

## THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1907

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

AT 81 QUEEN STREET,

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.

JAMES MCISAAC,

Editor &amp; 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.

## CHRISTMAS.

Once again the year's revolving cycle has brought us the festive Christmas season. Christmas or the Nativity is the greatest and most joyous of Christian festivals, as it commemorates the stupendous event that constitutes the foundation of man's redemption.

The nativity of our Lord is the great central fact from which radiate all other Christian conceptions. It would be superfluous to dwell at any length upon the nature and history of this great Christian festival; all professing Christians are, or should be, quite familiar with these facts. Moreover, they properly come within the scope of Theological teaching, and annually constitute the theme of pulpit discourses.

In addition to its religious aspect, and quite congruous therewith, Christmas has, from the earliest times, been set apart as a season of social enjoyment. It is the occasion for renewal of old friendships and the forming of new ones. It is the season for removal of barriers of social distinction and when all meet on a level. Sir Walter Scott, in his poem of "Marmion," fairly well describes in brief, the general features, both religious and social, that had characterized the celebration of Christmas, down to his time. This is what he says:

"And well our Christian sires of old

Loved when the year its course

Had rolled,

And brought blithe Christmas

Back again,

With all his hospitable train.

Domestic and religious rite

Gave honour to the holy night;

On Christmas eve the bells were

wrung;

On Christmas eve the mass was

sung;

That only night in all the year,

Saw the stoled priest the chalice

rear.

The damsel don'd her kirtle

sheen;

The hall was dress'd with holly

green;

Forth to the wood did merry-men

go.

To gather in the mistletoe.

Then open'd wide the Baron's hall

To rascal, tenant, serf, and all;

Power laid his rod of rule aside;

And Ceremony doff'd his pride.

The bear, with roses in his shoes,

That night might village partner

choose;

The Lord, undergating, share

The vulgar game of "post and

pair."

All hail'd with uncontroll'd de-

light,

And general voice, the happy

night,

That to the cottage, as the crown,

Brought tidings of salvation

down."

This quotation from the "Wiz-

ard of the North," neatly epitomizes the manner of Christmas

celebration that obtained in the

Christian countries of Europe,

when the people were left free

to give open expression to their

best instincts. It also fairly describes

in a general sense, the dispositions

brought to the celebration of

Christmas in our own country.

The social side of the celebra-

tion, with us, largely takes the

form of gift distribution. The

exchange of presents is quite com-

mendable, and for the young, the

"Santa Claus" idea seems emi-

be just before we are generous. Many a one who might, perhaps, feel disposed to make a present to a friend is prevented from so doing, because those indebted to him fail to satisfy their obligations; but at the same time, are generous in the distribution of more or less valuable Christmas gifts. This is the abuse of the beautiful custom of gift bestowing. It appears to us that any one who inflicts an injustice on a neighbor, in the manner above described, is foolish to imagine that he is celebrating Christmas in a worthy manner. Let us discharge our obligations, as far as possible, and then we can enter upon the Christmas festivities with a clear conscience. To our friends and all who hold these views regarding the festive season, we wish a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

## The Patriot and Obstruction.

The Patriot, as might be expected, expresses its disapprobation of the conduct of the Conservative members in the House of Commons at Ottawa. No stronger evidence could be furnished of the weakness of the Government's position than this wail of our contemporary. We may depend that the course pursued by the Opposition members is in line with the wishes of the people and decidedly disadvantageous to the Administration, when exception is taken thereto by the Patriot.

The gravamen of the charge made against the opposition members, by our contemporary is "obstruction and waste of public time." It endeavors to persuade its readers that a grievous offence is committed by the Opposition members in getting speeches into Hansard. "copies of which are then mailed to their constituents at the public expense." Well! Well! It is quite legitimate, in our contemporary's estimation, to squander hundreds of thousands of dollars to enrich the fraudulent North Atlantic Trading Company; the South Saskatchewan Land Company; the beneficiaries of the land purchasing frauds at Halifax, Truro and Moncton, and the thousand and one other public scandals brought home to the Government; but it is highly improper to send copies of Hansard to any Conservative elector at "the public expense." That is a fair sample of the manner of justice and fairplay our Liberal friends would meet out to their political opponents.

