

The Charlottetown Herald.

NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1904

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Sept. 23, 1903—6m

MONCTON CLOTHING

Record of the Liberal Provincial Government.

As the Provincial Government have called on two by-elections for the 16th day of March inst; it is proper that the electorate should be fully informed concerning the Government's record, during the thirteen years they have been in office, so that the people may see at a glance how the administration has fared all pre-election promises and absolutely forfeited public confidence. That the Government should have the temerity to ask the electors of any constituency in the Province for support in the light of their incapability, extravagant and corrupt administration of public affairs cannot be characterized by any other term than the most brazen political effrontery. Before entering into details of the Government's mal-administration of our Provincial finances, we will give a brief summary of their operations. All our readers remember the words of Mr. Frederik Peters when he became Leader of the Government in 1891. He declared that revenue and expenditure must meet and that the day of taxation was far off. Now let us see how he and the Grit Premiers who have succeeded him have lived up to these solemn declarations. The average annual expenditure of the Conservatives while in office was \$278,959 and when they went out of power at the end of twelve years, they left a debt against the Province of \$128,000. The average annual expenditure of the Grits for twelve years has been \$314,083, an annual excess of expenditure of \$35,125. The deficits during the twelve years of Grit rule amounted to \$491,117 an average annual deficit of \$41,000. The debt of the Province has been increased under Grit rule from \$128,000 to \$700,000, exclusive of the year 1903 for which we have no accounts yet. Probably last year's deficit has been equal to any of its predecessors, somewhere in the vicinity of \$40,000. During the twelve years of Conservative rule about \$82,000 of taxes were collected; but during twelve years of Grit Government, the taxes collected amount to \$487,828, or an average of \$54,203 for nine years. From these figures, taken from the Government blue books, our readers will see that the Grits in office in this Province have in twelve years spent \$35,000 a year more annually than their Conservative predecessors; they have collected an average of \$54,000 a year in taxes for nine years, and notwithstanding all this, they have added from \$575,000 to \$600,000 to the Provincial debt. And this is what the Patriot calls "superior business ability."

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three million seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand and two dollars and thirty cents, or an average annual expenditure for the twelve years of \$314,083.53. That is \$35,124 a year more than the Conservative annual expenditure during their term of office. The following table of deficits for the twelve years prior to 1903 show the masterly activity of the Government in contributing to the Provincial debt:

TABLE OF DEFICITS.

1891.....	\$ 30,439.20
1892.....	38,651.29
1893 (election year)....	119,924.33
1894.....	20,164.21
1895.....	32,662.30
1896.....	14,135.32
1897 (election year)....	33,201.65
1898.....	25,576.77
1899.....	36,915.03
1900 (election year)....	55,938.16
1901.....	26,187.67
1902.....	12,121.11
	\$491,117.04

This gives an average of almost \$41,000 a year for 12 years. But while our Grit friends were rolling up these deficits at the rate of \$41,000 a year and attaching them to the Provincial debt they were extracting from the pockets of the people, very large sums in the shape of taxes, as the following table will show:

Taxes collected in

1894.....	\$45,182.81
1895.....	47,661.00
1896.....	48,466.10
1897.....	46,674.50
1898.....	44,995.97
1899.....	55,688.68
1900.....	51,614.96
1901.....	64,922.49
1902.....	82,861.77
	\$497,828.28

This amount of \$497,828.28 collected from the people in taxes equals an average annual taxation of over \$54,000 for the nine years in which they collected taxes. Now, had our Liberal friends been conducting the business of the Province without taxation, as was done by the Conservatives, their average annual deficit would have been greater than \$41,000 by the amount of their average annual taxation. That is to say, it would have been \$95,000 a year, and this is the record of a Government that promised, on assuming power, to make revenue and expenditure meet and to keep far distant the day of taxation. But the chief organ of the Government characterizes the achievement of this ghastly record as "superior business ability."

THE PROVINCIAL DEBT.

