

Canada's Finances

(Continued from page 3.)

it over. The government had advanced two millions to the company to discharge their obligations to the banks, and arrangements were made to pay them the balance. The amounts advanced to the banks was \$5,016,458 with interest.

R. L. Borden asked how much the country had put into the bridge. The government appropriated a subsidy, replied Mr. Fielding, part of which was paid, but when the Guarantee Act was passed the subsidy was cancelled. There might be other debts of the company which Mr. Fielding did not know of. To Mr. Ames he said that the amount required for the transcontinental railway did not include the bridge. He could not tell Mr. Borden what would be required to complete the bridge.

From 1896 to 1902 the post office went behind, but every year since then has been a growing and substantial surplus. It was to be remembered said the finance minister, that the change from deficits to surpluses was coincident with a material reduction in postal rates. The expansion in business in the post office had gone in the same period as follows: 236 post offices; 355 postal note offices, 115 money order offices, 32 savings banks.

The revenue of the Intercolonial Railway for the last fiscal period was \$6,248,251; ordinary expenditures \$6,031,141 and surplus \$218,079. On the P.E.I. Railway there had been a deficit of \$67,713.

The expenditures for the period were grouped as follows: Consolidated revenue fund, \$51,542,161; capital expenditure National Transcontinental Railway, \$5,537,867; railways, \$1,603,701; canals \$887,838; public works, \$1,937,871; Dominion lands \$526,582; militia \$975,282; railway subsidies, \$1,324,889; bounties, \$1,581,944. Total expenditure, \$65,775,138.

Total revenue was \$67,972,109 and excess of revenue over total expenditure, \$2,130,971, to which add the sinking fund, \$1,177,146, making a decrease of the net debt of \$3,311,117.

National Debt Reduction. Since 1867 in only six years had there been a reduction in the national debt, once during the administration of Sir Francis Hincks, again in 1882, when Sir Leonard Tilley was finance minister and four times during the present administration. A moderate increase in debt from time to time was to be expected. In the ten and a half years since the present government came into power there had been small increases, but during that time the government had provided generously for public services, perhaps hon. gentlemen opposite would say recklessly, and had spent \$127,000,000 outside of ordinary charges on capital account. Notwithstanding this, in ten and a half years the net debt had increased only \$5,174,427, and if it had not been for a special item of the National Transcontinental railway there would be no increase whatever.

He was able to show that from the point of view of increase of population there had been no increase. In 1891 the net debt per head of population was \$49.09, which gradually increased till 1897, when it was \$50.47, while today it was but \$42.84. "Cheer now boys," admonished the opposition, and the Liberals pounded their desks.

Had it not been for the expenditure on the Transcontinental Railway the government would close the present year with a reduction of the national debt of \$5,304,000.

With the present increase of population, Mr. Fielding did not anticipate there would be any increase in debt per head.

The amount expended to date on the national transcontinental railway up to 1907, said Mr. Fielding, was \$8,163,878. So that at the close of the year the total expenditures on the account would be 26 millions. "Geo. Taylor thought the road was to be built for 13 millions."

"That is one of the hon. gentleman's terms," replied the finance minister.

By reason of the amendment to the B.N.A. Act subsidies to the provinces had been increased from \$6,745,133 to \$9,032,774.

Hon. G. E. Foster. Mr. Foster who was greeted with enthusiastic opposition cheers, observed that hon. gentlemen opposite were fond of depreciating the condition of affairs as they found them in 1896, to keep in the back ground the world wide prosperity of the past ten years and to make it appear that Canada's prosperity was due to their policy. The fact was that in 1889-90 a world wide depression began which continued for four years. Canada felt this depression but emerged from it better than any other country. Canada therefore in 1896, emerged from this period steadily progressing. The only trouble on the horizon was the Manitoba school question, which those gentlemen had fanned into light and kept ablaze for their own purpose, yet at no time did it threaten a disturbance of general good feeling between the peoples of this country. The Liberals had set for themselves the task of reducing taxation, reducing the public debt, obtaining reciprocity with the United States, getting a mutual preference from Great Britain, to reduce the number of cabinet ministers,

cut down the expenditure, reform the senate, abolish superannuation, abolish bounties, discontinue the system of railway bonuses, and keep the land for the settlers. Besides, they were to raise the standard of public life.

It would have been interesting, to have seen the effect of reducing expenditure and abolishing the tariff protection, carrying out all other pledges of their self-appointed task. But those Liberals dropped all their professions and went on administering the country on somewhat the old lines of the fiscal policy. Sir Wilfrid, who had pledged himself to reduce the taxation, had in 1906 increased the total customs and inland revenue taxes from \$27,750,285 to \$80,074,818 in 1908. The reduction in taxation had been carried out by taking in customs and excise in ten years, \$142,000,000 more than the Conservatives had collected in a similar period.

