

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th, 1901.

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This forenoon the Government tabled in the Legislature the public accounts for the year 1900. As we anticipated they show that our Provincial finances are in a very deplorable condition.

Total expenditure... \$355,994.23 Total receipts (including debentures sold) 289,060.07

Deficit... \$ 73,938.15 Add to this the amount of \$22,000 received from the sale of debentures and charged against the Province and we have \$95,938.16 as the amount, according to their own showing, which the Government increased the debt of the Province during last year. This is how they made revenue and expenditure meet.

Sessional Notes.

Very little business was done in the Legislature last week. The House met for an hour or two on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and adjourned till Tuesday of this week, the 9th inst. Even during these short sittings a considerable portion of time was employed by the members in twirling their thumbs and looking at one another.

On Monday, the 1st, Mr. Wheat presented petitions from Jas. Warburton, Mayor, John F. Wheat and others, Councillors of the City of Charlottetown, praying that an Act be passed to amend "The Charlottetown Sewerage Act," and also that an act to amend the Charlottetown Waterworks Act, 1887. The petitions were received, read and referred to a special committee, and bills founded on them were introduced and read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Gordon asked the Commissioner of Public Works if a contract has been entered into for the construction of a wharf at Grand River, at or near Campbell's Shore, Dundas; and if so, the name or names of the contractors, the amount tendered for, and the time when to be completed.

On motion of the Attorney-General the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider an Act to amend an Act passed in the 63rd year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, intitled "An Act to impose certain taxes on certain Companies and Associations and Brewers." The bill was reported with amendments.

Some progress was made in committee of the whole on a bill introduced by the Attorney-General relating to the payment of debts out of the estates of deceased persons in the Court of Chancery. The bill is intended to remedy an injustice that appears to be liable to arise under the law on this matter as it now exists.

After routine procedure on Tuesday, Mr. Peters moved the House into committee for further consideration of the bill above referred to. Mr. Mathieson strongly urged that the bill was calculated to work a hardship and an injustice as it now stood, and in his opinion the bill should be so remedied as to have the same effect as the law has in England.

On Wednesday Mr. James B. McDonald presented a petition from Patrick Doyle, Patrick M. Brothers, Daniel A. McEachern and others, of Vernon River, praying for an Act to incorporate Hall Company, of Branch 228, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. The petition was received and read and a bill founded thereon was read a first time and referred to the private bills committee.

The Government during the year 1900 for fines imposed and fines collected for violation of the Canada Temperance Act, the names of the parties fined and the amounts of fines from each person respectively. Hon. Mr. Rogers said the returns of the Stipendiary Magistrates are being prepared and copies will be laid on the table giving information desired.

During the afternoon the House was in committee further considering the bill relating to the payment of debts out of real estate and the administration of estates of deceased persons in the Court of Chancery.

On Thursday several bills were advanced a stage, then Hon. Mr. Rogers rose for the purpose of moving a resolution providing for the introduction of a bill relating to agriculture. He pointed out that the farmers of this Province without assistance from the Government, have been making wonderful improvement in agriculture, stock raising and horticulture.

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A market for the surplus products is the main thing, however. He said he did not anticipate much good from the bill, but assured the House the Opposition would afford all reasonable support. Premier Farquharson believed the measure was a step in the right direction.

Hon. Mr. Gordon brought to the notice of the House the death of the late James Clow, who had held such a high and honorable position in the Provincial Legislature. While a strong party man, Mr. Clow he felt sure enjoyed respect and esteem of members of both political parties.

A communication from his Honor the Lieutenant Governor, asking that the House adjourn for the Easter holidays till Tuesday the 9th inst. The House adjourned accordingly.

ACTS AMENDING THE CHARLOTTETOWN SEWERAGE ACT AND WATERWORKS ACT, 1887.

The following bills were introduced in the Legislature and passed one or two stages last week.

AN ACT TO AMEND "THE CHARLOTTETOWN SEWERAGE ACT."

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows:—

1. For the purpose of removing any doubt that may exist as to the election of the Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply now in office and as to the retirement of the former Commissioners it is hereby declared that the said election was in all respects according to law and the same is hereby confirmed.

