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LONDON - CANADA.JOHN CAMERON, President and
Man. Dir.God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—Browning.

London, Friday, April 17.

Britain's Phenomenal Progress.

The British Budget, laid before the Imperial Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last night, shows the Motherland to be in a most prosperous condition, despite the fact that many of her foreign customers have been crippled by their restrictive trade policies. Though the expenditure of last year was larger than in any similar period, being necessitated by the addition of many ships to the navy, as a consequence of the war scare, Great Britain was able to apply \$40,670,000 to the reduction of the national debt, and at the same time to effect a slight reduction in taxation where at present it is most needed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer asserted, and the House assented to the proposition, that never before had the condition of the working classes of Britain been as satisfactory as at the present. This is important testimony at a time when Canadian advocates of a policy which discriminates against Great Britain are decrying the Motherland, and are asserting, as Sir C. H. Tupper recently did, that she is in a state of decay and decrepitude, because of her trade freedom.

The reduction of the national debt recalls the purposes for which this gigantic liability was incurred. "The King's Debt," contracted by Charles II. and James II., only amounted to \$3,251,320 in 1688, when William III. incorporated it. Owing to the wars with France which that monarch promoted, the debt at the death of King William had risen to \$63,750,000. The war with France was continued under Marlborough, in the reign of Queen Anne, and cost \$215,000,000. By 1757, when George I. died, the debt had been raised to \$272,500,000, the expenditure being necessitated by the war with Spain. In 1775, the year before the outbreak of the American war, which was due to the determination to tax the American colonists without due representation, the British debt had reached \$630,000,000. Then came not only the war with the American colonists, but the "right of search" war with Spain, the war with France about the succession to the throne of Austria. These conflicts, most of them unnecessary in the light of modern developments, brought the British national debt up to \$1,187,000,000. The tremendous conflict with France hoisted the national debt of Britain up to \$4,230,000,000 in the year after the battle of Waterloo. Steadily the taxes of the people were increased, and the oppressive sectional impost on the workers proved how grievous a thing to be borne is debt. In 1854, the year before the outbreak of the Crimean war, and chiefly as a result of the enlightened commercial policy which the country had for some time been following, the national debt had been reduced by \$400,000,000. But before that great conflict closed the debt had again been augmented by nearly \$160,000,000. It has never since touched the \$4,000,000,000 mark, and has, year by year, been steadily decreased, despite the increased armaments deemed necessary by the fact that Europe is an armed camp, whose people are intensely jealous of the commercial and industrial supremacy of Great Britain.

To us in Canada who have seen the Dominion net public debt increased since 1881 from \$155,295,730 to over \$350,000,000 at the present time, the statement of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer has great significance. He told the Imperial Parliament that the British people have not only paid their way in the last 39 years, but have cleared off the enormous sum of \$500,000,000 of public debt. Of this amount, \$500,000,000 has been wiped out in the last thirteen years. In the same time, our Canadian rulers have added to our public debt nearly \$100,000,000, while the Dominion expenditures have been increased from \$27,067,103 to \$38,132,005 a year. We have had no great wars such as make up the public debt of Great Britain, necessitating these huge burdens. This country, with its splendid natural resources, if it were properly managed, would soon be paying off its national debt and reducing the burdens of the people, instead of constantly increasing them as now.

Since Parliament met, three members have died—Mr. Bryson, Pontiac, Que.; Lieut.-Col. Amyot, Bellechasse, Que.; and Lieut.-Col. Denison, West Toronto. The Liberal membership has remained intact, though several members were rendered ill by the bulldozing all-night sessions of the last two weeks.

Tupper in the "Hired Man" Role

Sir Charles Tupper's bullying attitude reminds one of the occasional "hired man" episodes that crop up, in which the "hired man" attempts to usurp the place that rightly belongs to the farmer who employs him. Tupper has for some years been the "hired man" of the people of Canada, receiving the cost of his keep out of the taxes of the people of Canada, Liberals and Conservatives alike. We all had to put our hands down into our pockets to maintain him. The "hired man" suddenly resolves to come over to Canada and boss his bosses. He starts out by virtually deposing poor, weak old Mackenzie Bowell. Then, not content with attempting to bully the Liberal M. P.s who represent those who paid half his salary for years past, he actually browbeats and attempts to read out of the Conservative party those who refuse to jump this way or that every time he chooses to crack his whip.

What invariably happens in the case of the usurping "hired man," is, that the farmer "fires" him. That is what the people of Canada intend in a few weeks to do with bullying Sir Chas. Tupper, Bart.

