

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1922

### The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 23, 1922.

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#### THE FOSTER GOVERNMENT.

The Foster government is appealing on its record to the people of three constituencies. That record is one of accomplishment in many important directions. Whether we consider the government's policy in regard to education, public health, conservation of crown lands, highways, agriculture, or the conduct of financial affairs, it stands in striking contrast to that of its predecessor. The Foster government began by introducing better financial methods, to safeguard the treasury and give the people a clearer knowledge of the financial situation. It exposed the misdoings of the former government and at the same time, by the course it pursued, established itself in public confidence. The charge is made that it has spent too much money, but the conditions during its term of office have been exceptional and the people have been fully informed regarding the services for which the money was spent. For example, the province has today a system of roads and bridges so far superior to what went before that there is no comparison. More money is spent for education, and none will question the wisdom of that expenditure, or of the introduction of a system of vocational training. We are only now beginning to realize what the public health act means to the people of the whole province, since it was necessary to overcome a great deal of prejudice as well as to meet a political agitation begun for the sole purpose of hampering and if possible discrediting the minister of health. The agricultural department has pursued a very progressive policy, with special attention to important branches which needed encouragement and assistance. The whole crown lands policy was revolutionary and proper steps taken not only to get full revenue, but to protect the forests more thoroughly than had ever before been attempted. This involved expenditure, but the wealth that lies in our forests warranted the fullest possible protection. The financial conditions would permit, for in them lies the future as well as the present chief source of provincial revenue. Speaking in Fairville last evening, Premier Foster referred to woman suffrage, the Workmen's Compensation Act, and measures of social legislation which have proved of great value. Neither the premier nor any of his colleagues would assert that no mistakes have been made during their term in office, but they may say with assurance that they have labored honestly and earnestly to give the province good administration. When we look over the opposition party, whose leader is not even a member of the legislature, and which is wholly without a policy except that of opposition to everything the government does or proposes to do, the wisdom of electing its candidates is very apparent.

#### LEADER PALMER.

The Frederick Glenier and Mail are manifesting some interest in Leader J. D. Palmer, of the provincial Conservative party. This is in view of the coming by-election. The Glenier offers this suggestion to the faithful in St. John and Kings:

"The leader of the opposition is yet without a seat in the legislature and it is certainly not desirable that a party leader should be an outsider, unless he is prepared to secure a seat in the legislature at the first opportunity presenting itself. The present situation may be one without precedent in provincial politics, but if the natural order is to be followed, Mr. J. D. Palmer will be the opposition candidate in either Kings or St. John."

The Mail refers to Mr. Palmer in a somewhat different but also very interesting way. It says:—"Leader Palmer is now on a trip to the Pacific Coast but now that the call to arms has been sounded he will hasten home—perhaps by airplane—and will throw himself into the thick of the fight. An expectant world is still waiting for Leader Palmer to enunciate his policy and the pending by-elections will give him the opportunity. The opposition electors of the counties named will in the ordinary course of events be looking to the new leader for the sign by which to conquer, and it is to be presumed that they will not look in vain."

But for these timely observations by the two Frederick papers many people would no doubt have forgotten that the Conservatives in the provincial field have either a leader or a prospective policy.

It would be quite possible to delay indefinitely the introduction of light and power from Musquash into the city. This was doubtless in the mind of the council of the Board of Trade when it called for an independent commission. There is no more reason for doubting the integrity of such a commission than of the city council, and the commission would achieve results much more rapidly. We must get ahead with the business for which so large a majority was rolled up at the civic elections.

The memory of Queen Victoria is treasured and honored throughout the Empire, and nowhere more than among the descendants of the Loyalist founders of New Brunswick.

#### STANDARDIZED HOSPITALS.

Rev. C. B. Moulmer, in an address in Halifax last week, appealing for the standardization of hospitals, paid a very high tribute to the medical profession, which he said was trying to make better hospitals on the basis of scientific truth. A report of his remarks says further:

"Now the medical men were grouping their minds, co-ordinating their knowledge and experience, and thinking together in order to give people the full rest results, and they were gathering round them women selected as nurses for their ability and sympathy. This movement for efficiency and standardization and scientific training came of a great, intense, deep and appealing desire of the human heart, inspired by fine genuine practical religion. Hospitals then, today, are becoming scientific institutions and homes where God abides," declared Father Moulmer amid loud applause."