The Patriot is displeased because the Opposition moved several amendments to the address in reply to the speech from the throne. No doubt it would like to see the address go through without amendment, and then would be only too glad to bring that fact to the notice of the public when criticism would come up at election times. What are the Opposition members for but to criticize and move amendments to any Government proposition they consider to be disadvantageous to the public interests? The Patriot is aggrieved because the Opposition embody the several planks of their platform in separate amendments and thus bring them before the electorate in Hansard. What was the platform constructed for; but to be submitted for the consideration of the people? It is not palatable to the Patriot to have the Government's numerous shortcomings and scandals held up to public execration; but we have only had the beginning, if one half of what is charged be true. We are told that Mr. Fielding is anxious to go on with the budget speech and the Government are anxious to hurry through the business of the session. We can quite understand all this; but

it was not the wont of the Government and of Mr. Fielding heretofore to be in such a rush. They will have to wait; they will have to answer a number of questions before they get the business of the session finished up.

One would think that no Grit paper would have the temerity to animadvert upon the conduct of the Conservative Opposition, as to the question of obstruction, remembering the course pursued by the Government members when they were on the other side of the House. Their principal political stock in trade, while in opposition, was obstruction. They obstructed every measure proposed by the Conservative Government, and held up the course of public business for days and nights in succession. That is their history during their long years in opposition. We need go no further back than the session of 1896. During that session Sir Wilfrid Laurier used to move the adjournment of the House, whenever the Government made a motion of any importance. Such a motion embodied no principle; enunciated no fact; it was simply a motion to obstruct legislation and allow useless discussion. The Opposition of that day talked Parliament out and by their obstructive tactics prevented the Government from passing the most necessary items of supply.

No one was fiercer, more determined or more offensive in these obstructive tactics, than Mr. L. H. (now Sir Louis) Davies. If there was one man in the opposition of those days that carried these obstructive tactics to the bitterest extremes, he was the one Parliament was to expire by efflux of time on the 30th of April, and availing themselves of the advantage this knowledge afforded them, the Opposition held up all Government measures. The Government found they could not finish their business; but were desirous of providing the money absolutely necessary for the public service. With this object in view Mr. Foster, Finance Minister, prepared a statement of a couple of millions or so, and within a few days of the close of the session asked the opposition if they would allow these necessary items to go through. That surely was a reasonable request; but what was the answer, and who made it? Mr. L. H. Davies immediately rose and said "not one dollar" would be allowed to voted. There was obstruction with a vengeance. In view of such conduct as this, do the Government, the Government's friends, or the Government press expect lenient treatment at the hands of the present opposition? If the opposition fail to hold the Government up until the light of day is let in on their rascally and scandalous conduct, they are unworthy the position they occupy.

## Standard Bearers Chosen for the Fourth District of Kings.

On Wednesday forenoon last, a Conservative Convention, for the fourth district of Kings' County was held in the Town Hall, Georgetown, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the next Provincial election. The old members, Mr. John A. Macpherson, E. C. Connelley, and Mr. A. J. McDonald Assembly men, were unanimously chosen, and much enthusiasm. Both candidates addressed the convention, thanking the delegates for their renewed confidence, and dealing trenchantly with the public questions affecting this Province. The majority of the present Government, and their failure to secure to this Province, better financial terms at the conference of Premiers held at Ottawa, last year were severely condemned. Strong resolutions concerning the Provincial Government, for their reckless, rascally administration of our public affairs; for their accumulation of our enormous public debt and for their utter failure to safeguard our rights at the interprovincial conference were unanimously passed.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

## Ottawa Weekly Letter.

## Mr. Pugsley's Silence.

Challenged to Tell All He Knows, But Sits Dumb as an Oyster—To the Great Disgust of Liberal Members—Mr. Kemp Exposes the Equivocal Record of the Minister of Public Works.