As for the claim that the average rate of taxation had been lowered, if the bounties which were given by way of protection were added there would be found to be rather an increase. By reason of the increased values of goods the finance minister was taking increased taxation out of the people to an extent that a 25 per cent. duty in 1905 was practically changed to a 45 per cent. duty on the basis of the prices of that year.

In 1896 the Conservatives were taking in customs and excise taxes at the rate of \$330,000 per week or \$76,000 per day. In 1908 the present government were taking taxes out of the people at the rate of \$1,400,000 per week or \$200,000 per day.

The finance minister had no right to take from a new and struggling country anything except for ordinary current expenses. Borrow money for great enterprises like the G.T.P., and put the burden of interest equally upon the present and future generations.

In all these years of plenty the finance minister had not taken steps to reduce the obligations of the country nor had he taken time by the forelock by providing for retiring these obligations in the future.

The finance minister had not given the House an estimate of the cost of the transcontinental railway. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had declared that \$13,000,000 would measure the cost to the people of this country—not more than one year's surplus, whereas, Mr. Foster believed the cost would not be less than \$130,000,000. More than two hundred millions of capital had to be got somewhere in the next few years.

Moreover, Mr. Fielding had said that the Quebec bridge would cost only 44 millions.

"I don't think so," said Mr. Fielding, but Mr. Foster read out the minister's speech bearing out exactly what he said.

Dealing with the action of the government in advancing money for

moving crops, Mr. Foster declared that it was a perilous thing to interfere with the ordinary business of the country. When the finance minister undertook to take the reserve, which was the only legal security for depositors, he undertook a very rash thing.

This breaking into the strong box of the people and laying violent hands on the reserve security was a dangerous precedent, and the least the government could have done was to have come down at once to parliament and got its bill of indemnity.

He opened up some scandals laid at the door of the present government, declared that a "paradise for middlemen" had been created, and characterized the trade returns as being fictitious. On the trade returns Mr. Foster dwelt long. These were swollen by a world wide enhancement of prices, and to arrive at a correct idea of the growth of business it was necessary to reduce the columns from values to quantities.

These returns showed that the balance of trade was running steadily against us. In ten years there had been an aggregate adverse balance of \$522,000,000 in our trade with the United States. To remedy matters Mr. Foster would reduce the volume of imports and practice economy.

Glossing Over Expenditure. After referring to the increase of expenditures from forty-three million in 1896 to \$110,000,000 this year with the probable extension to \$130,000,000, Mr. Foster spoke of Mr. Fielding's glossing over the trade conditions.

In times gone by the finance minister had devoted a great deal of time to this, but this year, when business men were taking stock of their affairs, he had rushed through this important phase.

Mr. Foster proceeded to show that the government had gone back on its professions of bringing into force a policy of mutual preference, a reciprocity treaty with the United States wiping out every vestige of protection.

Though Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised all these things, he went to England, accepted the Cobden medal and gave a preference to Britain of 25 per cent., at the same time declaring that he did not wish the mother country to abandon free trade. This preference in a fit of loyalty was increased to 33 per cent., but recently it had been reduced by giving favorable terms to France. Did Sir Wilfrid root out protection? He maintained a duty of 29 per cent. against products of foreign countries and came back from Washington, declaring that we did not want reciprocity with the United States. We had sacrificed some of the important industries of the country by making trade treaty with France.

Scanning trade returns he averred that information given was fictitious. In 1890 the prices of commodities

were the highest in years; in 1896 they were lowest than for a long period, and in 1906 they had gone back to a higher figure than they were in 1890. For instance, a bushel of wheat cost 55 cents in 1896, while in 1907 the same volume of wheat brought over \$1. There was not any more business development or activity in turning over thirty million bushels of wheat, but the value had increased to double the figure. The trade in Canada in 1896 amounted to two hundred and thirty-six million dollars. Applying values of 1896 to the trade of 1904 the totals were almost the same, the difference being due to a world-wide rise in values. Between 1896 and 1906 the gain in copper alone was \$4,700,000 for the same amount exported each year.

"So many millions more in the pockets of the people," put in Hon. Wm. Patterson.

Mr. Foster was willing to discuss that there never was an increase in value of exports but there was a corresponding increase in imports. The cost of living was just so much greater, and were people better off? In the ten years there was an increase in value of our imports of 169 per cent. For the same period exports increased 118 per cent. Imports from Great Britain increased by 115 per cent., and exports by 100 per cent., while from the United States the increase of imports was 209 per cent., and exports 141 per cent. There was an adverse balance of sixty-one millions in our trade with the United States, and of eleven millions in our trade with other countries outside Great Britain.

