

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 22 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.
 THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY:
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 Freeman & Co. 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY APRIL 7, 1920.

THE PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS.

Any persons fond of juggling with figures, and of dabbling in the various and manifold combinations and permutations which they provide, will find ample scope for the exercise of their ingenuity in the solution of intricate problems by studying the annual report and balance sheet of the Provincial Accounts as published by the Comptroller-General. Anyone who does this will inevitably come to the conclusion that the system of book-keeping now in use in the Treasury Department of this Province, and which has been so eloquently commented upon by the Premier and his colleagues, must be a fearful and wonderful affair. The public has been told over and over again since this system was adopted that it showed at a glance exactly how the finances stood, and that there was no opportunity to present any misleading statement, or anything which was not absolutely accurate. If this is the case, it surely should be the easiest matter to prepare and show a balance sheet which would accurately set out the exact situation.

Yet what have we got? We have a balance sheet which Hon. Robert Murray says was prepared by the Comptroller-General, and audited by Price, Waterhouse & Co. "to make sure it was accurate," which hardly agrees in any particular with the figures as given in the Comptroller's report. The following figures show, in the first column, the amounts received from the different sources of revenue as stated in Price, Waterhouse & Co.'s balance sheet, and in the second column the same items taken from the Comptroller's report:

	In Balance Sheet.	In Report.
Subsidies	\$637,976.16	\$637,976.16
Territorial Revenue	\$609,755.83	\$58,166.60
Fees, Provincial Secretary	27,246.82	26,945.32
Taxes, Incorporated Companies	77,483.18	75,962.12
Taxes, Amusement	64,043.42	67,781.17
Motor Vehicle Fees	116,583.45	116,584.80
Sale of Seed	346.70	4,714.99
Interest, Etc.	11,594.94	11,291.29
Patriotic Tax	19,824.80	12,958.19
Probate Fund	23,590.59	23,615.59
Succession Duties	75,198.82	79,325.03
School Books	20,877.40	20,569.45
Jordan Sanatorium	10,175.45	13,312.14
Provincial Hospital	55,258.93	58,881.60
Prohibition	56,422.40	54,646.00
Railway Earnings, Southampton Ry.	2,149.69	6,297.72
Miscellaneous	6,918.04	6,584.23

Now, taking the Territorial Revenue again, these discrepancies will be found to exist between the Balance Sheet and the Report:

	In Balance Sheet.	In Report.
Stampage	\$575,617.83	\$568,383.00
Royalties	29,679.39	29,941.24
Wild Land Tax	53,509.70	55,944.50
Timber Licenses	78,787.97	82,429.32
Gum Licenses	53,509.06	53,525.75

One begins to wonder what books and accounts Price, Waterhouse & Co. used to make up their balance sheet from, or, rather, what books and accounts they were shown to enable them to check the balance sheet which the Provincial Secretary says the Comptroller prepared for them. In some instances the balance sheet and the report agree, but in the instances we have given above, they do not.

The figures on the Expenditure side are open to the same criticism. In some cases they are the same in the balance sheet and the report, but in a large number of cases they are totally different. We have not troubled to prepare an itemized statement of these, but anyone can check the correctness of our assertion for himself. Take the very first item, for instance. The expenses of the Administration of Justice, according to the balance sheet, were \$29,654.06, while according to the Comptroller's report they were \$29,776.83. It is the same all through the piece; only in a few instances are the figures the same. What sort of a balance sheet have the people got? And just how far astray is it?

The balance sheet, according to Price, Waterhouse & Co.'s statement, exhibits "a true and correct view" of the financial position of the Province. Then, if it does, the statements contained in the Comptroller's report cannot be true and correct also. The Auditors' expression "a true and correct view" is a peculiar one to use under any circumstances. The people are not asking for any "view," they want a statement that cannot be controverted. One is almost inclined to think that in order to get this "view" the Auditors must have been looking through a periscope that needed some repairs.

Premier Foster told the Leader of the Opposition the other day that he would be glad to give the explanations that were asked for by the latter in his speech in the Budget debate. Perhaps he will explain at the same time just how these discrepancies between the Auditors' balance sheet and the Comptroller's report come about. It is no wonder the Hon. Robert Murray needed to have his speech all ready written for him by the Comptroller; apparently the latter is the only person who can elucidate this seemingly complicated matter.

