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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Fielding has the gift of lucid

exposition, and his budget statement

is a clear presentation of the state of

the national finances.

The current fiscal year is so nearly

completed that he is able to esti-

mate approximately the revenue and

expenditure. The revenue he places

at \$96,500,000; the expenditure

at \$77,500,000, yielding the record sur-

plus of \$19,000,000.

The capital expenditure for the year

will be heavy—\$23,000,000. Of this

amount \$17,500,000 is applied to the

great national undertaking, the Trans-

continental Railway. The grand total

expenditure for the year is therefore

\$110,500,000. Deduct the revenue

and \$2,000,000 of sinking funds, and

the net addition to the national debt

is \$12,000,000. But for the Transcon-

tinental Railway there would have

been a debt reduction of \$5,750,000.

However, the per capita burden of the

public debt has been steadily de-

creasing. In 1895 it was \$50.07 per

head of population; in 1907 only

\$42.48.

It must be remembered that in

seven years from the completion of

the Transcontinental Railway, the in-

terest upon the money advanced by

the Government for its construction

will be paid by the Grand Trunk Pa-

cific Railway Company for the re-

manner of the lease. It will be

seen that most of the addition to the

debt for that purpose is nominal, and

not real. The Government's critics

should in fairness point this out.

There has been a great increase of

national expenditure in ten years, but

it has been no more pronounced than

the growth and progress of the coun-

try itself.

THE SCHOOL TEACHER ABROAD.

Two years ago a party of English

school teachers visited the United

States and Canada, under the patron-

age of Mr. Alfred Mosley, a pub-

lic-spirited Englishman. A tour of the en-

tire Dominion was made, each of the

visitors, taking notes independently.

They were able to tell us wherein, in

their opinion, the English schools and

school system surpassed the Canadian,

and wherein ours had the advantage.

Some time ago it was announced that

Mr. Mosley had expressed a desire that

representative school teachers of Can-

ada visit the old country during the

coming summer and a willingness to

bear the expense. The idea has been

well received in the Dominion, and the

details of the proposed trip are being

arranged.

Though Ontario's school system is

among the most advanced, and is un-

excelled in the extent to which it dif-

fuses education among the masses,

there is still much to be learned from

other countries and probably always

will be. Education is not and cannot

be in the nature of things an exact sci-

ence, and it must always be in a de-

gree experimental. In the old country

they lead us in some respects; for in-

stance, manual training and domestic

science are on the curriculum of the

public schools, provision being made

for their teaching in every school

building erected. As these matters have

scarcely passed the discussion stage in

Canada, personal observation of the

teaching of these branches and its re-

sults cannot but prove helpful to Can-

adian educationists.

A matter in which all will admit

Canada might well imitate England is

the care taken over there to guard the

school children from fire. The Govern-

ment requires that all school buildings

erected must be fireproof, and have an

assembly-room on each flat, so that

disasters such as that which occurred

at Collinwood, Ohio, a couple of weeks

ago, are impossible. Of course, this is

a matter which concerns the depart-

ments of education and school boards

more than the teachers, and unless

these bodies are represented on the

delegation much of the value of the

visit will be lost. The interchange of

ideas made possible by such tours

should have a stimulating effect upon

the schools of both countries.

THE POWER SITUATION.

The city council has forwarded an

application to the hydro-electric com-

mission for 5,000 horsepower. This esti-

mate of London's needs is, of course,

little better than a guess. The council

has not been able to secure contracts

for power from local consumers, be-

cause it has not been in a position to

quote prices.

It is a complicated situation. The

council

hydro-electric commission will not

quote definite figures to the municipali-

ties until it is informed how much

power they will take. The municipali-

ties cannot ascertain exactly how much

they want until they can quote figures

to power users.

Probably the next step will be a

call for tenders for the construction of

the transmission lines and the neces-

sary local stations. The commission

will then ascertain whether its esti-

mates will cover the work. In the

meantime the municipalities cannot be

asked to enter into any contract with

the commission. They must know pre-

cisely what they can purchase power

for, and what they can sell it for, be-

fore they assume financial liabilities.

The action of the council in making

application for 5,000 horse-power is

consequently not binding upon the city

of London, and is so understood by the

local authorities.

The tobacco grower wants more pro-

tection at the expense of the cigar

manufacturer, and the cigar man-

ufacturer would prefer less protection

—for the grower. It is impossible to

protect any interest except at the ex-

penditure of another. Framing any tariff

system must be a question of dis-

tributing the burdens.

The Whitney Government has in-

creased the Provincial expenditure

from \$5,396,000 in 1905, to \$7,714,000

in 1908, or 45 per cent in three years.

According to our Conservative friends

the Federal Government is extrava-

gant, but the Provincial Government

is enterprising.