Startling Trade Table. The table of trade with the United States is startling. In ten years the aggregate adverse balance of trade with the United States was five hundred and fifty-two millions. This was increasing every year, and last year it had reached the enormous sum of one hundred and twenty-four millions.

Mr. Foster went on to show large increases in imports of manufactured articles. This was a condition that required treatment. The government quailed in its boots every time it saw a labor deputation coming to protest against the importation of skilled mechanics to compete with our own laborers. Yet what did it matter whether we brought in skilled mechanics or hired them over in Europe to manufacture articles to be brought to Canada. In one case wages were spent and their families founded in Canada while in the other money stayed in Europe. As the result of the policy of the government the woolen industry was on its last legs.

The Value of Scenery. Scenery as an export commodity was an idea that Mr. Foster offered to the House. He instanced Switzerland. That country had scenery for export. Millions upon millions of money were spent by tourists buying the unrivaled scenery of Switzerland.

The finance minister had been going abroad borrowing money at a very high rate of interest. He had taken 129 millions out of the people for capital expenditure, but would now have to look elsewhere. If the C.P.R. hadn't been bringing in money where would the finance minister have been in the recent financial crisis?

"Whether are we drifting and how are we going to prevent drifting any farther?" asked Mr. Foster. By limiting the imports we must reduce the adverse balance. Next, greater economy was advised.

A surplus was claimed on the Intercolonial Railway, but Mr. Foster challenged the government to name a committee and he would prove that surplus was arrived at by a different method of keeping books.

The government had created a paradise for middlemen. The recital of facts in connection with the Kentville transaction roused the minister of militia. A boon companion of the minister of militia, said Mr. Foster, got wind of the fact that some land was to be taken by the government, and bought it at \$6 an acre. A referee in sympathy with the minister was appointed and the price fixed at a large sum.

Restricting Child Labor

In the Ontario legislature the Hon. Nelson Monteth introduced an act to amend the factories act. At present the factories act does not place any restrictions on the hours of employment for boys in factories, although it does restrict the hours during which females may work to ten hours a day, or sixty hours a week. It also provides that one hour a day shall be allowed for the noon-day meal, also that they shall not work later than 6.30 in the evening.

The purpose of the present amendment is to place similar restrictions on the boys in factories between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. This is the recommendation of the committee which met last session to consider the question of child labor. As the act stands at present children may be employed in canning factories during the months of June, July, August, September and October without restrictions as to age or hours.

of labor. The amendment now being introduced by the minister of agriculture forbids the employment of children under twelve years of age, and states the hours during which children under fourteen years may be employed. This is another amendment in accordance with the findings of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Monteth's amendment to the shops act raises the age limit for the employment of children in shops from ten to twelve years. The minister explained that the committee on child labor had recommended that the age limit should be placed at 14 years. However, he considered the present amendment a considerable step in advance.

That languid lifeless feeling that

comes with spring and early summer can be quickly changed to a feeling of buoyancy and energy by the judicious use of Dr. Shoop's Restorative. The Restorative is a genuine tonic to tired, rundown nerves, and but a few doses is needed to satisfy the user that Dr. Shoop's Restorative is actually actually reaching that tired spot. The indoor life of winter pearly always leads to sluggish bowels, and to sluggish circulation in general. The customary lack of exercise stagnates the kidneys, and oftentimes the heart's action. Use Dr. Shoop's Restorative a few weeks and all will be changed. A few days' rest will tell you that you are using the right remedy. You will easily and surely note the change from day to day.

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"A Kingly Gift"

EARL GREY'S APPEAL

On behalf of Needy Consumptives

Strong words of Canada's Governor-General

At the official opening of the King Edward Sanatorium for Consumptives, near Toronto, His Excellency delivered an address that must have an important bearing on the future of the sanatorium movement in Canada. We quote:—

"The proceedings this afternoon commenced with a beautiful and reverent prayer from your old friend, Dr. Potts. He prayed that the light of the Lord might shine upon us. That prayer is abundantly answered. He also prayed that the White Plague might be removed. Well, whether that prayer will be answered or not depends upon yourselves."

"It is not a standing shame and reproach to the governments and individuals that there is not more care taken by the people of Canada, to protect themselves against the curse of consumption?"

On his way out to the King Edward Sanatorium, so named by permission of His Majesty King Edward VII—the Governor-General's car was stopped by its progress outside the Canada Cycle & Motor Co. by a large crowd of its employees. A contribution of one hundred dollars was handed the Governor-General, a donation to the Toronto Free Hospital for Consumptives.

"'Twas a kingly gift," said His Excellency in making acknowledgment: "I will tell the King."

