

THE HERALD

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JAMES MCISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor.

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need the money, we
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shall esteem it a great
favor if you remit now.

Our Claims.

II.

In our last issue, we referred to the question of our claims against the Federal Government, and to the respective attitudes assumed towards this matter, by our Local Government and Opposition. We also touched upon the personnel of the committee appointed by the Haszard Government to push these claims. The question of our financial relations with the Dominion Government is of the most vital and far-reaching importance to this Province, and deserves the most serious consideration of every honest and independent elector. Its importance cannot be too strongly reiterated or too frequently impressed upon the minds of our people. A fair inference of what the Government of the day are capable of doing, and of their manner of going about its accomplishment, may be drawn from their course of action in connection with the subsidy question. As we have already pointed out, more than once, they absolutely failed to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the conference of 1906, to secure special terms for our Province, in consequence of our special condition. They accepted, without qualification or reserve, the dictum of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, that the subsidy arrangement agreed to at that conference, should be final and unalterable; that the door of the Federal treasury should be henceforth closed to all appeals for financial aid from the Provinces. Sir Wilfrid carried his determination, to shut us out for all future time, as far as it was possible for him to go; he carried it to the Imperial Parliament. In his report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, he requested that the final and unalterable clause should be incorporated in the bill amending the British North America Act, relative to the subsidies. The Imperial authorities did not incorporate this limiting clause in the amending bill, and in consequence of this the door has been left open to us. But if we have been saved in this respect, it is not because Sir Wilfrid so wished; but in spite of his wishes and desires.

At the conference of 1906, as we have shown, and at every subsequent stage of the proceedings; in the Legislature, and while the matter was pending in the Imperial Parliament, our delegates to the Provincial Government, and all their supporters behind them, took the side of Sir Wilfrid Laurier as against the best interests of this Province. The delegates to the conference, failed to guard our rights; they gave their assent to the final and unalterable clause of the arrangement, and in every possible way took the side of the Dominion Government, against the best interests of our Province; and their conduct, in these particulars, was approved of by the full Government contingent in the Legislature.

That was the conduct of our Provincial Government in this most important matter. On the other hand, Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Op-

position, and his followers in the Legislature, stood up and fought for the rights of the Province against the Dominion. The Opposition pointed out to the Government, and to the public the unpardonable dereliction of duty to the Province, of which the delegates were guilty, when they failed to take advantage of the opportunity to put in special claims for the Province. The Opposition showed that the Government had become participants in the criminal negligence of the delegates, by approving of what they had done. The Opposition argued that the Government were equally guilty; equally deserving of public condemnation for accepting, through their delegates, the final and unalterable clause of the arrangement. It mattered not that the Opposition proved beyond the slightest scintilla of doubt, the utter untenability of the ground taken by the Government; the latter applied the argument of brute force; their obsequious majority sustained them.

Meantime, Premier McBride, of British Columbia, who had won special consideration for his Province in the shape of \$100,000 a year, carried his protest against the final and unalterable clause of the arrangement to the Imperial Parliament. In his fight on this head he was supported by our Local Opposition and was in communication with our Leader, Mr. Mathieson. He won his case in the Imperial Parliament; the final and unalterable clause of the bill was eliminated. The attitude assumed by Premier McBride, and his success showed what could have been done for this Province had our delegates stood out for our rights, and also proved the correctness of the Opposition attitude. Through the negligence of our delegates, we failed to secure special claims; but through the pluck and perseverance of Premier McBride we retained the privilege of the still open door.

After their unpardonable failure to promote the best interest of our Province at the Ottawa conference; after having approved and, as far as possible, strengthened Laurier's hands in his efforts to close the doors of the Federal treasury against us; after having placed themselves on record against the patriotic course pursued by the Opposition in the Legislature, one would think the Government and the delegates would be very chary about referring to the elimination of the limiting clause of the amending bill, by the Imperial Parliament. Not so, however. Why, bless your soul, the Hon. George E. Hughes and other members of the Government, stood up in the Legislature and attempted to take credit to themselves for assisting in having the final and unalterable clause removed.