Speaking on the same subject, Mr. Robert Jolly of Halifax said he hoped every hospital in Nova Scotia would be standardized before autumn, when the list of standardized hospitals of America would be published. He urged citizens to become acquainted with their hospitals, and not to be afraid of them, realizing that the superintendent and staff were among the best friends they had.

This is excellent advice. The hospital should not be regarded as a place to be shunned, but one where the very best material and nursing care may be secured; and to this end every citizen should give support to the policy of standardization.

#### THERE WILL BE NO REPEAL.

The New York Evening Post asks these questions:

"Was prohibition imposed upon the nation by a sudden wave of war-time idealism? Has the practical test of prohibition disillusioned many supporters so that they would now vote to repeal it?"

The Post not only asks but answers the question, as follows:

"Manufacturer's Record presents an answer in the form of a poll of 1,000 influential men who five years ago signed a petition for federal prohibition. It finds that of the replies 98.5 per cent. or for prohibition in some form, and 1.5 per cent. against it, while those who want the Volstead act repealed or modified are but 1.75 per cent. of the total. It is a total fallacy, of course, to suppose that prohibition came suddenly or was in any sense a product of the war. The prohibition movement became influential in the middle west soon after 1890, quickly invaded the south, and had made thirty-two states 'dry' when the eighteenth amendment was ratified. Counting local option territory, by 1919 no less than nine-tenths the area and two-thirds the people of the United States were 'dry.' Nor was the movement against the saloon a mere 'moral uplift' movement. On the contrary, the political motive—dislike of liquor influences—was decided and the economic motive stronger yet. It is this economic element that the letters to the Manufacturer's Record emphasize."

Here are some of the economic benefits cited:

"Unmistakable advantages and relief," writes a Milwaukee farm implement maker: "Drunkennes has lessened 100 per cent." says a Tacoma steel manufacturer: "The effect on labor and the saving of money have been wonderful," testifies a Denver banker: "Trouble among employees from liquor has almost disappeared," declared a Pittsburgh oil man, "where is nothing which has so helped cotton mills," says a Birmingham mill owner; and so runs the verdict from a hundred cities. And the Post adds:—"How many of those who argue against prohibition would actually vote to bring the liquor trade back? Not one in five. Of people who have changed their minds about prohibition, there are many who have changed from hostility to friendliness."

The situation in regard to amateur sport in the maritime provinces has been cleared. The firm attitude of the executive of the maritime branch of the A. A. U. of C., and the justice of its cause, have produced a result greatly to be desired. There is to be a sharp line of cleavage, as there should be, between amateur and professional. Apparently there is to be some professional baseball this summer, but it will be known as such, and the amateurs will be warned off. It may be hoped that in the future there will be no question regarding the policy to be pursued.

Despite the protests of certain members of the opposition at Ottawa, it will be noted that the government's naval policy was adopted in the House of Commons without a division. The loudly heralded obstruction failed to materialize. The Laurier naval policy stands the test.

It is not a modern brand of religion that calls a man to his door and murders him. In some parts of Ireland there is need of missionaries. Bloody strife prompted by religious fanaticism is an anachronism.

#### "EARTH VOICES"

Bliss Carman, in Toronto Mail and Empire.  
I heard the spring light whisper  
Above the dancing stream,  
The world is made forever  
In likeness of a dream.

"I am the law of planets,  
I am the guide of man;  
The evening and the morning  
Are fashioned to my plan.

"I tint the dawn with crimson,  
I tinge the sea with blue;  
My track is in the desert,  
My trail is in the dew.

"I pain the hills with color,  
And in my magic dome  
I light the star of evening  
To steer the travelers home.

"I heard the spring rain murmur  
Above the roadside flower,  
The world is made forever  
In melody and power.

"I keep the rhythmic measure  
That marks the steps of time,  
And all my toll is fashioned  
To symmetry and rhyme.

"I plow the untilled upland,  
I ripe the seething grass,  
And fill the leafy forest  
With music as I pass.

