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Our Provincial Finances.

As briefly stated in our last issue and elsewhere published in this paper, the financial transactions of the Provincial Government for the nine months ended September 30, 1906, show the following: Total receipts, including the Dominion subsidy for a whole year, \$258,234.90. Total expenditure for nine months, \$286,196.44. Deficit for the nine months, \$27,961.54. These are the figures set down by the Provincial Auditor in his report on the Public Accounts of the Province for the nine months ended Sept. 30th, 1906, and present the Government statement in its best possible light, we may be sure. But viewed in its most favorable light, the report exhibits the usual earmarks of extravagance and recklessness in the administration of our finances, and constitutes nothing more than an instalment of the Government's black record of debt, deficits and deception. It matters not whether the Government's financial statement is for a period of twelve months or nine months, it invariably shows a long step towards the verge of Provincial bankruptcy.

On its face the report places the deficit on the financial transactions for the nine months at \$27,961.54; but a brief examination of the accounts readily reveals that this amount is but a fraction of the shortage in the Government's balance sheet for the period under review. The accounts show that at least an additional quarter of a year's interest on the Provincial debt should have been charged up. They also show that the teachers had only been paid for their services up to the 30th of June. If we add to these the amounts on unfinished contracts carried over, we shall have a formidable addition to the deficit admitted by the auditor. But we will leave the Government to wrestle with these items as best they can, and we may be sure that the statement on the 31st of December was very much worse than on the 30th of September. But treating these matters in this way does not improve the Government's case, as we shall presently show, and prove from the facts before us and from their own methods of book-keeping. The present Government adopted from the beginning the system of charging as a debt any portion of the Federal subsidy expended in advance. This was the method adopted by Messrs. Chalmers and Davison in the preparation of their report on the Provincial debt, when the present party came into power. In accordance with this system of the Government, we are face to face with the following facts: The Dominion subsidy is received in two semi-annual instalments, on the first of January and the first of July of each year; consequently the full subsidy for 1906 was received three months before the closing of the accounts for the nine months ending September 30th. But the report on these accounts admits a deficit of very nearly \$28,000, as shown above. Therefore the whole of the annual subsidy, as well as all other moneys the Government could get their hands on, was used by the Government on the 30th September, and in addition to this they were, according to their own admission, \$28,000 behind on the transactions of the nine months. Now, the full annual subsidy amounts to \$211,931.88, and one quarter of that or \$52,982.97 belonged to the last three months of 1906. But the Government spent this quarter of the subsidy in advance, therefore they must be charged with it. Adding this quarter of the subsidy to the already admitted deficit and the real deficit, on the Government's financial transactions for the nine months ended September 30th, 1906, is \$80,944.51.

The debt of the Province on Sept. 30th, 1906, according to the auditor's report, was \$795,771.34. This debt is computed in the following manner: Debenture debt, less sinking fund, \$322,970.41. Loan account, 465,984.02. Due Banks, 106,816.91. \$795,771.34. To this we must add the quarter subsidy of \$52,982.97 above referred to, expended in advance on

the 30th September. This brings the debt of the Province on the 30th September up to \$848,754.31.

There are other phases of the Public Accounts to which we would wish to draw attention; but space will not permit us this week. These matters will keep however, and we will refer to them later. Enough has been shown, we think, to convince any reasonable man that the Government, now unfortunately ruling this Province, is absolutely unworthy of the confidence of a free and independent electorate. Disregard of the public welfare, recklessness in the expenditure of the people's money, mismanagement of the public business, unfulfilled promises and broken pledges characterizes their whole term of office. At the beginning they declared the day of taxation was far off, and from the house tops they proclaimed that revenue and expenditure would meet. Now at the end of sixteen years, the record shows they have collected from the people \$750,000 in taxes and have rolled the Provincial debt up to at least \$850,000.

In all seriousness it is not time the electorate should rise in their might and save our Province from ruin by driving this Government from power?

Sessional Notes.

The Legislative session is dragging its slow length along and little or nothing is doing. Time is wasted and expense accumulated; but the people have to pay the piper.