The wiping out of the very thing they approved of and accepted without reserve at the Ottawa conference. Could duplicity go further!

Now, as to the personnel of the committee appointed by the Provincial Government, to push our claims against the Federal authorities. As the Leader of the Opposition clearly pointed out, this committee should be made up from the best men in the Province, whether in the Legislature or not; whether Liberals or Conservatives. But the Government refused to appoint such a committee, and appointed one composed of some of themselves and supporting members in the House. Messrs. Haszard, Hughes, McNutt, Agnew and captain Reid constitute the committee. Premier Haszard is handicapped as a member of the committee, from the

fact that he is in the pay of the Dominion Government, as law agent of the Minister of Justice. He is not independent and cannot, therefore, be expected to carry much weight with the Federal authorities, when urging against them any claim of this Province. Mr. George E. Hughes is on record, as a member of the delegation to the Ottawa conference. The Federal authorities, known that he swallowed, without hesitation, the final and unalterable clause of the bill. With such a record before him his influence with the Dominion Government amounts to nothing. Mr. McNutt is a quiet easy going man, whose advocacy will not disturb Sir Wilfrid's equanimity. Capt. Reid is a blow hard and Mr. Agnew is a light-weight. These are the men to whom are entrusted the most important matter entering into the relations between this Province and the Dominion. Does anyone seriously believe that their advocacy will result in any material benefit to Prince Edward Island?

The deadlock at Ottawa, between the Government and the Opposition, continues. It appeared a week or ten days ago that Sir Wilfrid would agree to a compromise acceptable to the Opposition; but in this he has failed and Mr. Borden and his followers are continuing the fight for justice and fair play to the electors of Manitoba and British Columbia. The Opposition refuses to allow supply to be voted unless the obnoxious clauses of the Franchise bill are removed. The Patriot, taking its cue from the leading steady-support organs of the Government, contributes its share to the campaign of bluster, bluff, concealment and misrepresentation in this matter. As usual, it endeavors to conceal from public view the real facts of the case, and dishes up for its readers a jumble of falsehood and misrepresentation. It makes the bare faced statement that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had offered a definite compromise and that the Opposition refused to accept it. If so, why does the Patriot not publish the text of this compromise? On the 12th of May, Sir Wilfrid made an obscure and ambiguous offer to strike out the obnoxious features of the bill; but from that time till now Sir Wilfrid has not submitted his promised amendments, nor stated what they would be. He made several engagements for a conference with the Leader of the Opposition, on the matter; but each time, when Mr. Borden met him, the Premier had nothing to propose. The fact is that the western group of unscrupulous Government members have taken the Premier by the throat and prevented him from doing what he promised. The struggle in which the Opposition are engaged is of the most momentous nature; it is nothing less than a fight to prevent the Government from disfranchising the Conservatives of Manitoba and British Columbia. Meanwhile the Patriot fills its columns with rank falsehoods regarding this question, with the avowed intention of misleading and deceiving the public. The fact seems to be that Laurier is now sparing for time; that nothing will be attempted until after the Quebec elections, on Monday next.

The Patriot and other Grit organs have had a good deal to say about the writ issued against J. J. Hughes, M. P. for King's County. Mr. Hughes himself has written a letter to the Patriot concerning the case. Mr. Hughes, the Patriot and their friends seem very uneasy about the matter, and manifest their anxiety that Mr. Fraser should write a letter to the press, in reference to the writ issued against him by Mr. Hughes political allies. Discussing in the public press, cases that have been entered in the courts is certainly of very doubtful propriety. Besides, Mr. Fraser has no anxiety about the writ issued against him by Mr. Hughes' friends. He does not accuse Mr. Hughes personally of having the writ issued. There is quite a contrast in the conduct of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Fraser regarding the respective writs. Why are Mr. Hughes and his friends so very nervous about this matter?

