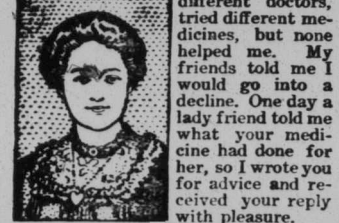


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EXPENDITURE OF HAZEN GOV'T.

Incredible as it may seem, the Hazen government has spent almost a million dollars in the four months which have elapsed since the close of the last fiscal year. In that fiscal year it will be remembered the ministry spent about \$1,370,000, a record breaking sum for this province. Apparently, however, 1911 is to see an even larger sum spent by the ministers than the record amount 1910. This is indicated by the statement with which this letter began, a statement by the way which is based not on any figures of opponents of the administration, but on the figures of the Provincial Secretary himself.

At each session of the Legislature the government must submit a statement showing the receipts and expenditures between the close of the fiscal year and the time at which the Legislature is sitting. This statement for the present session was brought down by Mr. Flemming last week. It shows that the expenditure on ordinary account between Oct. 21, 1910, and February 28, 1911, was \$462,500 in round numbers. The similar expenditure on capital account was \$501,600 or a total under both heads, of \$964,100. The expenditure figures are surely such as to cause considerable alarm to the people of the province when they realize that nearly a million dollars has been spent in the first four months of the present fiscal year. The expenditure record of 1910 was not such as to cause the people to feel confidence in the professions of economy and wisdom, made by the ministers. Nor is the four month's record given above calculated to create that confidence. Rather, indeed, will it cause that feeling of alarm, to which reference has just been made.

The report of the Auditor General for 1910 tells of many features of the government administration which will not commend themselves to people having the true interests of the province at heart. The report shows, for instance, that in many instances there have been noteworthy cases of increased expenditure. It shows, too, that last year, as in 1909, thousands of dollars were spent by the government merely for the inspection of bridge and wharf work. It shows also, that the government is still following its plan of having many friends of the administration employed at the public expense. Indeed it shows that relatives of members supporting the government are well looked after. The lawyers friendly to the administration are also found to have received large sums from the provincial treasury, in many cases for work which Mr. Hazen, when in opposition, declared should be done by the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. Another thing that the report shows is that large payments were made in 1910 on account of that absurd investigation, the Central Railway inquiry. Indeed all the payments had not been made when the fiscal year closed. For Mr. Flemming's statement, referred to above, showed that nearly \$500 had been spent on account of this investigation since October 31st last.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing in connection with this report is that it shows that over \$105,000 was spent last year by the government without any legislative authority whatsoever. This enormous sum was expended under authority of the "Ministers of the Treasury Board Authorising Payment in excess of Appropriations," and special warrants and orders in council authorising similar payments. Not was 1910 the first year in which the Hazen government followed the remarkable plan of spending large amounts without authorisation from the members elected to Assembly by the people. In 1909 a very large sum of money was similarly expended. It must be admitted, however, that the figures for 1909 were not so large as those for 1910. At the same time it is

not quite certain that there is much comfort to be found in this fact. Apparently each year of its life sees the Hazen cabinet more reckless in its handling of the public monies.

One of the vaunted pieces of Hazen legislation is the Audit Act. When this act was under discussion in the House at the session at which it was passed, Premier Hazen and his colleagues were emphatic in declaring that under it there could be no expenditures by the ministers unless the outlays had first been authorised by the members of the House in regular session.

At that time opposition members took contrary ground and said that the proposed act would be nothing but a farce, and through its provisions it would be possible to drive a coach and four. The record of 1909 and the more startling record of 1910, have shown how well founded were the opposition's contentions.

The government's own reports for these two years show that the ministers do as they please with the finances of the province without let or hindrance from the Audit Act which they drove through the House in face of opposition contentions.

No doubt the people will remember the vehement manner in which Mr. Hazen and his associates when in opposition, were wont to declare that the province was annually being robbed of thousands of dollars through the mismanagement of the former administration in the affairs of the Central Railway. Honest, proper management was the well known cry, would easily wipe out the loss on the Central and, more than that, might result in an operation profitable to the people. For three years Mr. Hazen and his friends have had the control of the Central Railway. What do some figures taken from official reports and read in the House the other day say of Central management now?