When the Conservatives took over the reins of Government from their predecessors in 1897, the auditor of the Davies Government left on record the undeniable statement that there was a Provincial debt of \$51,740. When the Conservatives went out of power in 1891 the Provincial debt was according to the late Premier Farquharson, who will surely be accepted as good authority by the Grits, \$128,000. Deducting from this the debt of \$51,000, assumed from the Davies Government, the amount of Provincial debt chargeable to the Conservatives is about \$76,000. This is surely an excellent showing, when placed side by side with the Grit record. Summarizing the facts and figures the comparison of the two parties shows the following: The Conservatives during twelve years of office, collected \$32,000 in taxes and created a Provincial debt of \$76,000. The Liberals during twelve years of power took from the people in taxes of different kinds the sum of \$487,828.28. At the same time they ran the Provincial debt up to about \$700,000. Nor is this all; the Conservatives collected no taxes for nine years. At \$40,000 a year which is less than the Davies Government collected and less than is collected by the present government, this meant a saving to the people of \$360,000. Taking this into account it will be seen that the people, in consequence of the advent to power of our Liberal friends, are worse off by about one million dollars than they would be under the Conservatives. Do the electors of this Province think a Government that can play such terrible havoc with our Provincial finances as the Liberals have done, are worthy to be retained in power any longer?

ANOTHER COMPARISON.

When the Government and the Government organ find themselves cornered in their attempts to deceive the people about the Provincial debt, they have recourse to a somewhat involved statement of our finances, in hopes no doubt, of bewildering the electorate. For this purpose they trot out a venerable compilation of figures intended to assist the Government. In this attempt they are equally unfortunate; for when the battery is unmasked it is as damaging to the Government's position as any other attitude assumed by them. We append a true statement on the Government's new method of calculation and our readers will readily see that the Government shows up in a wretched light. To begin with, let it be remembered that the annual subsidy from Ottawa, assumed in the Government's calculation to be fixed, has not been so by any means. When the Conservative Government proceeded the present Grit Provincial Government, assumed office the annual subsidy from Ottawa was \$167,793; but when they went out of power the subsidy had increased to \$183,480.83. This was the amount of the annual subsidy when the Grits came to office in this Province in 1891; but for 1902, the last year for which we have the public accounts, the subsidy was \$211,931.88. It will thus be seen that the amount of the Dominion subsidy has undergone very considerable changes during twenty four years, and the only fair way is to take an annual average of the subsidy for twelve years of Conservative and Liberal rule respectively. That would give us about \$171,000 under the Conservatives and 184,250 under the Liberals. That makes a difference of \$13,250 a year received by the Liberals in excess of what the Conservatives received from that source. Keeping this in mind the following comparison will surely be considered reasonable and fair by all unbiased electors. For the purpose of this argument it is not necessary to calculate the cents. During twelve years of office the Conservatives collected and expended the following amounts:

Under the Davies Assessment Act	\$82,163
For sale of piers	77,462
Other Refunds	32,105
Land Office Receipts	528,900
Debt when leaving office	128,429
Draft from Capital	200,000
	\$1,049,059
From this must be deducted the liabilities assumed by the Conservatives from the Davies Government.	\$51,740
Interest on that amt. for 12 years.	24,838
Spent on Asylum and other buildings	69,941
	\$146,516
Deducting this from the above we have left the sum of \$902,573, and dividing this by 12 the number of years which the Conservatives held office, we get an average per year of \$75,214. This is the most that can be made of this after including the \$200,000, and everything that would possibly enter into the calculation.	
Let us now see what our Grit friends did during their 12 years of office:	
They received from taxes	\$492,861
Land Office Receipts	270,084
Refunds	15,343
Excess of \$13,250 of Dominion Subsidy for 12 years	159,000
Debt at least	650,500
Total for twelve years	\$1,587,738
From this amount we will deduct the following:	
Debt assumed from Conservatives	\$128,429
Interest on same for 12 years	61,645
Prince of Wales College	30,000
New Wing to Asylum	33,000
Permanent Bridges	15,441
	\$268,515
Deducting this from the \$1,587,738 about set down, we have left	\$1,319,273
If we divide this amount by 12 years the number of years of Grit rule for which we have the public accounts, we shall find the Grit annual average to be almost	\$109,940

This shows an expenditure of \$109,940

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