On Monday of last week, well on towards six o'clock p. m., an attempt was made to convene the House; but enough members for business were not present and the meeting ended in a count out. All this occupied a few minutes of the valuable time of the officials of the House.

On Tuesday, the House met about 4 o'clock p. m., and after routine proceeded to the Council Chamber, where the address in reply to the opening speech was presented by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. After returning to the Chamber, a few minutes were consumed in discussing the small-pox situation, and the onerous Legislative duties of this day were solemnly brought to a close.

It was 12.30 when the House was called to order on Wednesday. This afforded about sufficient time for Mr. Speaker to read prayers, and for the Clerk to read the journal of the very important session of the previous day, and for the presentation by the Government of two or three small bills. By the time all this was accomplished it was one o'clock, the regular time for adjournment, and the legislators were most opportunely afforded a respite from onerous labors.

It was 12.45 when the Speaker took the chair on Thursday; so that it was a close shave to get prayers over and the journal read before 1 o'clock. But by the exercise of unusual tact and marvellous dexterity the task was accomplished without serious irreverence. The House met again in the afternoon, well on towards the usual time for adjournment. A short time in committee and a brief discussion about small-pox and boards of health completed the day's work. A half hour on Friday quite in line with the proceedings of the previous days completed the Legislative labors of the week.

The sittings of the House, for the whole week probably occupied about four hours. Why this waste of time at the people's expense? This is a most reasonable and pertinent question and the responsibility of the answer devolves on the Government. They seem to have no business ready for the Legislature and they spend most of the time in caucus, doubtless in an endeavor to reach a conclusion on some matter which they desire to present to the Legislature. Thus, while the members of the Government and the members supporting the Government spend days striving to compose their differences, the Country has to wait and pay the bills.

Quite an amusing incident occurred towards the close of the debate on the address, week before last. Mr. Fraser casually alluded upon the independence which he had expected would have been manifested by the junior member for Summerside, Mr. Clark. The member from Summerside took occasion to reply, to the effect that he was a

mildmannered man, and that the Leader of the Government had not, so far, seriously strained his spirit of independence. Mr. Fraser retorted that he had heard and read of mild-mannered men. Among others he had read in Deekens of a man who proclaimed himself not only a mild-mannered; but a very 'umble man. His name was "Uriah Heep." It did not develop in the brief discussion whether or not the mildness of the member from Summerside was of the same quality as that of the "Sea Attorney" in Byrons "Don Juan," who is described as "The mildest-mannered man that ever scuttled ship or cut a throat."

The Provincial elections in Manitoba on Thursday last, resulted in a sweeping majority for the Roblin Conservative Government. The new Legislature will contain 41 members, two new constituencies having been established since the previous elections, when only thirty-nine members were elected. Elections were held in thirty-nine constituencies on Thursday and the Government has a majority of fifteen. Elections are to be held tomorrow in Gilbert Plains and Gimli and these places will likely return Conservatives. That will give the Government a majority of seventeen. The Leader of the Opposition is among the defeated. (Yesterday's news states that a Government supporter was elected in Gilbert Plains by acclamation.)

In correspondence from Ottawa which appeared in this paper on the 27th February, account was given of a discussion of Prince Edward Island affairs in the House of Commons on the 17th of that month. In this discussion it will be remembered, Mr. Martin, Mr. McLean, and Mr. Lefurgey strongly advocated the Island's claims and with no uncertain voice pressed upon the Government the necessity of immediately moving in the direction of having the tunnel. Mr. Hughes, while referring in general terms to the Island's claims, made excuses and apologies for the Ministers. The splendid advocacy of our cause by Messrs. Martin, McLean and Lefurgey, so impressed the House that they were the support of many members from other Provinces. But the one who, above all, should have shown sympathy and extended encouragement to the matter, the Prime Minister, left the Chamber and refused to listen to the advocacy of our rights. Our correspondent intimated that some light was thrown on the Premier's conduct some hours afterwards, when he met St. John delegation asking for harbor improvements. "Then the Premier told them that he had been asked to construct a tunnel to Prince Edward Island. He mentioned a possible cost which was about double the highest estimate given and spoke of the project as one that could not be taken seriously." On the 4th inst, the subject of transportation was before the Commons and Mr. J. J. Hughes in the course of some remarks, took occasion to say that he had Sir Wilfrid's authority for stating that this is a gross misrepresentation of what he said on that occasion." Sir Wilfrid was in the House himself when Mr. Hughes made this statement. If he felt that he had been misrepresented or misrepresented in his remarks to the St. John delegation, why did he not say so himself? Have Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Hughes arrived at an understanding that the question of Prince Edward Island's disabilities shall be a political foot ball to be kicked back and forth between them; or has Mr. Hughes become a mere obsequious apologist for the Premier, a mere political puppet to pull Sir Wilfrid's chestnuts out of the fire?