Addressing the large audience that attended these opening exercises, referring to this event, Earl Grey said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, when the workingmen of Canada are setting an example of this character, I hope you will not be slow to follow, and I trust that the example of the Canada Cycle & Motor Co. may be followed, as I am sure it will, in every factory and manufacturing industry throughout the land."

We carry these words to the people of Canada in our appeal to-day on behalf of the

Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives

An institution that has never refused a single applicant admission, because of his or her inability to pay.

Seventy-five patients can be cared for to-day. Accommodation could be provided for three hundred if the required money were forthcoming.

To make this possible, our appeal is for \$50,000, to be used in extension of buildings and maintenance of patients.

Where will your money do more good? Every community and every individual is interested.

His Excellency Earl Grey has shown his interest and sympathy in the work at Muskoka for needy consumptives, by accepting the position of Honorary President of the National Sanatorium Association.

Contributions may be sent to Sir Wm. R. Meredith, Kt., Chief Justice, Osgoode Hall, Toronto; W. J. Gage, Esq., 84 Spadina Ave., or J. S. Robertson, Secy-Treas., National Sanatorium Association, 847 King Street West, Toronto, Canada.

DARWIN'S

A strong committee has been pointed by Cambridge University make arrangements for the centenary of Charles Darwin next year. On Dominion day the Linnaean Society and Cambridge University in particular and the world of science general, will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Darwin's great discovery of natural selection. Doubt the jubilee will provoke a flood of speeches denouncing the whole idea of evolution, for, on account of its application to generally accepted religious theories, it has been bitterly opposed, but it is sufficient for Darwin's fame to say that nine scientists out of ten accept his conclusions, and that ninety-nine out of a hundred now regard as an obvious truth his specific discoveries of natural selection.

Yet to speak of the law of natural selection as a discovery due to Darwin alone is to do an injustice to another great naturalist now living, Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace. It is true that Dr. Wallace later years has shown himself to have a mind so wonderfully free from prejudice on all subjects that he suffered himself to become mixed with matters like spiritualism which are not sciences at all. On this point his fame may have suffered popular opinion. But while Dr. Wallace may not leave such an impression upon the scientific thought of today or upon succeeding generations as Darwin did, he certainly deserves equal credit for the specific discovery of natural selection. Indeed the first to acknowledge Wallace's claims was Darwin himself, as the correspondence between the two men shows. The whole subject being pertinent to the present time, it will be instructive to trace the steps, as far as known them, of the working out of this great theory.

It is necessary to bear in mind that the theory of evolution, name that the higher forms of life, such as that of mankind, have grown developed from lower forms, was original with Darwin, although it with his name that the idea is generally associated. At the time his famous voyage on H.M.S. Beagle the theory of evolution was still theory, however generally accepted it remained to be conclusively proved. His observations convinced Darwin that evolution was a fact. He required to go one step further back and find a cause for the evolution. At that time, the common idea among the evolutionists was that in animal life modifications occurred because animals and plants were so constituted that they were compelled to change. That is to say, "just because." This was not enough for Darwin, and in vain, exercised his great brain, until, one day, after reading Malthus' Essay on Population in 1842, "it struck

NEWTON NEW

Breezy items from Prosper District—To be Favored with Holiday Visitors.

April Fool!

The weather is getting more spring like. We expect to be seeding by 10th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lough accompanied by Miss Kolosar visited Regina last week.

A petition has been circulated the district for the establishment of a post office. Mr. Jacob Hicks is the post master, and the name of the new office will be NEWTON.

D. J. Rollins, W. R. McConnell, Rollins and Mrs. S. Rollins paid Regina a visit last week.

We expect A. H. Maclean to visit Newton at Easter.

Our "Sherlock Holmes" of New is in Regina working on a special case. He did a little work on side for the city police Saturday night by capturing one of the end rustlers.

Mr. Samuel Morton is back to the east where he spent a few months visiting his old home, which he 22 years ago.

Miss Ada McConnell of Regina expected to visit Newton during Easter holidays.

A party of young people of Regina have arranged to spend their days (Easter) at Newton, Kroon Balgonie and other points along new C.N.R.

We notice that the "Pope" has coat for sale. The auctioneer likely be J. K. McInnis.

Wm. Riggall spent a few days Regina last week on business.

We expect "Sherlock Holmes" to the district shortly after he cleared up a few mysteries in capital city.

Miss Elsie Rollins of the government offices, Regina will visit home here during Easter holidays. Miss Rollins has not paid our strict a visit since her return from Eastern Canada where she spent portion of the winter on a holiday. Harry Banfield will visit Newton during Easter holidays.

Royal Templars of Temperance hold their regular meeting on 14th, when a large enrollment of members is expected.

We hear that there will be a

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