors of this Province have long been familiar. As a matter of fact they are part of our ancient political history, and our Liberal friends must be reduced to sore straits for election ammunition when they find themselves under the necessity of resurrecting them at this date.

The Patriot is forced to admit that the debt of the Province, according to the Government's own official reports, was \$887,356.82 on the 30th of September, 1910. Of course we may be sure that the Provincial debt was a good deal more than this; but even the Government's statement constitutes an arraignment sufficiently strong to condemn any administration beyond the power of political redemption.

While admitting the Government's statement of the debt at the end of September, 1910, the Patriot makes no demand for the financial statement for 1911. The financial year closed a month ago, and we should now have an official statement of the receipts and expenditures for the year ended September 30, 1911. How much did the Government add to the Provincial debt during the last fiscal year? That is what the electors of Belfast and Fort Augustus would like to know before they are asked to cast their votes on the 15th inst. That is what the people should ask the representatives of the rump Liberal Government to explain, when they come looking for votes or to address the people at public meetings.

Instead of explaining to its readers the process by which the Provincial Liberal Government initiated, expanded and piled up our public debt, the Patriot compiles a jumble of figures intended to confuse and deceive; a jumble of figures for which no sane man should assume responsibility. They are so silly that the person responsible for their serious presentation presumes, on an extraordinary extent, on the credulity of those whom he addresses.

When Mr. Frederick Peters asked the Legislature, in 1891, for power to issue debentures amounting to \$185,000, it was for the purpose of paying off the total floating debt of the Province and making some repairs to the Provincial Building. It was on the strength of this declaration and with the understanding that the proceeds were to be applied for the purposes stated, that the first debenture act went through the Legislature. Mr. Frederick Peters, Leader of the Government,

in the course of his speech on that occasion, emphatically declared that once the floating debt then existing, should be funded by the proceeds of the debentures under consideration, there would be no more debt. Revenue and expenditure were henceforth to meet. We were to have, in his own words, "a clean sheet" from that time forward. This was the beginning of the great and improved system of Liberal financing of which the Patriot boasts. Let us see how it has worked out.

The debt of the Province at that time was but \$128,000, and with all the liabilities the Liberal Government's royal commission managed to add thereto, it did not exceed \$170,000. So as to leave no room for argument or contention, we will take the last named amount, without admitting its correctness, and will hold the previous Conservative Provincial Government responsible for it. This debt was now funded and set aside by the issue of debentures. The responsibility of the Liberals for our Provincial financing began at this point and according to the solemn declaration of the Leader of the Government, we were to have no more debt; no more deficits; we were to have a clean sheet; revenue and expenditure were henceforth to meet.

The Liberals have had charge of the finances of our Province ever since the solemn promise was given, twenty years ago, to make revenue and expenditure meet, and their apologists, and their organ are obliged to confess that the Provincial debt had grown, a year ago, to \$877,356.82. How much has been added to the debt in the last twelve months we do not know, and the Government will not tell. At any rate we have the admission of the Government, their organ and their apologists, that the minimum debt of the Province, a year ago, was \$877,356.82. In round numbers, the figures admitted by the Government, their organ and their apologists, show an addition to the debt, in twenty years, of \$707,000. This has been done by the Government and the party that promised to make revenue and expenditure meet; to have no more deficits, and henceforward to have a clean sheet. What do the electors think of them?

The Patriot seems to think it was quite improper for the Conservatives during their twelve years of office to collect \$88,000 in taxes; but has no complaint against the Liberal Government for taxing the people to the tune of \$1,105,000. These are the dimensions of our tax contributions according to the Patriot's own figures. It says the average annual amounts collected by the Liberal Government in taxes of various kinds is \$63,000. That sum multiplied by the number of years they have collected taxes gives \$1,105,000. How is that for a Government that declared the day of taxation was far off?

When all is said the Patriot declares the Province is not in debt at all, as we have assets at Ottawa amounting to \$893,389.50. Well, well! So it is all right to sink the Province in debt to the amount of the capital to our credit at Ottawa. Is that the Patriot's idea of financing? If that is so, then its whining about the withdrawal of the \$200,000 by the Conservatives is the most arrant hypocrisy; for at the time of that withdrawal we had to our credit in the Federal Treasury an amount equal to about five times our total debt. The Patriot imposes upon itself the hypocritical task of magnifying into a political crime the incurring of a trifling debt and the withdrawal of one fifth of our capital from Ottawa, by the Conservatives; and at the

same time holding up for commendation the scandalous conduct of the Liberals in running our debt up to almost a million dollars, and justifying it on the ground that our capital at Ottawa is about equal to the debt. The assumption is that this capital should be withdrawn at any time and the debt wiped out. The attempt to simultaneously convince the public of these two contradictory statements is about as easy as trying to ride, at the same time, two horses going in opposite directions.