2. From and after the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and one all the revenues arising from and out of the supplying of water or from real and personal property connected with the Water Works shall after providing for the expenses attendant upon the maintenance and operation of the Sewerage Works be paid over and deposited quarterly with the Clerk of the City of Charlottetown and shall be applied by the City Council in providing for the interest accruing on the Debentures issued under the "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" and any Act in amendment thereof and the balance shall be deposited to the credit of a Water and Sewerage Fund account.

3. That from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be necessary for the City Council in levying taxes to distinguish what portions or parts of such taxes are levied for water rates pursuant to the "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" but the City Council shall and they are hereby authorized and required in addition to the amount required for ordinary City purposes to be assessed, levied and collected on real and personal property and by Poll tax in the said City in the same manner at the same time and by and under all laws, provisions and ordinances as shall be in force regarding ordinary City rates and assessments a special Water and Sewerage Tax for the purpose set forth in the said "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" and "The Charlottetown Sewerage Act," the monies so levied and collected to be kept separate from all other City monies and to form a Water and Sewerage Fund out of which the City Council shall pay such sum annually as may be necessary for providing the sinking fund required by the provisions of the "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" and shall also pay therefrom the interest accruing on Debentures for Sewerage Works and shall also pay all such further amounts as may be required under either the "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" or "The Charlottetown Sewerage Act."

4. In levying such special Water and Sewerage Tax due regard shall be had to the assessment and to the advantage which any particular property shall or may derive from the said Water or Sewerage Works and the rate shall be ascertained accordingly and it shall be no such advantage then no right shall be payable.

5. The valuation and assessment of said Real Estate, personal property and Polls as made by the Assessors of the said City for the current year 1901 and for the years ending Thirty-first of December A. D. 1902 and 31st of December A. D. 1903 as hereafter to be altered or confirmed on appeal is hereby confirmed and declared to be a good and valid and binding valuation and assessment in every respect not only for the purpose of levying the ordinary City taxes but also for the purpose of levying the special Water and Sewerage tax provided for by this Act.

Whereas the Pumping Station in connection with the Charlottetown Water Works and the engines and machinery therein contained were injured by fire in the month of May last 1900 and in order to pay for the repairing and rebuilding of same it became necessary for the City of Charlottetown to issue debentures to the amount of \$3,500 which amount it is desired to add to the debentures already issued under the "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" and amendments thereof for construction purposes.

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows:—

1. The issue of debentures by the Corporation of the City of Charlottetown on the twentieth day of August last to the amount of three thousand five hundred dollars numbered from 120 to one hundred and twenty-six inclusive the proceeds of which were given to the Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply to defray the necessary cost of repairing and rebuilding the Pumping Station engines and machinery therein contained in connection with the Charlottetown Water Works and which said Pumping Station engines and machinery were damaged by fire; and the repairing and rebuilding of same being urgently required and they are hereby made an issue of Water Debentures under section thirty-one of the "Charlottetown Water Works Act 1887" as amended by the statute 53rd Victoria chapter eleven and the holders of said debentures shall have and possess all the rights and preferential privileges given by the said Water Works Act to the debentures issued thereunder, and in calculating the amount of debentures till to be issued under said section as amended the said sum of three thousand five hundred dollars shall be added to the amount already issued.

2. The said debenture issue of Three thousand five hundred dollars by the said City as aforesaid shall not be considered an issue of City Debentures under the ordinary borrowing power of the Corporation nor be taken into account in estimating the limit of such borrowing power under section one hundred and thirty-two of "The City of Charlottetown Incorporation Act."

Dominion Parliament.

OTTAWA, April 6th. The House rose for Easter recess on Wednesday, and certainly more than half the Session is gone but nothing has been done. This Session will rank first among do-nothing sessions.

ALLEN LABORER.

The Allen Laborer Act of 1897 has been on the whole a dead letter and the amending Act which was in committee on Tuesday shows why the Act has been a dead letter. This Government did not pass it in force. It is perfectly clear that the amendment will not much improve the Act, because in most parts of the Dominion only the Superior Courts have jurisdiction over matters involving a thousand dollars, and private individuals will be afraid to incur heavy costs. The Government was urged to make it clear that a prosecutor could take an inferior court, but they would not do this, preferring to leave it doubtful and thus play into the hands of those they have entered to for the last three years.

SUMMONS RESOLUTION.