Ottawa Weekly Letter.

Mr. Hyman Still an M. P.

Ottawa, Feb 23rd, 1907.

Notwithstanding two resignations so called, of the London seat by Mr. Hyman, it appears that he is still the member for that constituency. The law provides that a member may resign his seat by sending the Speaker a notice in writing, witnessed by two persons. Mr. Hyman began by sending a notice to the Speaker which was not witnessed at all. This was dated at London, November 20th, though Mr. Hyman left that city on the 19th for the United States and he has not been in Canada since. The Speaker informed the House on the day of the opening that he had received this communication and that it was not effective. Various inquiries were made afterwards but it was not until the 8th of February that any definite announcement from Mr.

Hyman reached the House. On that date Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that he had received from the minister of Public Works a telegram announcing that Mr. Hyman had withdrawn the resignation of his seat in the Cabinet. About the time that this resignation was withdrawn the Speaker received another resignation of Mr. Hyman's seat. This communication seemed to be regular and it was signed by two witnesses, Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Beale. Acting upon it the Speaker on February 11th issued his warrant for a new election.

WITNESSES WHO DID NOT

But now appeared another complication. It was known that Mr. Hyman had remained in California, and that his business managers, who signed as witnesses, had not been out of Canada. Thus the question arose whether their vision was so extensive that they could see from London a man signing a document in California. The Speaker swore that the document last read by him was the same as the first one, except that the witnesses' signatures were added. Later it appeared that someone had stuck on a seal. To decide whether the resignation was valid, and the London seat was vacant, the matter was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Before this committee Mr. Beale and Mr. Jarvis admitted on oath that they signed as witnesses without having seen Mr. Hyman write or sign the paper. In fact they had never before seen the document. All they knew was that Mr. Duffield, a London election campaigner, had telephoned them that he had a telegram from Mr. Hyman, and had later sent them the document as witnesses. Mr. Duffield had told them to write to the Speaker and get the first resignation for the purpose. It may be remarked here that Mr. Duffield figures in the record of the London election conspiracy case. A man of that name confessed that he had paid a conservative worker \$400 to reduce by 40 the conservative vote at a certain poll. Though the committee has not reported it seems certain that Mr. Hyman still represents London, and the speaker's warrant for the election has been recalled.

PREPARING FOR THE ELE-

CTION. Meanwhile Mr. Hyman remains in California while Mr. Duffield and the other experienced and far famed campaigners have been getting ready for the election. It turns out that they knew the election was to be ordered long before Parliament was informed that Mr. Hyman intended to return to public life. Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the beginning thanked Opposition members for the courtesy and consideration they had shown, and solemnly assured them that he would give them the earliest possible information of Mr. Hyman's intentions. Instead the Premier kept back from Saturday until the following Friday, Mr. Hyman's announcement that he was getting well and intended to go back to his work. But at London Mr. Gibbons, who knew all about Mr. Hyman's alleged resignations and who swore in the London enquiry that his party was fighting the Devil with fire, had already supplied the local campaign organizations with the news.

THE BENCH AS PARTY SPOIL.

Nine times this session the attention of the House has been called to the delay in making an appointment to the Supreme Court Bench of Nova Scotia. More than eleven months ago Judge Fraser was made Lieutenant Governor and since then the Court has been short handed. It is shown that justice was greatly delayed and made more expensive by frequent adjournments, that appeals have been heard by three judges instead of four or five, that justice has been dismissed because there was no judge to hold court. The Chief Justice has made protest to the Department of Justice and so has the President of the Law Association.

