

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MacKINNON,
Managing Editor.

ALFRED E. MCGINLEY,
Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

The people of New Brunswick have reason to congratulate themselves on the really excellent showing which Hon. Dr. Landry, Provincial Secretary, was able to make in his budget presented to the provincial legislature yesterday. The past year has been an exceptional one, in that gloom and uncertainty settled over many Canadian business communities. There was a pronounced financial depression affecting public as well as private business and it was a wisely managed concern indeed which, in the face of such unfavorable conditions of business, could show that it had kept its expenditures within bounds and still had a credit balance on the year's work.

It is all the more gratifying therefore that, under such unusual conditions, the Provincial Secretary is able to announce a surplus of \$11,454.35 on the year's operations. And, unlike surpluses proudly flaunted by governments which administered the affairs of this province prior to 1908, it is a real surplus produced by careful and honest collection of the public revenues and expenditure of public funds and not manufactured by trick books keeping with a trail of suspense accounts and overdrafts in the back ground. Under the system of accounting which has been in use in Fredericton since the advent to power of the Hazen Government the people can easily see that they receive absolute value for every dollar spent and that no public money is unaccounted for or diverted from the purpose for which it is intended. The books of the province no longer require a chartered accountant or a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret them but are simply and openly kept. There is nothing hidden because there is nothing to hide. The transactions of the Government are open and above board and will stand the fullest scrutiny. Under such conditions it is not surprising that Dr. Landry was able to produce a statement so satisfactory as that of yesterday but it may be of interest to make a few comparisons of matters affecting the people in which the Government's record can fairly be placed beside the best records of the Pugsley, Tweedie or Robinson administrations.

One matter which, to a great degree, interests all classes of people in this province is that of education. Since 1908 the sums devoted to this most important service have been far in excess of the best efforts of preceding administrations. In connection with education the question of school books naturally arises. When the Robinson government was in power members of the then opposition declared that the notorious "school book ring" in St. John was forcing the people to pay far more for school books than was necessary. It is the inalienable right of every child to get the best education his parents can afford and any government moving to reduce any items of expense in connection with education is acting decidedly in the interests of the people. Such an idea was ridiculed by Mr. Robinson and his colleagues but after Mr. Hazen became premier it was one of the first acts of his government to put their theories into practice. Dr. Landry, yesterday, after six years' experience with this policy was able to make an interesting report. Since 1908 the Government in the operation of its school book policy, has lost the sum of \$23,367 while, at the same time, it has been able to put into the pockets of the people in the way of cheaper school books a saving of \$37,961, sufficient to meet all costs of operation and still give the people almost \$15,000 of a net gain.

Next to education the most important of the public services is that of roads and bridges and in this department too the government stands far superior to any previous administration. More money has been devoted every year to improving our roads and bridges than in the best years of former administrations, and that the people have received value for every dollar expended is evidenced by the great improvement to be seen in every county.

In agriculture too the government wisely

is doing a real work. Perusal of the statistics presented by the Provincial Secretary will show that the grants for the development of this most important of all industries are far greater than they were prior to 1908. And as in other departments value has been given for every dollar expended.

Coming to smaller matters it is interesting to note the criticisms which have appeared in the opposition press regarding alleged extravagance on the part of members of the Government in the matter of travelling expenses. Dr. Landry had a word to say about this too yesterday and he showed by official statistics that during the six years since 1908 the total travelling expenses of Government members reached the sum of \$23,457 compared with \$35,446 for the luxury loving gentlemen who held office during the six years prior to 1908. And the business of the province is immeasurably greater now than under former administrations, requiring necessarily a greater amount of travelling.