## DEBATE ON ADDRESS.

Mr. Borden's Platform strongly Supported—Government Neglect and Improvidence Respecting Quebec Bridge.

## BIG ESTIMATES FOR NEXT YEAR.

Government Asks \$18,547,572, More Than This Year Yet in Last Eight Months It Spent \$17,143,000 More Than in Same Period Last Year.

Fielding Paying 4, 4½ and 7 Per Cent. Interest—Paying \$9,818 a Room for Office Accommodation, and \$42,062 to Revise Marine Book-keeping.

Ottawa, Dec. 14, 1907.

The debate on the address was continued three days of this week, closing on Wednesday a vigorous eight days discussion. The Opposition speakers were aggressive and vigorous, showing a splendid fighting spirit, confidence in their cause and a certainty that they have the country on their side. Sir Wilfrid at the beginning departed from the usual course and instead of explaining the policy and intentions of his government and dealing with the address before the house, went out of his way to attack Mr. Borden's platform and to insinuate that it had not the support of Conservatives generally, but was Mr. Borden's own creation.

## THE CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM.

Before the debate was through it was made clear to the Premier that the Conservative party in the house stood by the platform. Every plank of it was discussed and defended with strong argument. The Opposition forced a division three times, with the result that the government majority was in each case less than the normal margin, showing that Sir Wilfrid's supporters were less willing to record their votes against the platform than the Conservatives were to stand by it.

## CONSERVATIVE SPEAKERS.

Mr. Armstrong's motion for free delivery of mails in rural districts was voted down by a majority of 49, notwithstanding the mass of evidence which the mover produced to show that the system had been remarkably successful in the United States and other countries. Mr. Staples, of Macdonald, Manitoba, showed how much the Government, which cannot afford to take up this reform, had wasted in other directions, particularly in subsidizing creatures of its own who were employed in mutilating electoral lists and stuffing ballot boxes. Mr. Wright, of Muskoka, proved that the immigration returns of the government were enormously padded. He mentioned one carload of passengers with whom he travelled from St. Paul to Winnipeg who were all put down in the records as settlers from the United States though there was not one settler among them. They were commercial travellers, visitors, a minstrel troop, and other ordinary passengers. But they will all figure as immigrants. Mr. Jackson, of Elgin, pointed out the shortcomings of the Department of Agriculture and asked for better protection to the farmers from railway trains crossing their lands. Mr. McLean, of Prince Edward Island, made a strong appeal against the neglect of that province by a government which seems to have millions to spend in regions where nobody lives. Mr. Berley, of Argenteuil, showed that the increase in expenditure was not represented by corresponding services and benefits. Mr. Lake, of Q'Appelle, and Dr. Roche, of Marquette, addressed themselves

to several abuses in western administration and to the unsatisfactory condition of Canadian trade.

## THE QUEBEC BRIDGE.

On Wednesday, Mr. Barker, of Hamilton, moved an amendment deploring the unbusiness-like proceedings of the government in the matter of the Quebec Bridge. The history of this enterprise, ending with the awful calamity of last August, summed up in a sentence in the Scientific American which says that the records of this transaction "read more like a story of some country bridge than the record of the erection of the greatest work of bridge engineering of the century." Mr. Barker, Mr. Monk and Mr. Haggart showed that this impartial criticism was just.