"I hew the raw, rough granite  
To loveliness of line,  
And when my work is finished—  
Behold, it is divine!"

#### LIGHTER VEIN.

Paying for The Privilege.

A member of Congress took a taxi one rainy day at the Capitol to proceed to his home in the suburbs.

When he arrived and asked the chauffeur the charge the latter replied that it was \$4.

"But," protested the Congressman, "you are charging me for four miles?"

"Yes, sir,"

"Well, I understand that the distance is only two miles and a half."

"It is as a general thing, sir," asserted the driver, "but you see we skidded a lot."—Harper's Magazine.

#### Painless Dentistry.

Aunt Ethel—Well, Beatrice, you were very brave at dancing at the Ritz.

Beatrice—Yes, auntie, I was.

Aunt Ethel—Then, there's the half-crown I promised you. And you tell me what he did to you.

Beatrice—He pulled out two of Willie's—Punch.

#### LOCAL NEWS

Textile workers dance tonight, Prince Edward Street Academy.

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#### THE CONJON STUDIO

Will be open the holiday to accommodate patrons wishing to take advantage of our half-price photo sale.

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#### VICTORIA DAY AMUSEMENTS.

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The prize-winning numbers at the Palm Garden: Gold watch, No. 629; gold pin, No. 604; five-pound box chocolates, No. 183.

#### AT THE RITZ.

Victoria Day, May 24, end of a perfect day finished by dancing at the Ritz. Souvenir flags for all our patrons.

5-24

#### GRAND BAY OUTING ASSOCIATION DANCE.

A dance will be held in the Club House, Grand Bay, May 24, 8.45 p. m.

5-24

#### BRITISH AVIATION FINDS ITSELF IN SERIOUS POSITION

Is Away Behind France in Air Squadrons—Plans For the World Flight to Start Soon.

(Canadian Press Despatch)

London, May 23—Major W. T. Blake, of the Royal Air Force, and Captain Norman MacMillan, who on the death of Sir Ross Smith took over the latter's plan to fly around the world, were entertained at luncheon in London yesterday by the Daily News. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu presiding. It was announced that a private individual had found the entire money for the expedition.

Lord Montagu, speaking of the serious position of British aviation, said the end of 1922 would find the French with 228 air squadrons compared with Britain's twelve.

Major Blake acknowledged the help afforded by the air ministry of the Canadian and other dominions.

Major Blake plans to start on the round world flight soon and hopes to complete the trip in two months. The route will be through France, Italy, Greece, Egypt, India, China, Japan, Alaska, the United States and Newfoundland.

#### HON. MR. MALCOLM RESIGNS OFFICE

Winnipeg, May 22—Hon. G. H. Malcolm, minister of agriculture in the Norris government, resigned today. It is reported on good authority that he will be succeeded by John Williams, Liberal member of the legislature for Port Arthur.

#### GOVERNORS TO DEBATE ST. LAWRENCE PROJECT

Chicago, May 23—Henry A. Allen, governor of Kansas, and Nathan L. Miller, governor of New York, will debate the St. Lawrence waterway project tonight under the auspices of the Illinois Manufacturers Association.

### SPECULATION AS TO THE BUDGET SPEECH TODAY

Some Changes, But No General Revision, is Report.

Announcements of Importance Relative to Taxation Looked For—A Review of the Finances of the Year.

(Canadian Press)

Ottawa, May 23—The budget speech, which will be delivered by Hon. W. S. Fielding this afternoon, is expected to contain some changes in the tariff but no general revision. Budget secrets are proverbially well kept, but this much is inferred from past declarations of the Liberal party and from the political situation in the House of Commons, especially from the parliamentary influence of the Progressive bloc.

The budget is also likely to contain announcements of amount on taxation and on the methods to be adopted to bridge the gap between the revenue in sight and the estimates which have been brought down. It is proposed as probable that these methods will include an internal loan in addition to that which has already been floated in New York.

The year which Mr. Fielding covers in his budget has been one of decline in trade and in the revenues of the country, but there are signs that a turn of the tide has come. The total trade figures of the fiscal year which closed on March 31 last—the year of which the finance minister has to give an account—showed a big falling off from those of the year before; but the figures for March were larger than those for any month in the whole fiscal year. The revenue figures for the year were also much below those of the year previous, but again in March, the last month of the year, was marked by an increase in income.