Monday was nomination day for the general Provincial elections in both Ontario and Quebec

In Ontario one hundred and six members are to be elected, eight new seats being created by the redistribution of last session. The last Legislature had but 98 members. Six Conservatives were elected by acclamation; but every Liberal has to fight for his seat. Four of the new seats go to Toronto, giving that city eight members instead of four; but no less than thirty candidates are running for the eight seats. In Quebec there were five elections by acclamation; but all the members of the Gouin cabinet have to meet opposition in their constituencies. At the last election, in 1904 fifty Liberals were allowed their elections without opposition, as against five this time. Premier Gouin runs in St. James Division, Montreal and also in Port Neuf, County. Henri Bourassa opposes the Premier, in St. James, and is also nominated for St. Hyacinthe. The indications are that there will be hot work on Monday next when the ballots are cast.

The Souris Fish Drier.

Sir,—
As the "Government Educational Fish Curing Establishment" at Souris has recently become invested with an interest to the public extending somewhat beyond the limited sphere of its business operations, it may not, perhaps, be altogether amiss to make a few observations upon the original functions and general achievements of this Institution, and also upon the manner in which it has fulfilled the purpose and aim of its existence as avowed by its promoters.

It was in the session of 1904, just previous to the last general election, that Mr. Hughes, the Member for the County, succeeded in obtaining a vote of Parliament for the construction of this so called Fish Drier. It was then represented to Parliament that it was the intention to establish an educational institution for the benefit of the fishermen—where the fishermen could become thoroughly educated in the art of curing and preparing their fish for market by the best and most improved modern methods, thus enabling them to pursue their hazardous calling with far more profit and advantage to themselves than had hitherto attended their labors in this pursuit.

The Fish Drier was to be equipped with what is known as the Whitman Patent Process apparatus and was to be conducted on some sort of co-operative plan, somewhat along the lines of the Dairying Co-operative system. The Government would take the fisherman's catch, cure it, and market it for him, and then pay over the net proceeds when returns were made; or the fisherman could have his fish cured and prepared for market at a certain specified tariff rate per quintal, and then sell to whom he pleased. As the project seemed feasible—in theory at least—the fishermen hailed it with considerable delight. Even business men who had for years been closely identified with the fish business, and who had given the subject much thought and attention, while failing to perceive where in such a scheme, in its practical application, could benefit the fishermen much, were loath to say anything against it.

Everybody knows that when a government appropriation is proposed to be expended in a small community—no matter how injudicious the expenditure may be—the scheme always carries with it a charm for the people; and to make any manner of objection against it would be a very unpopular thing to do—especially on the eve of an election.

The Drier therefore became an accomplished fact. It was built by days work, the artisans and laborers of course, being necessarily orthodox in their political faith. By the Auditor General's Report it is shown that on building account the first year's expenditure was \$4,048.83; in the following year the sum of \$3,314.07 was expended and in 1906-7 the sum of \$144,344 cents making a total on building account alone up to the 31st March 1907 of \$7,506.74. And as repairs and alterations are almost continually going on, it can easily be imagined that when the next Report is brought down, that for 1907-8, this total cost will be found to have been largely increased.

This establishment commenced business operations about the 1st July 1905; and it may here be noted that notwithstanding any notions the Manager may have entertained with regard to co-operative systems, the Souris Fish Drier began its operations at the very start as a business venture,

and to all appearance, and in the best judgment of the people in its vicinity, it has been simply and emphatically nothing else ever since.

From the same official source, already alluded to, we learn that the first year's operation, including the purchase of fish, wages of staff, &c, cost the sum of \$16,498.53, while the proceeds of the fish sold amounted to \$9,202.40—leaving a deficit of \$7,296.13.

The following year, business seemed to be better. The amount expended on the purchase of fish, wages, etc, was \$14,352.82, while the proceeds of fish sales amounted to \$13,210.41—leaving a small deficit on the sea-son's transactions of \$1,142.41.

It will thus be seen that on the transactions of the first two years the Government lost \$8,435.54—irrespective of building and plant.

The report of the last and worst season's operation has not yet been made public. But enough is known to conclude, with unerring accuracy, that when it comes to hand it will disclose a very regrettable state of affairs.