The Dominion budget shows a big-

ger surplus—\$16,427,167—for the nine

months ending March 31, 1907, than

any previous twelve months have

shown in Canada's history. No wonder

George Deficit Foster is so

acrimonious.

Prince Rupert is to start with a

population of 20,000. It is to be laid

out on model lines, and if the popu-

lation could be hand-picked it might

be a model city.

King Alfonso has been in an auto-

mobile collision, which shows that

there are more ways of killing a king

than hitting him with a bomb.

The national expenditure is grow-

ing, but isn't Canada a one-hundred-

million-dollar country now?

THE POOR, SILLY GIRL!

[Denver News-Times.]

An heiress who lived in Dubuque

was courted and won by a duke,

But the nobleman gay

Made her wealth fade away,

And she had to go out as a eugene.

THIS IS LESE MAJESTE.

[Collier's Weekly.]

When Premier Whitney formed his

cabinet he gave Adam Beck a berth as

minister without portfolio, that being

deemed sufficient for a trifier who was

supposed to take his portfolio no more

seriously than bridge whist.

Whether it was his love of horses or his

pride as a winner of many blue ribbons

that suggested horsemanship, and whether

horsepower brought to mind another

mighty power that had been tumbling

over a precipice for ages, or whether

Niagara power was the only unapprop-

riated idea after his colleagues had chosen

their hobbies, or whether providence finds

some beneficial mischief for ill cabinet

ministers to do, or whether it was

Premier Whitney's forgotten words ring-

ing in his head—the fact remains that

Adam Beck saw Niagara Falls, claimed

it as his, and has been riding it ever since.

For two or three years Adam

Beck has galloped Niagara Falls all over

Western Ontario, and very few of the

1,500,000 people he has benefited have

heard the thunder of its hoofs. All the

municipalities, including Toronto, have

voted that the plan is a good one, and

that Adam Beck looks fine on horseback,

but as for Niagara power they are no

nearer to it than they were three years

ago. Ontario can take a lot of Niagara

power, but Adam Beck hasn't delivered

any to her yet.

THE SUPPERS.

[London Sketch.]

Her Ladyship—Have you given Fido his

soup?

Buttons—Yes, 'um.

Her Ladyship—And his omelette?

Buttons—Yes, 'um.

Her Ladyship—And his cutlet?

Buttons—Yes, 'um.

Her Ladyship—And his jelly?

Buttons—Yes, 'um.

Her Ladyship—Then you may have

some bread and cheese and go to bed.

GREATNESS OF WASHINGTON.

[Judge.]

Landlord—Washington once slept in

that bed you occupied last night.

Guest—That's more than I could do.

A WISE PRECAUTION.

[Illustrated Bits.]

Muriel—When you eloped with George,

did you leave a note telling your people

where you had gone?

Gabrielle—Why, of course. If I hadn't,

how would papa have known where to

send us any money?

CONCERNING HIM.

[Nos Leisirs.]

Small Boy—Father, does my little

sister cost you a lot of money?

Father—Yes, indeed, my boy.

Small Boy—Well, why did you tell me

you couldn't afford to buy me that nice

white rabbit that I wanted last week?

Father—

DUBS HIM HYSTERICAL

[Montreal Witness.]

We can make nothing out of the dis-

patch telling us the views of Rudyard

Kipling with regard to Canada and

things in general. He is made to speak

of the most stable people in the world

as being noted for violent hysterics. One

cannot very easily dissociate the idea of

violent hysterics from the Englishman

when the Englishman is Mr. Kipling. Mr.

Kipling's way of thinking imperially

seems to include discussions about cutting

the painter and the encouragement or de-

pendencies to fall foul of each other. The

explanation of his frenzy seems to lie in

the fact that he himself is, as he declares,

so excited by political animosity that he

could not live in England under a Liberal

Government, and has to go about making

all the trouble he can for it. An uprising

in India as a result of slights put upon

British citizenship in Natal and British

Columbia would be a chance for Mr. Kip-

ling to make new stories and some new

rhymes that all the empire would read

and recite.

THE FLIRT'S FATE.

[Pittsburg Post.]

She watched the gallants come and go.

She flirted so with every beau.

Now, when she'd have one come and stay,

They merely come—and go.

THE OLD-FASHIONED "SPELLING

BEE."

[Cleveland Plaindealer.]

Modern scientific educational methods

may have improved means of teaching

spelling, but it is to be doubted if any-

thing surpasses the old-fashioned "bee."

In fixing in the mind of youth the intricac-

ies of the English language, the solid

method of any age and of any country

learned to spell it might surprise the in-

vestigator to hear how many would

answer "The spelling bee of the country

school."

BRYAN AFTER TENNYSON.

[New York Mail.]

I come from haunts of '96;

I come quadruplarily;

I keep a metaphor to mix

A-standin' on the galley.

Throughout the entire U. S. A.,

Where'er the railroad reaches,

I make a dozen towns a day