The financial statement for the year closed in March shows a considerable surplus of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure. The total revenue as announced is \$771,000,000 as compared with ordinary expenditures of \$634,000,000. This gives a surplus on consolidated account of some \$137,000,000. For the year previous there was an even larger surplus, the revenue being \$841,000,000 as against expenditures of \$697,000,000.

The largest item in the revenue of 1921-22 was derived as usual from the customs, which showed \$104,000,000 as compared with \$102,000,000 in the year before. Second place in the last year was held by the income tax, which released sales tax and other special war inland revenue in rank of importance. The revenue from the income tax for 1921-22 was \$78,000,000 as compared with only \$68,000,000 the year previous; while the sales and related taxes sank from \$76,000,000 to \$72,000,000.

In spite of this favorable showing on consolidated account, however, there was an increase of \$73,000,000 in the debt of the dominion. On March 31 last the net debt of Canada stood at \$2,834,999,391, compared with \$2,761,284,448 for the end of the fiscal year previous. Curiously enough the gross debt of the country did not rise during the year, but on the other hand showed a falling off of approximately eight-seven millions. The explanation of this condition is that there was a large decrease in the assets of the dominion, especially in the advance to hands at the same time that there was an increase in the list of assets which are regarded as "non-active." Among these latter are the loans which have been made to the railways in recent years.

#### Encouraging Development.

An encouraging development which the finance minister has to report is the rise in the gold basis of dominion notes in circulation during the year. At the end of March, 1921, the percentage of gold to the dominion note circulation was only 28.6; but at the end of March last it had risen to 33.4. The gold reserves on March 31, 1921, were 43.9 of the circulation, while on the corresponding date this year they had risen to 47.2 per cent.

Canada's external trade during the year recently closed fell off very heavily, for the year 1920-21 the total trade was \$2,450,586,000; while for 1921-22 it sank to \$1,501,781,000. The decline affected imports somewhat more seriously than exports, and the result is that there was an excess of exports over imports, which is usually referred to as a favorable balance of trade. For the year 1920-21 the exports were \$1,248,000,000 and the imports were only \$1,147,504,000; while for the corresponding periods the exports were \$1,010,000,000 and \$1,033,222,000 respectively.

There is a note of distinct optimism in another financial statement which has taken place in the year under review. This is in the exchange rate as between Canada and the United States. At the end of March, 1921, New York funds were at a premium of nearly thirteen cents. Today it is below one per cent. Turning to the year that is now current, that is 1922-23, though the exchange and trade situation are showing an improvement, Mr. Fielding has a difficult problem in making ends meet in national finance. The main estimates already down are for \$466,000,000, while the revenue for the last fiscal year was only \$371,000,000. This indicates a deficit of about \$95,000,000; but in addition there is likely to be a big decline in income tax and in business profits tax this year as compared with last. The decline in business profits tax is to be expected because that tax expired at the end of 1920; while last year's revenue from income tax owing to the introduction of the system of payment at the time of making the return, included a large part of the taxes of two years. It is very likely that these two items will add forty of fifty millions to the sum which Mr. Fielding will have to raise.

Indirection has been given already that part of the money to fill this gap will be secured by loans. Already one hundred millions has been raised in this way in New York. In addition a domestic loan is expected in the fall to meet the Victory Loan of \$184,000,000 and a school lands loan of \$22,000,000 more, which are due this year. Mr. Fielding has also a special source of revenue in the payments of \$5,000,000 monthly which are being made by the British government in settlement of the balance of \$100,000,000 due to Canada on the war accounts between the two countries.

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### MARQUIS A SHIRT MAKER.

Death Reveals Identity of Unknown Noblemen in France.

Amnecy, Loire, France, May 23.—M. Montlouis, a shirt maker of this town, failed to report for work the other day for the first time in twenty years. He was dead. The shirt maker had no relatives and the police took charge of his quarters. This is what they found: The body of the shirtmaking marquis has been sent to Toulouse, where it lies with the bodies of his ancestors.

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