## THE COUNTRY PAYS.

Four years ago the Quebec Bridge Company had expended all the subsidies it could get, had issued nearly half a million dollars of bonds which it had to sell for 60 cents on the dollar, but had paid up less than one per cent of its stock. It was practically bankrupt and could not go on. Premier Parent, of Quebec, who was also Mayor of Quebec City had supplied a Provincial grant and a City grant, and obtained a subsidy from the Laurier Government, one member of which was his own partner in business. Yet the company was over \$700,000 in debt. The Government should have then taken over the work, as the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme had been adopted and the bridge was to be a part of this Transcontinental. Instead the Government rushed through in the last hours of the session of 1903 a bill authorizing a loan to the Company of \$6,878,200 which was then estimated to be the cost of completing the work. This programme compelled the public to pay more than 98 per cent of the cost, but left the control in the hands of the Company, whose President was made Chairman of the Transcontinental Commission at \$8,000 a year, while he continued to receive \$3,000 a year from the Bridge Company. Later it was found that the Government estimate was too low, and that the bridge would cost something like ten million dollars, leaving another three millions for the country to pay.

## NO PUBLIC CONTROL.

Though the country was paying practically the whole cost of the bridge, it does not yet appear that the Government engineering staff paid any attention to the plans or had any supervision of the work. The whole matter was allowed to drift, and money was paid out when demanded until the end of August when the bridge went down and scores of lives were lost. Many thousands will now be spent by a Commission to find out whether the Company's engineers or the contractors' engineers are at fault, while a much smaller expenditure would have been sufficient to have the plans properly examined in the first place and the work supervised as it went on. The Government must now take over the work as it should have done four years ago, but it cannot restore the loss of life and property.

## A WEAK PLEA.

Mr. Fielding and Sir Wilfrid Laurier pleaded that the subject ought not to be discussed until the Commission reported. The answer was that the Commission has nothing to do with the course of the Government, in leaving this great work in the hands of a company which had no important stake in the matter and was practically a bankrupt concern. In any case the right of the house to discuss matters of this importance cannot be taken away by the appointment of a Commission. After a lively discussion Mr. Barker's motion was defeated by a party majority of 44.

## MR. PUGSLEY CHALLENGED.

The most sensational episode in the address debate was the challenge to Mr. Pugsley. Four times outside of the House the Minister of Public Works has talked of disclosures that he could make respecting Conservative campaign expenditure in 1904. Before the House met Mr. Borden, whom Mr. Pugsley connected with the transactions, challenged the Minister to make good his statements. In the first day's debating Mr. Borden repeated the invitation to Mr. Pugsley to tell all he knew. Yet Mr. Pugsley kept silent. Day after day he was reminded that he ought to speak, yet remained dumb. But on Tuesday Mr. Kemp, of Toronto, put the challenge in a form which allowed of no escape for Mr. Pugsley without exposing himself to the contempt of the country.

MR. PUGSLEY BEFORE THE ELECTION.

Mr. Kemp gave a sketch of Mr.

Pugsley's political activities immediately before the election of 1904. The persons accused by Government organs of a dark conspiracy to overthrow the Government with the help of an immense corruption fund, were then intimate and confidential friends of Mr. Pugsley, and were trying to make him Minister of Railways. The head of this alleged conspiracy, Mr. David Russell, gave a great banquet to Mr. Pugsley a month before the election where speakers nominated him to the Dominion Ministry, and Mr. Russell's newspapers in that connection announced it as the opinion of the banqueters that Mr. Pugsley must be promoted. Immediately after this, according to Mr. Pugsley's own statement, large contributions were made to defeat Mr. Emmerson in Westmoreland. Mr. Kemp pieced together the evidence to show that whatever was done for the defeat of Mr. Emmerson was done by Mr. Pugsley's friends and in his interests. He read from a New Brunswick paper a statement that Mr. Pugsley was aware of these proceedings and in the opinion of that journal was the chief advisory man in the scheme.

## MR. PUGSLEY HAS NOT SURE THIS PAPER.

Mr. Kemp pointed out that Mr. Emmerson was weakened in St. John by lack of newspaper support and Mr. Pugsley controlled a paper there, the purchase of which Mr. Emmerson's friends were negotiating. Without giving Mr. Emmerson notice, a few weeks before the election when the paper was most needed, Mr. Pugsley sold it to Mr. Russell who at once turned it into an anti-Emmerson organ. This showed what kind of a liberal Mr. Pugsley was just before the election of 1904.