CAUSE OF THE DELAY.

All this inconvenience and injustice results from the well known fact that the seat on the Bench is held for a member of Parliament who now sits in the House and professes to act as a free representative of the people. When it is convenient to open the county and the Member shall have got his sessional indemnity the appointment will be made. Meanwhile as Mr. Borden points out, twenty-four judges have been appointed since that seat became vacant. Some of these vacancies were filled within a week, many within a month, and all at such times and by such appointments as political exigencies required. Sir Wilfrid's only excuse for this delay in Nova Scotia was that the Minister of Justice could not find time to make a selection, though the fact is, that the choice was made long ago. Mr. Lancaster points out that Mr. Aylesworth easily found time to have his own brother appointed to the public service and even to get an office created for him.

ROCHECAN WAIT.

Mr. Aylesworth pleads that no one is suffering serious inconvenience and that there is no occasion to hurry in the matter. This view was reported in the House by Mr. McDonald of Pictou and Mr. Roche of Halifax. Mr. Bennett replied that if no judge is needed in Nova Scotia the appointment should not be made at all and the salary might

be saved. As to Mr. Roche's contention that no change is needed Mr. Boyce explained that the member for Halifax was best qualified when justice was delayed. For three years, he had been sitting in the House with an election petition hanging over him, and facts alone proved showed that his seat was corruptly obtained. One judge had so declared. Mr. Roche was in the House through a judicial objection which the Supreme Court of Canada has set aside. The longest justice could be done would be to send Mr. Roche to jail for holding the seat that did properly belong to him.

AFTER A BYE-PASS DISPOSITION

Mr. Borden's motion compelling the delay in making the appointment was rejected by a majority of thirty-three on a straight party vote. COSTLY WORKS AND LARGE COMMISSION. The acting Minister of Public Works estimates that the two new Departmental buildings to be erected across the Centre from Parliament Hill will cost \$2,750,000. The price of the land will be over half a million. Allowing for less than the excess over estimates it is safe to say that the total cost will exceed \$6,000,000 even if the buildings do not fall down like the Laurier Tower, before they are finished. Already laid to the cost of \$400,000 has been bought. The cost of the land was \$1,000,000, which received two per cent, or \$20,000 for bargaining done in a few weeks. If Government officers are equal to making these purchases nothing is gained by employing an outsider, as every body knew long before hand that the agent was buying for the Government. Mr. Etienne's commission is no inducement for him to secure low prices. By way of assistance three Ottawa men were employed as valuers. They examined the properties bought and some others, receiving a generous allowance of \$36 for each man or \$108, in all for each of the 44 properties valued. Many roads lead to the London election conspiracy and it may be noted here that one of these valuers was a gentleman who went from Ottawa to London during that scandalous campaign and spent a certain sum of money in the way it would do the most good.

COLLINGWOOD DRY DOCK.

Two sittings of the Public Accounts Committee have been devoted to the attempt to find out what was the cost and value of the dry-dock at Collingwood. This dock belongs to a Company which receives an annual subsidy from the Government equal to three per cent on either the cost or the value of the work, whichever may be lowest. It appears that the payment did not begin until the last fiscal year and then the Company was paid for two years at the rate of \$15,000 per annum, which supposes a cost and a value of \$500,000. The question is, whether the work on the dock either cost or is worth so much. Valuation was made for the Governor by Mr. Louis Coste, an engineer of the Public Works Department, who gave a value of \$508,000. On examination it turned out that he took some \$280,000 of his estimate from the statements of officers of the Company. On the whole his method of valuation appears to have been a convenient one for the Company, though his vigilance on behalf of the Treasury was not conspicuous.

SERVING TWO MASTERS.