The Conservative Provincial Government, during their term of office, collected according to the Patriot, only \$88,000 in taxes. According to the rate of taxation in vogue when they came into office, they left \$360,000 in the people's pockets, that would have been paid into the treasury, had they continued the tax. The people were that much better off, and they left a Provincial debt of only \$128,000.

The Liberals, on the other hand, after assuming power on the promise of making revenue and expenditure meet, and declaring that the day of taxation was far off, have added about \$800,000 to our Provincial debt and have collected in various kinds of taxes \$1,105,000 from the people. Which of the two records is the best?

All the Federal Cabinet Ministers who were up for by-elections on Friday were returned by acclamation. Hon. W. T. White, Finance Minister, goes to Leeds County, Ont., for election in place of George Taylor, M. P., who makes way for him. Hon. Frank Cochrane will represent Nipissing in place of George Gordon, M. P., who steps aside. Mr. White will be nominated on November 6th, and Mr. Cochrane on November 8th.

During the first seven months of 1911, Canadians bought 3,724,000 bicycles from the United States. While the average price has declined from \$2,000, three years ago, to less than \$1,100 at the present time, still these figures mean a business of about \$4,000,000 lost to our own manufacturers in little over half a year. The protection given the Canadian manufacturer is 35 per cent. This should be ample. Indeed the presumption is that the Canadians can do much better by buying at home than by paying an additional one-third of a custom's tax Ottawa Jour.

There is no need for clocks on the Aegean Sea any day when the sun is shining. There nature has arranged the only timepiece, one that does not vary though the centuries pass. This natural time marker is the largest sun dial in the world. Projecting into the blue waters of the sea is a large promontory which lifts its head three thousand feet above the waves. As the sun swings round, the pointed shadow of the mountain just touches one after the other a number of small islands, which are at exact distances apart, and act as hour marks on the great dial.—London Globe.

If it is a fact that 1,500 Canadian girls disappeared last year, having fallen victims to the "white slave" traffic, it behooves the W. C. T. U. to concentrate its whole energies on this one problem, and leave the matter of cigarette smoking over for future consideration.—Mail and Empire.

There is this satisfaction about it; that if an enquiry is ordered into the various departments at Ottawa, there will be no Dark Lantern Brigade to head it off.—Kingston Standard.

Some of the defeated Liberal candidates from Ontario are coming West to a more congenial political atmosphere. If they all come they will be numerous enough to found quite a large colony.—Edmonton Bulletin.

An Industrial Council

The British Government has, in recognition of some suggestions put forward by Sir Charles Macara some months ago, decided to establish forthwith an industrial council which will be presided over by a man of experience and judicial mind under the title of "Chief Industrial Commissioner." The council is to be a special government department with an advisory body composed of a few well known men with the widest experience, representing both capital and labor to whom disputes are to be referred before the stage of a lockout or strike is reached. The main object of this industrial council is to deal with those quarrels between labor and capital that have become so frequent of late in England, and from which, whatever the result, the unfortunate public always suffers.

On the first of these councils Sir Charles Macara, Sir Hugh Bell and other well known men in the great industries will serve, and on the side of labor representatives of the older and newer schools of trade unionism—men of the stamp of Mr. Thomas Burt, M. P., and men like Mr. J. E. Williams of railway strike notoriety. The members of the council are to hold office for one year.

The British Government has given this council its blessing, and sent it on its way rejoicing. But the success of the new departure depends largely on the spirit in which both sides approach the tribunal. Efficient machinery for the settlement of disputes is an excellent thing, but no plan devised by the ingenuity of man can meet cases in which reason and moderation are the badge of one side only. This innovation on the part of the British Government looks like a serious attempt to counteract much of the industrial unrest of the year in the old country. St. John Standard.

War News.

Rome, Oct. 28.—A despatch from Tripoli of current date, says that in the early morning hours, small forces of the enemy made three successive attacks. These were chiefly directed against the Italians guarding the Bonmeliana Wells, but the Turks were easily repulsed. Reconnaissance by the aeroplanes disclosed an oasis on the left of the Italian position still occupied by the enemy. It is now stated that it was the Turkish general's chief of staff and not the general who was killed in the fight on Thursday. A despatch from Tobruk reports that an Italian force sent out to examine the telegraph lines was attacked by 200 Arab horsemen, who were driven off after the Italians were reinforced.

Military critics here are of the opinion that when a signalling system from the aeroplanes has been perfected the real direction of engagements will devolve upon officers in these machines. According to further official reports the Turks have resorted to all methods of opposing the invaders, including the poisoning of wells. This, however, has failed of its object, as in compliance with the orders of General Canova, which have been strictly enforced, nobody is allowed to touch water without it first having been scientifically examined.

Tripoli, Oct. 29.—Turkish forces yesterday attacked the town of Homs, not far from Tripoli, but were repulsed with heavy losses. The Italians had two killed and two wounded.