We notice from the reports in the various newspapers of the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance that this august body has decided to call upon the Government to hold a referendum regarding the prohibition of liquor importation. Does this body own the Government, that it should order the latter to do its bidding? Only the other day, a demand was made that some method be devised for getting the women who had failed to register, upon the voters' lists, and the Government immediately did as it was told, and provided the required machinery. If Premier Foster thinks that by being so complaisant to these noisy demagogues he will make sure of their votes when he lets up the kite he proposes to fly in St. John within the next few weeks, he must not be surprised if he is disappointed; for, having got what they want, they are just as likely to stab him in the back as not. All the thanks that the late Government got for enacting the Prohibition Law was to be kicked out of office; and if Premier Foster gets tinkering with this law he may meet the same fate. Not that we object to his being turned out of office, but we do object to any further tinkering.

According to the official report, the Hon. Mr. Tweeddale started out by saying he wished to give a synopsis of the work of his Department. The report of his speech indicates that he dealt at very great length with about every other subject before the House except the work of the Agricultural Department. In the course of his wandering remarks he declared he would not stand for any wrongdoing on the part of his colleagues, even if he were the Premier. Is the latter trying to pull off some sort of game in Victoria next? It is commonly known that the situation from a Government party standpoint in that constituency is worse than desperate.

The revenue of the Government of the United Kingdom for the fiscal year ending with March 31 was £1,239,571,000. Though this was £450,000,000 in excess of the previous year's receipts and considerably in excess of the Government's estimates, it was £226,200,000 less than the expenditure, which reached the large sum of £1,665,773,000. In Great Britain, as in some other countries, the Ministers find it easier to talk saving and economy than to practice these virtues.

Chicago is the latest city to have a strike of municipal employees, the general demand being for increase of from \$30 to \$45 a month. Where are these advocates of public ownership of everything who used to say that under that system strikes would be a thing of the past? Their assertions are being disproved quite frequently in both America and Europe, in both the state and municipal fields.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan, who used to express confidence in the willingness and ability of the nations

to maintain a state of universal peace, now declares his conviction that developments are leading to another war in Europe. Mr. Bryan prognosticated wrongly before, and it is to be hoped that he is doing so now. Can it be that the newwave man of peace is growing old and pessimistic?

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Irish Imbroglio.
 (Toronto Globe.)
 Good old Irishmen of all parties should get together before they are exterminated by the other kind.

Very Argumentative.
 (Philadelphia Inquirer.)
 When President Wilson is in an argumentative mood he won't take advice from himself.

Complete Difficulty.
 (Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.)
 The latest fashion decrees render it impossible for any but the wearer to hide behind a woman's skirt, and she, too, finds it difficult.

A Mistaken Definition.
 (American Motorist.)
 Sometimes a fellow calls making a lot of damn-fool mistakes with a motor getting experience.

Britain's Word.
 (London Free Press.)

One is proud to note in relation to the debate following which the French Chamber voted confidence in the Government, that former Premier Briand says in the course of his remarks on the policy with regard to Syria: "If human difficulties arise between the allies when the Government presents its resolution, it is England that will dishonor its signature."

As Usual.
 (Calgary Herald.)

As usual, it remains for Britain to sit down on the Turk and put a stop to the slaughter of Armenians. If she is successful the motherland will be accused of being a dominating tyrant, while if trouble arises with the Mohammedans in British possessions as a result of the occupation at Constantinople the critical world will say it serves Britain right. Yet somebody had to act.

Britain Offers Coal.
 (Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Britain is offering to supply 1,000,000 tons of coal yearly at a price of \$8.75 a ton, or only two-thirds the present market price. This is a generous offer, especially as higher prices can be obtained, but in obtaining it, France cannot afford to neglect production in the new Saar areas. The very becomingly dressed in a wedding gown of white veil and carried a bridal bouquet. Only the immediate relatives were present.

Can You Blame Him?
 (Calgary Herald.)

A normal school graduate in Calgary lately wrote to a country school board asking the salary they were willing to pay for his services, and received a reply stating that \$1,000 a year was the outside figure. He wrote saying that he understood that the farmers in that district paid their men to feed hogs \$75 a month and board, and as the teacher's stipend only amounted to about \$80 a month, without board, he, therefore, recommended them to quit raising children and concentrate on hogs. Can you blame him?