A contemporary gravely announces that "death is busy these days." Death is always busy, but it is only when he comes to close quarters with them that most people recognize the fact.

Many Other Sins

The Dominion Government, upon the motion of Dr. Landerkin, has brought down an important return to the House of Commons. It is in the form of a table showing the estimated as contrasted with the actual cost of certain public works under the men now in power at Ottawa. The return is as follows:

	Estimated cost.	Paid out.	Claim outstanding.
Wellington Bridge.....	\$225,000	\$408,000	\$73,000
Little Rapids Lock.....	45,000	255,000	0
Galops Rapids (not now in use).....	212,000	629,000	0
St. Charles Branch Railway (worked).....	397,000	822,273	0
Langevin Block.....	444,000	783,801	295,000

*Not given.

These returns demonstrate the necessity of a change of administrators at Ottawa, and emphasize the motives of those high tax leaders who are so anxious to have the Government tried on only one question now before the people, and that its own choosing. But though the men in power will have to face their tortuous record on the Manitoba school question, and will be held responsible for attempting to divide the people on ill-founded religious cries, raised so as to catch votes by different expedients applied to different classes in the country, they will be made to answer for such outrageous maladministration as is here exemplified.

Though the Wellington bridge was built under the direct supervision of the Dominion Government, it cost \$172,000 more than the estimate, and \$79,000 has yet to be paid, or \$251,000 more than the engineers asserted it could be constructed for. The Little Rapids lock has cost five times the amount of the estimate, yet the lock is not used. Thus, not only is the \$215,000 lost, but the whole of the \$255,000 might as well have been thrown into the water. On the St. Charles Branch Railway, the total estimated expenditure was \$440,200, but the Government has spent on it \$1,781,273, or \$1,291,072 more than the estimate of the expert Government officials. Galops Rapids Channel (Cornwall Canal) was undertaken against the advice of the best qualified experts in Canadian river navigation and engineering skill, but on it \$417,000 over and above the estimates was spent, and \$629,000 was thrown away. The channel is never used. The Langevin block is a constant memorial of boodling of the worst description. It has cost \$339,801 more than was estimated, and there are still \$236,000 of claims pending. An equally indefensible job is the Tay Canal, the six miles of which cost the country \$476,138. On it last year \$3,196 was spent for maintenance, while the revenue derived from it was \$120. The canal owed its construction to the fact that Mr. John Haggart had a mill at its upper end, and it was necessary to make the property more valuable. Then there was the Fredericton and St. Mary's bridge job, which is not included in the above list. It may be briefly chronicled in this efficient statement: Paid-up capital of company, \$20,000; Dominion Government loan at 4 per cent, \$300,000; Government bonus, \$20,000; total cost of bridge, \$418,000; floating debt of bridge, \$19,000; interest due the Government upon loan since 1888, \$66,000, total amount of public money sunk in this speculative speculation, \$396,000. On the Shiek's Island dam (Cornwall Canal) the original contract was cancelled, and a work abandoned upon which \$155,000 of money was absolutely thrown away. Thus have millions of public money been squandered. The country needs a change, and an appeal to the people on side issues, however craftily made, cannot prevent it.

Mr. Tarte, M.P., has not only been selected by the Liberals of Beauharnois, but by his old-time supporters in L'Islet. He is the favorite in both constituencies.

Mr. James Connec, M.P.P., has been chosen Liberal candidate for the Commons in Nipissing, and will be elected.

Permissive or Obligatory.

What the British Privy Council Declared on the Manitoba School Question.

As it is still claimed that the Ottawa Government was simply carrying out the terms of the Judicial Committee's decision, it may be well to give a few quotations touching that point from the report of the appellants' solicitors to the Canadian Government:

"The Lord Chancellor—All we have to see is what we think the jurisdiction of the Governor-General is."

"Mr. Blake (senior counsel for the Roman Catholic minority)—The question whether upon the whole, acting in their political capacity, the Privy Council (of Canada) believes that they ought not to act, or to act in what we consider a sane and half-hearted way, or to go the whole length of our demand, is no part of the question I have to submit to your lordships." (Page 38.)

"The Lord Chancellor—Then you say there is a case for the jurisdiction of the Governor-General, and that is all we have to decide."

"Mr. Blake—That is all your lordships have to decide. What remedy he shall propose is quite a different thing." (Page 42.)