The relations of Mr. Coste to the Department and the contractors were peculiar. In 1903, Mr. Coste was in the service of the Government and engaged in supervising work at Port Colborne. The Collingwood Dock Company had been seeking a subsidy for a proposed dock to take the place of their smaller establishment. Plans submitted to the Department of Public Works, were not satisfactory. The Collingwood promoters thereupon consulted Mr. Coste to see if he could not prepare plans for them to satisfy his Department. He set about it, and while receiving \$300 a month as a Government officer, accepted pay from these promoters. Before the end of the year Mr. Coste's work for the Company was done. He charged \$2,500 for it, which was \$1,100 more than he received during the whole year from the Government. The Department of Public Works accepted the Collingwood plans so prepared by its own officer.

MR. COSTE AS VALUATOR.

The dry-dock was constructed, the promoters using what they could of the previous works. When the Company applied for the subsidy the Department sent Mr. Coste to examine the work and place a value on it. This he did as above stated. It should be said that Mr. Coste had not been paid his \$3,500 in cash. In fact his account with the Company had not been settled when he made the valuation. He received \$2,000 in money and for the other \$1,500 was allowed 20 paid up \$400 shares in the enterprise. He was Director of the Company and this position he still holds. It will be seen that Mr. Coste's valuation may not be more impartial than that of any other stock holder in the Company.

ELEMENTS IN THE CASE.

Going back to Mr. Coste's valuation and trying to find what the work actually cost, the Committee runs up against many difficulties. The old dock, owned by the Company which had been re-organized into the existing corporation, forms part of the present dock and a part of the valuation covers work so taken over. But the books which show what the old work cost, were destroyed by fire and the stock lists appear to be heavily watered. Moreover there is a disposition on the part of Government supporters on the Committee to shut out evidence of stock manipulation and other transactions which might throw light on the valuation. Leighton McCarthy, M. P., whose law firm is shown by the records to have acted as solicitors for the Collingwood concern, especially in their dealings with the Government, is a member of the Committee but has been taking part in the inquiry, though the Company is represented by regular counsel. The investigation so far, has been directed by Mr. Bennett of Simcoe and will be resumed next week.

MR. STRUBBE ONCE MORE.

Mr. Charles Strubbe of Montreal figured last year in an interesting Public Accounts inquiry. The Marine Department bought him \$750,000 down on bill of exchange of a very clearly phrased and also a large quantity of other bills. It was known that the Department had no use for a tenth part of this stock and much inquiry was made before it was

found that these bills were a consignment from France to a son of the Minister of Marine for use in his mill. The consignment was not accepted and Strubbe sold the whole consignment to the Department for half price, less \$500 to Charles Strubbe who immediately turned it over to the Department of Marine for \$4,788.45 a profit of \$2,470 or 107 per cent. MR. STRUBBE COLLECTS DUTY.

This year's bill toll of many purchases from Mr. Strubbe. One of them was 7000 barrels of cement, made at Hull under the eyes of the Department, yet purchased from the Montreal favorite, though the Department was buying other cement direct from the same concern. Mr. Strubbe got the profits he bargained for but was not quite satisfied. While the contract was running Mr. Fielding added ten cents to the cement duty and though the manufacturers did not raise the price to Mr. Strubbe on his 6000 barrels already bargained for, the Department kindly added the 10 cents per barrel to Mr. Strubbe's cheque, whereby he increased his profits \$600 on the 5,000 barrels remaining to be supplied. It should be said, that the cement was sent direct from the manufacturers to the Government works.

THE ROSS RIFLE.

The Ross rifle has been a frequent subject of discussion and question in the House. Dr. Worthington has been particularly insistent and persistently gathering by question and motions for returns such information as he could get about the contract for this weapon. He had not yet secured all that is required, but it is shown that the department began to pay for the rifles some years before the first consignment was delivered, and in fact before the factory was built. Payment in advance on progress estimates has gone on ever since. In this way the contractor has been able to do business without much capital. As to the defects of the rifle itself Dr. Worthington has collected from official reports, Departmental statements and other authentic sources a mass of evidence part of which he presented to the House this week in an able and comprehensive review. The minister of militia defends the rifle, as a weapon, and in this he is supported by Colonel Sam Hughes and Colonel Worthington has on the order paper further questions concerning accidents caused by the use of this rifle. Though the government claims that it is a military necessity or at least a military advantage to have the service rifle manufactured in Canada it is admitted that many of the essential parts of the Ross rifle are manufactured in the United States.