## THE CHALLENGE.

There was a continued round of conservative applause as these facts were revealed, but they became stronger when Mr. Kemp again and again challenged Mr. Pugsley to tell all he knew.

"I doubt," said Mr. Kemp "whether he has the courage to stand up and repeat in this house what he said upon the public platform."

Mr. Kemp added: "So far as I am concerned and I believe any other member on this side of the house we desire to see him go the full length. It does not make any difference whom this hits, be they high or low, be they in the house or out of the house; we want to see this matter brought to light, and we want to know what there is in it. If the honorable gentleman refuses to go further, if he is satisfied to make insinuations in the way he has done outside of the house, without taking steps to make his position good, I cannot but feel that he is condemning before the country for making statements which he knew were not true. Sir he has talked of these things on the hustings; but he has sat in this house not daring to open his mouth. He is now at the bar of public opinion and let him choose his court."

## AN INDEPENDENT INVITATION.

In various forms this challenge was repeated by Mr. Kemp amid approving cheers. Not one word could be got from the minister. He sat in the fashion described by Mr. Kemp, to the great confusion and disgust of many government supporters, some of whom two days later in the government caucus made strong complaints against this course. From the Liberal benches Mr. Laverne, an independent member of the party, repeated the demand that Mr. Pugsley should speak. "If he has anything to say," said Mr. Laverne "let him say it now." A little later he added, "The Minister of Public Works should not wait to be forced to speak, and if he does wait I think he should be forced—If he knows of any corruption it is his duty to himself, to the Liberal party and to his country to bring these facts to light." This member added a stinging comparison Mr. Pugsley to the Trojans who challenged the Greeks to combat and then ran away.

Thus the matter stands. Nothing can be got from Mr. Pugsley. Mr. Aylesworth who made his first appearance this week will next be invited to make good his statements on the stump concerning Mr. Borden's connection with the corruption fund.

## DEATH OF MR. GUNN.

The country and the Conservative party has suffered a severe loss by the death of Mr. Benjamin Gunn, the late member for South Huron, who died at St. Luke's Hospital, in this city, on Monday. Warm tributes were paid by Mr. Fielding and Mr. Borden to the character of their departed colleague.

## EXTRAORDINARY ESTIMATES.

The estimates for next year, brought down this week show that the extravagance which has marked the last few years is to go on increasing. Though this year's expenditure will far exceed that of any previous twelve months it is proposed to spend a great deal more next year. Here are some comparisons:

This Year	Next Year	Increase
Estimates on current account, \$45,294,645	\$52,191,019	\$6,896,374
Authorized by Statute, 27,168,533	24,680,451	2,618,118
Capital Expenditure, 38,298,340	42,365,620	4,067,280
Total \$110,689,518	\$119,237,090	\$8,547,572

There will be supplementary estimates.

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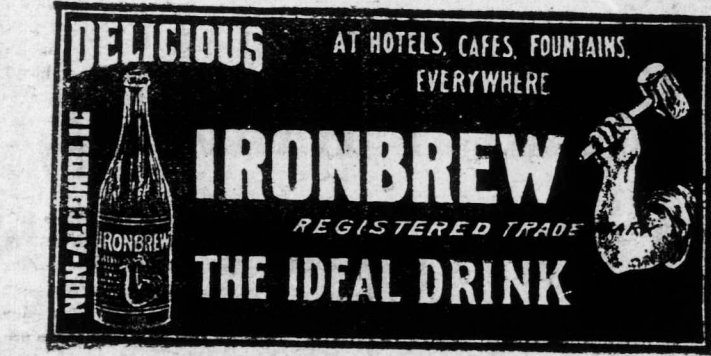
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