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RE-OPENS TUESDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1908

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LOCAL & OTHER ITEMS

Mr. A. L. Fraser's majority in King's County is 182.

The Japanese steamer *Taiho* was lost at sea on Friday last and 150 persons drowned.

Hon. George E. Foster has issued a writ against his opponent, W. H. Shaw, claiming unpaid damages for libel and slander.

The latest Newfoundland election returns show seventeen Government and eighteen Opposition members elected, with one still uncertain.

In the Presidential election in the United States on Tuesday of last week, Taft was elected President with a large majority of the electoral college vote, and a tremendous plurality of the popular vote.

The German coasting steamer *Archimedes* was wrecked near Danzig Prussia and ten members of the crew were drowned. The vessel went ashore during a snowstorm. Only three survivors were taken from the wreck.

The Canadian Pacific train on the Edmonton branch was derailed last Wednesday evening, two passenger coaches and three baggage and freight cars being upset. Four passengers and the mail clerk were injured, but none seriously.

An oil tank with American oil for Prince Edward Island is due in Pictou. Hitherto the oil for the Island has come in barrels and has been of Canadian manufacture. The tank will be emptied there and the oil transferred to barrels for shipment on the Island boat.

The Government began a Warehouse on the Government wharf in Charlottetown a few days before the election, and had many electors employed. Immediately after the election all the material was removed from the wharf and returned to Liberal Lumber yard—where it may remain until the next election.

A terrible accident occurred at the C. P. R. crossing at Byth, Ont., on the 4th. While Mrs. Robert Scott and her two boys, one twelve and one fourteen, were driving to town, an empty engine and tender caught them, and killed Mrs. Scott and one of the boys instantly. The other boy lived only a few minutes after being picked up. The horse escaped.

The story of a terrible tragedy comes from Swan Lake, Manitoba, where a fire in the house of Edward Carey, farmer, burned Mrs. Carey, five daughters, one son, and Miss Gillespie, teacher, to death. The fire started while the oldest son was in the barn, probably from oil used by the father to light the fire, and burned so swiftly there was no chance of rescue. Carey himself was so badly burned that he will not live.

As the result of a collision near Bonanza, Ont., last Friday night, two men were instantly killed and a third was seriously injured. The victims were engineer Rowe and fireman Gauthier, of Belleville, crushed to death, and foreman Young, scalded and arm broken. Foggy weather was responsible for the fatality. The killed and injured were all on a light engine going West which crashed into the engine waiting in the yard.

The *Empress of Ireland* made her last passage from Liverpool to Quebec in one hour and fifteen minutes less time than the *Empress of Britain* had previously made. Her Chicago passengers reached their destination in exactly one week from the time they left England. This record clearly indicates the advantage in time of this route and when it is remembered the *Empresses* are less than four days on the open sea those interested will realize the superiority of the St. Lawrence route over all others.

Seven laborers were instantly killed Tuesday night of last week on the Trans-Continental Rail way, eighteen miles north of Dryden, Ont., being buried under tons of rock hurled upon them by the premature discharge of a large quantity of dynamite. Four others were terribly maimed or injured in the same accident. Every one of the eleven men including the foreman, who were working in a deep rock cut were involved in the disaster, and four men who were picked up from under the rocks a few minutes after the accident, were so painfully out and bruised that they were unable to furnish a statement as to how the affair occurred. An investigation is now in progress. The names of the victims have not yet been learned. They were all Italians. These deaths make nine victims of dynamite within a week. Only three of the seven killed in the disaster have been extricated from under the tons of rock which crushed them.

Public Accounts.

(Extracts from Mr. J. A. Macbison's Speech.)

Since 1891 the Legislative Assembly has lost all control over the public expenditure. In all \$318,000 have been spent without constitutional authority. An Auditor, clothed with proper powers would have made this outrage impossible. Every payment should be scrutinized by this officer and no money paid until appropriated. The lax and inaccurate methods of this office were exemplified last year in the falsification of the debt balance for the year.

In the interests of the Province a thorough investigation must be made of all the Public Accounts. The Public Accounts Committee was strangled last year by the incompetence of the chairman and the interference of the Premier with the witnesses. It was the worst exhibition of tyranny since the days of responsible government.

The Public accounts for the year ending 30th Sep. 1907 showing a total expenditure of \$361,168 94

and receipts of 350,479 09 and a deficit of \$10,679 85

But this balance is arrived at by falsely crediting in the receipts the sum of \$35,000 which was not received until two months after the year closed. Taking the accounts as they stand with this correction the apparent deficit would be \$45,679 85. But this leaves unpaid a liability on unfinished contracts of \$43,304 84 and also for interest accrued on loans \$11,004 33 making in all the sum of \$99,989 02 without taking into account the other deferred payments which would bring the total up to an enormous sum. How much it amounts to cannot be computed.

The Premier refused to give a statement of the necessary figures in the House and would not permit his officer to give evidence on it before the Public Accounts Committee. The financial position of this Island is the worst in its history. The expenditure has increased by \$100,000 per annum and the interest charge alone will make a deficit of \$40,000 per annum.

Economy must be practised rigidly pending the successful prosecution of our claims against Canada. We should have enough to build up every service and get along in comfort without resorting to direct taxation.

The country has borne with the rule of this party for 17 years. During that period the world outside has not been standing still. Canada, west of the Maritime Provinces, has advanced with long strides. The Provinces by the sea have not moved forward with the rest and our little Island has fared worst of all.

We have been drained of our men and our resources to build up the Western Country and in the end have seen it given away.

We have borne the burden without sharing in the benefit.

Yearly there is being drained away at least one million dollars, with no return, and our young men are following the money.

When has this Local Government been heard to raise its voice, or known to move its hands, to obtain justice from Canada?

What of the Fishery Award? We are promised arbitration; a case stated then friendly consideration; now nothing.

Not one single claim has been presented to Canada during all these years except for damages for non-fulfilment of the terms of Union and that was sold out for 20 per cent of its value. Now by the subsidies agreement they have closed the door against themselves to prevent any further claims. They have obtained they say \$100,000 of subsidies. Is this true? No. They have sacrificed one claim for a subsidy of \$30,000. They have accepted on a general increase of subsidies for Canada the smallest amount they could get, viz. \$70,000, making a total of 100,000, and agreed on a reduction on account of the Hillsboro Bridge of 9,750 reducing the subsidy to \$92,500.

But during their time the taxation of Canada has been growing and growing, so that we are now paying at least \$700,000 more per annum than when they came to power while the interest on the debt alone will eat up more than all the taxes paid on farm lands.

They have resorted to direct taxation contrary to the spirit of Confederation and have taken from the people of this Island at least \$9,000,000, in taxes while the debt must now be a full million dollars and is growing and under them will grow.

We have seen how the public services have run down and the population decreased and when the people say "Save our schools, repair our roads," the only answer is "Pay more taxes and keep quiet lest worse befall you."

While our public services are starved and our treasury is empty we are filling the coffers of Canada to overflowing.

On the one hand is provincial poverty on the other superabundant wealth.

The Dominion is expending before our eyes in useless waste enough to equip every service in this Province.

Shall we decide that these things shall endure?

Or will we put an end to this deplorable condition and stand up like men for our rights?

It is for the public good to say.

If their verdict be as I believe it will be, then this old Island that we love so well, may yet see golden days.

Spring & Summer Weather

Spring and Summer weather calls for prompt attention to the

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But it does sell the best Suit possible to sell for \$5 or \$25, and every price between

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