A CONTRACTOR IN LONDON.

A return brought down this week shows that on Ottawa a firm was sole tenderers for the Port Daniel Wharf, Bonaventure, and though this offer was more than fifty five per cent above the Engineer's estimate, the contract was awarded without further enquiry. This road also leads to the London election case, for it was the junior member of the firm who went to London during the campaigning days of four comrades and distributing among them a handsome sum of money.

In The Legislature.

The following are among the notices and questions asked and on the order book:

Mr. Matheson, asked the leader of the Government to lay on the table of this House the correspondence or a copy thereof between the Government of this Province or any person acting on its behalf and the Federal Government since the 31st day of December, A. D. 1906 and the present date respecting the claim of this Province to a share of the Fishery Fund.

Hon. Mr. Peters said that same would be done as soon as possible. Mr. Frowe asked the Hon. the Leader of the Government. 1. What the Government has done during the past year to collect from the Dominion Government the \$4,000.00 (paid under protest) on account of expenses on Hay ex. S. S. "Minto" and "Stanley." (2) How soon may we expect that amount to be paid. 2. What has the Government done towards collecting from the Intercolonial Railway the cost of the three cars they reported short delivered? 3. To lay on the table of this House all correspondence with the Dominion Government respecting the above mentioned claim. 4. Also to lay on the table of this House all papers and vouchers showing how the sum of \$174,644 which appears from the public accounts to have been paid to agents during the last nine months, as per Hay account in Public Accounts Report, page XIV is made up. The names of the parties to whom paid and the amount paid to each. 5. Are there any further outstanding claims on account of said Hay? If so, give names of claimants and amount of each claim respectively. Hon. Mr. Peters, in reply said (1) The matters being dealt with by the Government; (2) he was sorry that the amount had not been collected; (3) correspondence would be laid on table; (4) would be done immediately; and (5) he had no recollection of any.

Mr. McKinnon asked the Honorable Leader of the Government to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the amount of revenue received from the 1st day of October to the 31st day of December, 1906 from each of the revenue producing sources. Premier Peters said the information would be given. Mr. Matheson gave notice, that he will tomorrow move the following resolutions (seconded by Mr. McKinnon) Resolved that the Committee be appointed by this House to prepare for presentation to the Government of Canada a complete and accurate statement of all the claims of this Province for larger sums than would fall to the Province under the Resolution of the Conference held at Quebec in 1902 and in particular (but without in anywise limiting such claim in number or amount) 1. The claim of this Province to receive from Canada an increase of subsidy to meet the increased expenditure of this Province since Confederation for education, public works, agriculture, railways and the other urgent demands which modern conditions impose on this Province may receive on this ground the same advantages as are agreed to be given to the other Provinces of Canada on the propo-

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A Disabled Steamship. Halifax, March 11.—The disabled steamer reported on Sunday last by the steamer Marguerite as having been passed on the 5th in tow of an oil tank steamer heading for Halifax reached here on Saturday afternoon without assistance having broken away from the oil tank in a storm. The disabled vessel is the Norwegian steamer Raa, bound from Rotterdam to Delaware Breakwater in ballast. She travelled 700 miles with one blade of a propeller.

DIED. In Boston, Austin Campbell, son of Alexander Campbell, Clermont, P. E. Islands, B. I. F. At Head St. Peter's Bay, March 5th, 1907, Hening Davison, widow of the late Hugh McLean, aged 84 years. At Johnston River on March 10, 1907, Francis McCarthy, son of Justin McCarthy, aged 28 years. R. I. F. At Fox River on the 19th, st. Mary Ann beloved wife of Neil McCormack aged 48 years. R. I. F. You cannot possibly have a better Cocoa than EPPS'S. A delicious drink and a sustaining food. Fragrant, nutritious and economical. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's attacks cold. COCOA Sold by Grocers and Storekeepers in all parts of the Empire.