THE LAUGH LINE

One Reason Sounds Reasonable.
 Why he will be high:
 It was too thick to cut.
 The snow was too deep.
 It was too heavy to handle.
 It was too cold to work out of doors.
 The dealers need the money.

Marriage Like Phoning.
 She—"In a way, getting married is like using the telephone."
 He—"How's that?"
 She—"Well, you don't always get the party you want."

Quite Superfluous.
 "Now, when the pockets would you like me to put in, sir?"
 "Don't bother about pockets—I shan't have any use for them when I've paid for the suit!"

Natural Mistake.
 Hicks—I say, waiter, where's my coffee?
 Waiter—You just drank it, sir.
 Hicks—What? I thought that was the soup!

Early Settlement.
 "It was quarrel like this now, what will we do about our marriage?"
 "Well, if you think I'm going to rush blindly into marriage without finding out who's boss, you're mistaken."

Uncle Zeke's Philosophy.
 "Yesterday," says Uncle Zeke, "Ah drapped four cents on de finish, an' dey made a big racket. Et dey had er bin foah dollar bills nobody would 'st heard 'em drop. People is jes' lak money; dem dat make de most noise ain't alius de mos' account."

CANADIAN'S VIEW OF BOLSHIEVISM

Member of Fighting Squadron Sent to Russia, Returns and Relates Experiences.

London April 6.—(By Canadian Associated Press)—Morton the noted Toronto lacrosse player who went to Russia last June with Colonel Raymond Collishaw's squadron is back in London. Morton speaks with keen pleasure of his fighting force even in Russia where the peasantry, he says, is way completely before the Bolshevists.

His opinion is that Bolshevism has no possible lasting force even in Russia where the peasantry, he says, is too ignorant even for Bolshevism. Russia is simply in a state of civil

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Last night I was reading a book called Fearless Flinders, the Fighting Scout, all about a boy that took a cold bath every morning and that it was grate even in winter, and I sed to pop, Pop, wat would you think if I took a cold bath all out of the cold spicket every morning?

Id think I was seeing things and the world was coming to an end and it was time to call in the polece, sed pop.

Meaning he didnt think I ever would, and I sed, Well I bleeve I will, pop, the boy in this book did.

Good for him and I hope he enjoys the book, sed pop.

Do you think it would be a good thing for me, pop? I sed.

It will be the best thing that ever happened to you, it will keep you strong and make you stronger, lit call you a little erler in the morning and have the wattr all reddy in the tub for you, we'll start tomorro, sed pop.

Tomorro? I sed, and pop sed, wen were you thinking of starting—in 2 or 3 years or so?

No sir, I sed, Wich I wasent, not thinking of eny speeshil time, and this morning pop called me about a half a hour too erly, saying, Shake a leg, now, the wattr is in the tub, dont let it get warm. And I went down in the bath room and looked at it, and it looked cold as anything, and I stuck one toe in, and it felt cold as everything, me thinking, Heck, G, holey Moses.

And I started to go back upstairs to bed agen, pop saying, Hay there, have you had that cold bath alreddy? and me saying, No sir, I think it will be helthier to start in summur.

Wich maybe it will.

war and the common folk side with any army that offers food and clothing.

Murton brings good news of others who went with Collishaw, including Harold Edwards of Nova Scotia. Murton last heard of Collishaw some where in the Crimea. The squadron split up soon after leaving England. Collishaw intends organizing a squad, to for North West India, as soon as he returns to England.

WEDDING AT MILLTOWN

Special to The Standard

St. Stephen, N. B., April 6.—The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olive of Milltown was the scene of a very pretty wedding this afternoon when their daughter Bessie Muriel became the bride of James Cliff of Moncton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Goucher of the Baptist Church. The bride who is one of the St. Croix's most charming and popular young ladies, was very becomingly dressed in a wedding gown of white veil and carried a bridal bouquet. Only the immediate relatives were present.

The presents were numerous and beautiful. Mr. Cliff is an employee of T. Eaton Co. of Moncton, N. B. After the ceremony the bride donned a traveling suit of blue with picture hat and the young couple drove to the C. P. R. station where they left on the night train amid showers of

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Daily Fashion Hint

Prepared Especially For This Newspaper



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