Rome, Oct. 29.—Official reports from Tripoli describe the great value of the aeroplanes in the war. By their reconnaissances it has been possible to learn several hours in advance the movements and strength and sometimes the efficiency of the enemy. In this way the Italian commander has been able to distribute his troops in such a manner as to make almost certain the repulse of an attack from any direction whatever.

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.

The Chinese Revolution

Peking, Oct. 28.—The report of an imperialist victory in the vicinity of Hankow, which has been received from the Minister of War, General Tin Tchang, has revived the drooping spirits of the administration. An additional source of comfort has been found in the conclusion of a loan agreement which Chinese officials say, has just been arranged with a Belgian syndicate, having French and British connections. The loan, is for \$18,000,000, the price being 96, with six per cent. interest. The syndicate receives four per cent commission. The financial groups representing the four nations interested in the railway loan United States, Great Britain, France and Germany, took under advisement a proposition for a loan of \$8,000,000 but the United States financiers decided that the present was an inopportune moment. The diplomatic body held a meeting this afternoon and considered a request from the viceroy of the province of Chi Li for permission to police Tien Tsin with troops which is contrary to the international protocol of 1902. The ministers, however, decided to permit the viceroy to do so, owing to the serious conditions which prevail. The ministers decided also to authorize the consuls at Hankow to deal temporarily with all questions cropping up, but the seizure of foreign ships carrying anything which may be called contraband of war, as threatened by the rebel leader, General Li Yuan Heng, cannot be permitted.

Regarding the appeal of Shanghai business men through the consuls that a thirty mile zone around Shang had to be declared neutral, the ministers declined to consent on the ground that it was a matter for decision by the powers. Certain ministers consider that foreigners have no right to ask authority over such an extent of territory.

Peace prevails at Peking. Both Manchus and Chinese families are taking precautionary measures against immediate disturbances. The Chinese are alarmed owing to a report that the Manchu garrison intend to begin a massacre if they meet with reverse at the hands of the rebels in the south. The Manchus are said also to be in fear of a massacre on the part of the Chinese. Both continue to desert the capital. Wagon loads of furniture are moving into the country; all trains are crowded and the foreign banks are receiving deposits and lumps of silver and gold.

MARRIED.

MARCH—GRANT.—At Charlottetown, October 16, 1911, by the Rev. Z. L. Fash, Ernest A. March, St. John, and Jessie K. Grant, of New Glasgow, N. S., but formerly of Charlottetown.

ROBERTSON—MOLLISTER.—At Souris on October 21st, by the Rev. F. A. Whigham, Miss Ellen J. Mollister, formerly of New London, to Henry C. Robertson of Montserrat.

MARSHALL—BRODIE.—At Stanhope, by Rev. W. H. Spencer, on Oct. 19th, Frank Marshall, to Matilda Louise Brodie.

MCCALL—WILLIAMSON.—At Charlottetown, October 23rd, by Rev. R. G. Strathie, Dugald McCall, of S. S. Earl Grey, Charlottetown, and Euphemia Kirk Williamson, of Eldon, P. E. I.

GORION—BULL.—At the Revere Hotel, Charlottetown, on October 23rd, 1911, by Rev. A. Craze, William Gordon, to Emily Bull, both of Murray Harbor.

MCKENZIE—McWILLIAMS.—At the home of the bride, Eldon, Belfast, Wm. D. McKenzie and Margaret A. McWilliams, the former from Flat River, Rev. J. W. McKenzie officiating.

PILLMAN—RODD.—In St. Mary's Church, Summerside, on the 25th inst., by the Rev. Henry Harper, Miss Ellen Winifred Pillman, of Traveller's Rest, to John Thomas Rodd, of Brackley Point.

DIED

MATHESON.—At Westmorland, at the home of his daughter, on Friday morning, October 28th, 1911, Angus Matheson, aged 82 years.

CAMPBELL.—At Sea View, Monday, October 16th, 1911, Lorne Campbell, youngest son of the late William and Elizabeth Campbell, aged 29 years.

McMILLAN.—At Wood Islands (west) on Tuesday, October 17, 1911, Malcolm J. McMillan, the son of James D. and Mrs. McMillan, aged 24 years and 6 months.

CARVER.—In this city, October 21, 1911, Richard Carver, infant son of J. A. and Mrs. McKenzie.

MYERS.—At Dixie, Pa., after several months of patient suffering, on Saturday, October 21st, at the home of her parents, Mrs. W. M. Myers, of Black Hills, Ala. She leaves to mourn a distinguished husband and one child.

GAUDRETT.—At Westville, on 24th, Margaret Ann Gaudreth, beloved wife of Theophilus Pisonau, aged 38 years. May her soul rest in peace.

McLEOD.—At Sydney, October 24th, Mrs. Josiah McLeod, aged 20, leaving a husband and one child to mourn.

LOWTHER.—At Cornwall, on October 27th, 1911, William Lowther, aged 61 years.

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