For the coming year the Government has modelled its course on the slogan "business as usual." There will be none of the Pugsleyan methods of economy—saving money at the expense of the public services. All necessary work will be done and the aggressive policy which has marked the Government's course in regard to education, agriculture and roads and bridges will be continued. At the same time there will be a continuance of that wise watchfulness and care which brought order out of the chaos in which Mr. Hazen found the financial affairs of this province. The people may well feel satisfied with the splendid showing the Government has made and with that satisfaction exists also the knowledge that the Clarke administration will live up to its well earned title of **THE SQUARE DEAL GOVERNMENT.**

THE CIVIC GRANTS

As was expected the commissioners yesterday yielded to the appeal of the delegations which waited on them at City Hall and asked for a restoration of the civic grants to the various organizations which, in the past, have been receiving public assistance. The next problem will be to get the money. If, as the commissioners claimed several weeks ago, the sums provided for the departments were already the lowest they could get along with and give good service, it will be interesting to see what they can do if they provide something like \$8,000 in grants and still maintain their departments at the desired standard of efficiency. The estimates for the year have already been determined upon, so it is likely the money for the grants will be taken from general revenue.

There will be general approval over the decision to restore the grants even though the amounts to be paid will be twenty-five per cent. less than last year. The organizations affected are all doing excellent work and have much to commend them to the public. It must not be imagined that the grants awarded to them yesterday will be sufficient to maintain the activities of those worthy organizations. The public will still be called upon to contribute largely to their support and the first opportunity will come on Saturday, when violets will be sold for the benefit of the Playgrounds Association. This association had planned on an extension of its work during the coming summer but unless the public responds very generously to the appeal it is possible they will be obliged to limit rather than expand.

Some of these days, when financial and business conditions are again normal, the civic rulers will be called upon to grapple with the problem of supporting all organizations operating for the public good. If these organizations can justify their existence they should be assessed for in the same way as any other civic department. At present, however, such an idea is out of the question and it will be generally accepted that in restoring the grants the commissioners have acted

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET

(Continued from page 3.)
course to spend money upon which interest had to be paid. Owing to special circumstances with which the financial world was confronted at the present time, money was dearer than usual consequently the interest paid now was higher, it appeared to him to be a matter for the greatest gratification that a small province like New Brunswick was able to go out in the money markets of the world and borrow money at a lower rate of interest than any other province. He was very much surprised to hear a member of the House speak slightly of this the other day. He had disposed of \$700,000 worth of bonds in the United States and even after having paid all expenses they had a profit of \$1500 over and above par.

Immigration.

The item for immigration was considerably less than the actual expenditure last year. The reason was that owing to the war they did not expect many settlers to come out, and therefore, it would not be necessary to go to so much expense in looking after them at this end. Another thing, by the death of the late provincial representative \$2,000 a year was saved in salary. Mr. Sumner of Moncton has undertaken to perform the duties of that office without remuneration. Mr. Sumner was a gentleman with whom most everyone was acquainted, and at a banquet recently tendered him in Moncton public men of all shades of political opinion testified to the esteem in which he was held and he need hardly say he heartily endorsed every word which had been said on that occasion.

The item for mining, the estimated expenditure was \$2,000 as against an actual expenditure last year of \$861. The excess was caused by the fact that a diamond drill had to be provided for carrying on such work.

The item for printing was the same as last year, an expenditure which it was felt would be sufficient and the same remark applied to the Provincial Hospital.

Business as Usual.

In conclusion he might say that the government's intention was to continue "business as usual" and while they did not intend to have any let up in the expenditure for necessary work, it would be carried on on economical lines as had been their aim since coming into power. At the same time, they were keeping an eye on efficiency and he hoped it was his duty next year to lay the estimates before them he would be able to show that the expenses for the current year worked out in accordance with the estimates he was laying before them today.

The motion carried without division and the House went into committee of supply with Mr. Young in the chair. The committee took recess until 8 o'clock.

THE WAR STAMPS

Instructions have been received for the use of the war stamps, an extra cent on letters and postal cards to any point in Canada, United States, Great Britain or Mexico. The new regulations will go in force on April 15.

The postal authorities have also been notified to charge one cent for a stamp on postal notes in addition to the regular commission and two cents on all money orders, no matter what size. Provision is made for collection at the purchasing office, but if the notes or orders go through collection may be made from the payee and in case of his refusal, the notes or money are to be returned.