"Mr. Blake—In case the Provincial Legislature does not act in pursuance of the views of the Governor in Council it depends on the determination of the Canadian High Court whether or not they will pass a remedial law—make remedial laws." (Page 90.)

"The Lord Chancellor—It is not before us what is to be decided, is it?"

"Mr. Blake—No, what is before your lordships is whether there is a case for appeal."

"The Lord Chancellor—What is before us is the functions of the Governor-General."

"Mr. Blake—Yes, and not the method in which he shall exercise them—the discretion which he shall use, but whether a case has arisen on these facts on which he has jurisdiction to intervene. That is all that is before your lordships." (Page 26.)

"Lord Watson—I suppose we are bound to give the Governor-General advice in this appeal. He has asked nothing else but advice throughout. He has not asked for a political decision that will fetter him in any way."

"Mr. Blake—It could not be. The law which creates the tribunal for the purpose of giving advice expressly states that in their political capacity they are not bound by that advice."

"Lord Watson—That is a Canadian statute?"

"Mr. Blake—Yes." (Page 39.)

"Mr. Ewart (in concluding his argument)—As it has been already remarked, we are not asking for any declaration as to the extent of the relief to be given by the Governor-General. We merely ask that it should be held that he has jurisdiction to hear our prayer and to grant us such relief as he thinks proper to do so." (Page 183.)

"Lord Watson—I apprehend that the appeal to the Governor is an appeal to the Governor's discretion? It is a political administrative appeal and not a judicial appeal in any proper sense of the term, and in the same way as he has decided the same latitude of discretion is given to the Dominion Parliament. They may legislate or not, as they think fit."

"Mr. Blake—Only the limits of his discretion; they cannot go beyond." (Page 133.)

"The Lord Chancellor—He (the Governor-General) cannot do anything of himself. At the last resort the only person or body who can do anything more are the Parliament of Canada, who are certainly not under legal compulsion to act, and certainly would not act unless they conceived there was some substantial ground for it." (Page 254.)

Passing from the argument to the judgment delivered, the same point is repeated with equal clearness:

"Their lordships have decided that the Governor-General in Council has jurisdiction and that the appeal is well founded, but the particular course to be pursued must be determined by the authorities to whom it has been committed by statute."

Macmillan & Co., London and New York, continue to issue, through the Copp-Clark Co., Toronto, their Canadian publishers, all the latest British and continental novels. This colonial library series is very popular in Canada. Among the works recently sent to the booksellers are:

"A Modern Man," a story of life in the British metropolis, by Ella Macmahon.

"Old Goriot," one of the best of Balzac's French romances.

"Tryphena in Love," a story of English rural life, by Walter Raymond.

"Two on a Tower," a much-talked-about novel by Thomas Hardy.

Frank Barrett's story of "A Set of Rogues," a tale of the days of the Great Plague in England.

"The Trumpet Major," a story by Thomas Hardy, illustrative of the great French invasion war scare.

MONTREAL'S DANGER IS PAST. Montreal, April 17.—All danger of a flood in Montreal, which has been threatened for some days, has now subsided. The water at 9 o'clock last evening had dropped nearly 4 feet to 34 feet 11 inches. The channel is now comparatively free of ice.

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—AT—

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One of the best-known men in Ontario is Mr. John H. McConnell, of Windsor. He is connected with most of the leading secret, fraternal and benevolent societies, has organized lodges in every city, town and hamlet in the province, and is probably personally acquainted with a greater number of people than any other single individual in her Majesty's Dominion of Canada.

Ask almost anyone you meet, "Who is J. H. McConnell, of Windsor?" Nine out of every ten will be able to answer the question. The opinion of such a prominent man, therefore, is valuable. Mr. McConnell usually prefers to talk about political or society events. But he can say a good word frequently for anybody or anything outside these two subjects he thinks deserving of it.

He Talks About Scott's.

When in Toronto last Monday (March 2nd, 1896) he very outspokenly expressed himself as follows to the manufacturers of Scott's Sarsaparilla:

"Scott's Sarsaparilla is a tonic I use in my family. It is one of the best spring blood purifiers I know of. I used it last spring and intend to use it this. It is very strengthening, drives away nervousness, builds up the system, and is a good all-around, wholesome medicine."

"It is pleasant to take, the children like it, and since giving it to them we have had no sickness of any kind in our house. All this I can truthfully say, and when I say a thing I mean what I say, and I don't care who knows it."

Anybody who wishes to secure Mr. McConnell's opinion can get it by writing him at Windsor.

See to-morrow's paper.

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