In 1906, under the former administration, the railroad showed a surplus of \$2,224. In 1907 it showed a deficit of \$150. Then came the change of government. In the first year of the new administration, 1908, the road showed a deficit, not merely \$150 but of \$2,066. What did 1909 show? Did it show a deficit of \$150? Did it show a deficit of \$2,066? The fact is that it showed a loss on the year's operation of the Central of more than \$6,000. Surely this was a strange record for a government that claimed that their predecessors' failure to make the road earn many thousands had been due to incompetency and dishonesty. But \$6,000 is considerably less than \$17,000. In 1909 the deficit on the Central was \$6,000; in 1910 the deficit was upwards of \$17,000, the figures being \$16,466. To lose \$6,600 in one department of the public works in a single year was surely bad enough. How much worse was it to increase the loss in a single year by about \$10,000?

To review the affair: In 1907, under the former administration, \$150 was lost by the people on the Central Railway. In 1910, under Mr. Hazen's rule, the loss was \$16,426. In three years, 1908, 1909, 1910, under the government which claimed that the people were being robbed by a ministry which showed a deficit of \$150 in operating the Central, a total deficit of over \$25,000 on the road was piled up. Comment is unnecessary.

The present ministers are great friends of the farmers. From the premier down through the ranks of the government to the government supporters, the same song is sung: The Hazen administration is the greatest friend the farmers of New Brunswick have ever had. But, apparently, the lawyers of the province share with the farmers, the affections of the ministry. Again and again in the Auditor-General's report of 1910 is there the account of some lawyer or some firm of lawyers friendly to the government.

Many bills are for work done in connection with the criminal prosecutions and other matters in the administration of justice. A few years ago, when in opposition, Mr. Hazen and his friends cried out that the Attorney General and the Solicitor General should attend to all legal work of the crown. But Mr. Hazen took office and the tune changed. Instead of the and the Solicitor General. These facts shed further light on the



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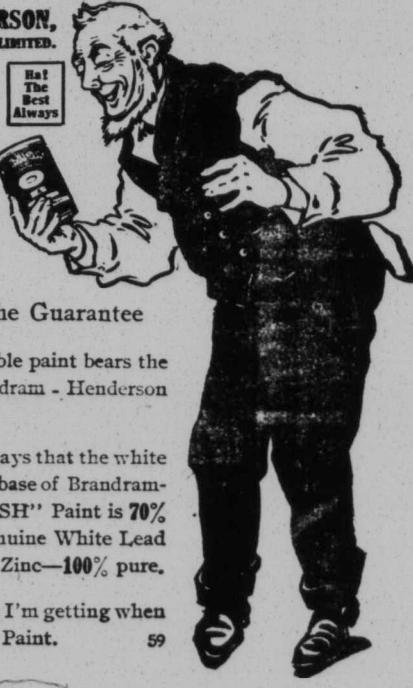
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Premier and Hon. Mr. McLeod handling all the criminal prosecutions and the other legal business of the province, lawyers who are friendly to the administration, have been called in to handle much work and to receive varying sums from the provincial treasury. In 1909 Messrs. W. A. Mott, Fowler and Jonah, T. J. Carter, J. B. M. Baxter, R. B. Hanson, J. C. Hartly, Powell, Bennett and Triles, C. L. Hanington and others were paid considerable amounts from the treasury. The report of 1910 continues the story in much the same way. The faithful conservative lawyers are not forgotten by the faithful conservative premier whose pro-election ideas on economy were swept away when he found the keys of the provincial treasury in his hands.

Last year, as in 1909, the people not only paid the salary, travelling expenses, contingences, indemnity and mileage of the ministers, but they also paid hundreds of dollars for work which a few years ago Mr. Hazen and his friends declared should be done entirely by the Attorney-General way in which the government not only breaks its pledges but scatters the revenue of the province, which Heaven knows is small enough to necessitate the utmost prudence and care in its management.

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