During the season of 1907 a large and expensive gasoline boat was added to the outfit for the purpose of collecting fish along the shore. This, in itself, will be found to have added considerably to the cost of operating.

Now, these figures, for such a small concern, are quite alarming. Whatever may be said of the Government for conducting a business of this nature in direct competition with private capital and private enterprise I think the Manager has demonstrated pretty clearly that a co-operative system, under his management would hardly prove a boon to the fishermen.

In view of the present deficit it is just possible they might get "co-operated" a trifle too much for their own good.

If this institution is really educational as it is claimed to be, it would seem that the time had come for the students to graduate. For that matter, anything may be considered educational in a certain sense. Even a bank robbery may carry a lesson with it. But it has also features which must be condemned.

OBSERVER.
Eastern King's May 26, 1907.

DIED

At South Newark, Conn., on May 24, E. E. Pierce, formerly of Elmira, P. E. I., in the 44th year of his age. R. I. P.

At Elmford, May 24th, John McKenna, aged 60 years, leaving a widow, one daughter and nine sons to mourn. May his soul rest in peace.

At Wellston, Mass., May 29th, 1908, Janie, daughter of Michael and Janie C. Power, of this city. May her soul rest in peace.

At Head St. Peter's Bay on May 5th, Mrs. Albert J. Donnelly aged 29 years, leaving to mourn a disconsolate husband and one child. May her soul rest in peace.

The Market Prices.

Butter, (fresh).....	0.25 to 0.30
Butter (tub).....	0.24 to 0.25
Calf skins.....	0.08 to 0.09
Ducks per pair.....	1.00 to 1.25
Eggs, per doz.....	0.15 to 0.17
Fowls.....	0.75 to 1.00
Chickens per lb.....	0.08 to 0.00
Flour (per cwt).....	0.00 to 0.00
Hides.....	0.04 to 0.00
Hay, per 100 lbs.....	0.65 to 0.75
Mutton, per lb (carcase).....	0.08 to 0.08
Oatmeal (per cwt).....	0.00 to 0.00
Potatoes.....	0.35 to 40
Pork.....	0.07 to 0.07
Sheep per lb.....	0.00 to 0.00
Turnips.....	0.20 to 0.25
Turkeys per lb.....	0.00 to 0.20
Green per lb.....	0.00 to 0.00
Rkt cuts per cwt.....	0.42 to 0.50
Brick bats.....	18.00 to 0.00
Straw.....	30 to 35.00

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Also a full line of pumps and piping.
Stanley, Shaw & Peardon.
June 12, 1907.

KING EDWARD HOTEL.

Mrs. Larter, Proprietress.

Will now be conducted on KENT STREET Near Corner of Queen.

Look out for the old sign, King Edward Hotel, known everywhere for first class accommodation at reasonable prices.

June 12, 1907.

COAL!

We would advise customers to order their Coal and have it delivered before the season gets too late, as

The Strike now on at the Springhill Mines may cause a scarcity and be the means of advancing the prices.

G. Lyons & Co.

Sept. 4, 1907—3i

Montague Dental Parlors

We guarantee all our plate to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded.

Teeth pulled and extracted absolutely painless.

A. J. FRASER, D. D.

Aug. 15 1906—3m

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Lowest rates and prompt settlement of Losses.

JOHN MACBACHERN, AGENT.

Mar. 22nd, 1906

Dissolution of Partnership.

This is to certify that the Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, carrying on business under the style and firm of McKay Brothers & Co., has this Third day of March, A. D. 1908 been dissolved by mutual consent.

Dated this Third day of March, A. D. 1908.

Signed by the said Lanchlan McKay in the presence of Catherine Martin and by the said John W. McKay, Daniel C. McKay, and Daniel C. McKay, in presence of A. H. McQuaid.

Referring to the above notice of dissolution we beg to notify all customers of the late firm of McKay Brothers & Co., that we will continue the business under the name of McKay Brothers.

All debts due the old firm must be paid to us, and we will discharge all the obligations of the late firm.

Dated this Third day of March, A. D. 1908.

JOHN W. MCKAY, DANIEL C. MCKAY.

April 29, 1908—3i

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