The war tax stamps will be here in a few days and will be available before the new regulations go into force. The postal authorities, in their circular just issued, state it is desirable that the extra tax be paid with war tax stamps instead of the ordinary one cent stamp. The ordinary stamp will be accepted, however, in case the war tax stamp is not available, but only in such cases, although under no consideration will the war tax stamps be accepted in payment of postage.

NEW VAUDEVILLE NOVELTY

FOR YOUNG-ADAMS COMPANY

As an added vaudeville novelty for the last half of this week at the Opera House, the Young-Adams Company will offer "Kubelli," known all over the world as "The Crazy Violinist." While "Kubelli" is an artist of rare musical ability, he is also an eccentric clown and delights in rendering his selections in all sorts of peculiar poses, standing on his head, hanging from a trapeze and other difficult positions. He makes his first appearance with the company tomorrow night.

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CUBES

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Pude Simkinses slassey cuzzin Persey startid to kum up wile us fellos was awl setting awn my frunt steps today tawking about the war and wat we wood rathir tle wih, and Reddy Merly sed, Lets pertend Persey is a spy and lock him up in Bennya vesterbule.

Wich jest then Persey cam up, saying, Helo, fellos. Helo, we awl sed, and Reddy Merly sed, To arms, to arms, hea a spy. To arms, to arms, we awl yelled. And we jumped up and awl got eround Persey and pushe him in my vesterbule and shut the doar and kepp a hold of the doornob so he coodent open it.

Lets make him say, Herryay for Ingland, sed Sam Krawes. No, lets make him say, Herryay for Germliny, sed Ed Warnick. And sum of the fellos wuntid him to say Herryay for Ingland and sum wuntid him to say Herryay for Germliny, and we kepp awn holding the doarnob and argewing about it, and aftr a wile we comprised awn Mexicko, awl calling in to the spy, Say Herryay for Mexicko, say Herryay for Mexicko.

Wich the spy didnt say anything, and I called in. You better say it, spy, or we will kum in thare with a submeren and a lot of cannins and blow you awl ovr the vesterbule.

But Persey kep awn not saying anything, and Reddy Merly yelled, Hey, you spy, you bettir say Herryay for Mexicko quick or ill kum in thare and beet you up.

Now I bet he will say it, awl rite, sed Sid Hunt. And we awl lisened, but we didnt heer anything, and Reddy Merly sed, Forward march, we will go in and execute him.

And we quick opened the vesterbule doar and awl ran in, and heer no bobby was in thare but us, awn akount of Persey not beeing thare. G, I bet he ran in the house, I sed, and we awl ran back to the kitchen, and Nora, beeing our cook, sed, Well, wats the meening of awl this kumng tramping throo the cleen house.

Did you see Persey, I sed.

He cam throo the kitchen and went out the back way 10 minnits ago, now you kids cleer out of this, sed Nora.

Wich we did.

ST. JOHN BILLS IN HOUSE TODAY

Delegates from this city to oppose and support legislation — Tax exemption the centre of interest.

W. H. Barnaby, W. C. Allison, Commissioner Wigmore, Russell and Potts and several others went to Fredericton last night in connection with the civic legislation that is to come up in the House today. Other representatives of the Board of Trade and the Retail Merchants' Association will go to the capital this morning, as well as a large delegation from the labor organizations.

The chief interest in centered in the bill to amend the assessment laws of St. John, whereby incomes up to \$1,000 would be exempt from taxation, and the right to vote in civic elections would be given on the payment of a poll tax of \$2. The Board of Trade and the Retail Merchants' Association will oppose the bill. It is expected that there will be at least fifty citizens ready to oppose the bill, while the labor men will support it.

It is expected that the following

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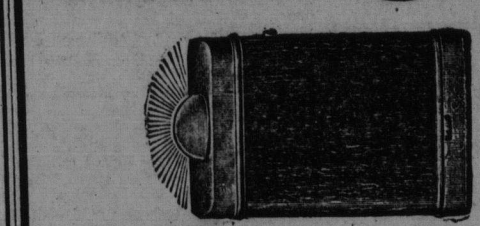
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