On the 7th of last month when a bill respecting the clause in the contract with the C. P. R. providing for twenty years exemption from taxation was before the House, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Sifton declared in the strongest terms that it was their policy to get the opinion of the courts on the question. But the Nova-Scotians who were running their election had positively stated that the exemption should cease on the 15th of February last, that being twenty years from the date of the contract. Still when a bill was before the House affirming something like this they voted against it. In order to let them out they put up P. O. Davis, member for Saskatchewan, to move a resolution that the Government should take steps to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court as to the interpretation of the clause. The utter absurdity of this may be gathered from this, that there is already a statute providing that in any case of the kind the Government should begin with the opinion of the Supreme Court, and that the Premier and Mr. Sifton had stated the policy of the Government a month ago. However, the force was not on Tuesday, and the resolution passed. This resolution was an amendment to the motion of the Finance Minister to go into Committee of Supply. The Finance Minister's motion by the speaker was such that the Government hasten by a motion they put up one of their friends to move and all to play out a piece of bancombe degrading to Parliament, most discreditable to the Government and insulting to the intelligence of the people.

A BRASSERIANLIKE SUGGESTION.

The same subject of the C. P. R. exemption was before the House after dinner of the same day when Mr. McLean brought forward his motion to provide that the twenty years exemption should begin when the money subsidy was paid, which roughly speaking would have been in '88. This motion was on the notice paper ahead of Davis' but the Government got the acting speaker of the House to improperly give Davis precedence. Mr. McLean of course only brought forward his motion for the purpose of discussion, because it would be about as well as such a motion after the House had decided that the Government must get the opinion of the Courts. Mr. Borden, the leader of the opposition made a suggestion which was the only statesmanlike thing about the whole proceeding that what the Government professed to wish to do could be done at once and thus relieve the farmers of the North-West as they professed to wish to relieve them. All the Government had to do was to bring in a Bill and pass it in that Parliament, declaring that the exemption from taxation should cease on a certain day and by the same act provide for continuation to the C. P. R., in case it should turn out that the Courts decided on a later period. The Government would not adopt the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition, which was the only fruitful utterance in the whole discussion.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MEN.

"Yes, Mr. Speaker, those agricultural implement makers were friendly to the Government and they have been rewarded for their friendship." These words of Mr. Brock in the Budget debate should be pondered by every farmer.

STRIKE AT VALLSTFIELD.

On a motion of Mr. Monk—the strike at Vallstfield and its incidents camp up for discussion. The statements of Mr. Monk and his assurance that he would produce affidavits, could leave no doubt that Mr. King, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Labour, had been guilty of offensive partisanship, and that the strike which occurred had been motivated by Mr. Tardif and his friends. Mr. Tardif standing up and diverting attention from the real point furnished a good example of political acting.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

LARGEST STEAMER EVER BUILT LAUNCHED.

The new White Star liner Celtic, the largest ever built, was successfully launched at Belfast, Ireland, last Thursday morning in the presence of a large and representative gathering. The christening was performed by the Marchioness of Dufferin. Amongst the prominent persons who were present during the ceremony were the Countess Odogon, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry, and the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury. The arrangements for the launching were similar to those of the Oceanic and the new vessel glided from the ways and was pulled up within her own length by dropping three pairs of anchors. The launching occurred amidst enthusiastic cheers of the people and the blowing of sirens and f g horns. The Celtic has nine decks and capacity for 2,859 passengers. She will carry a crew of 335 men. Her tonnage is 3,600 greater than that of the Oceanic and nearly double that of Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse and her displacement is 12,500 greater than that of the latter, while her displacement and tonnage are 19,300 over that of the Great Eastern.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Japan is taking measures with a view to hostilities with Russia," says the Peking correspondent of the London Daily Express. "She has entered into an arrangement with Liu Kun Yis, viceroy of Nankin, who is acting on behalf of the other friendly viceroys and governors, regarding the course they will pursue in the way of aiding Japan against Russia. It is understood that they have promised to place the telegraphic communications and transport facilities at the service of Japan."

A Yokohama correspondent of the Mail says in a despatch dealing with Japanese attitude toward Russia: "Shipping companies have been ordered to hold their vessels in readiness for the transport service; cruisers of the reserve list have been commissioned for active service, all leave has been recalled, and officers of the first reserve have been warned for service. There is much popular excitement."

HONORED BY KITCHENER.

Lord Kitchener has personally presented the Red Cross medal to Madame Ferris, head of the French Ambulance detachment for her services to the British wounded.

TERRIBLE TALE OF THE SEA.

The Singapore correspondent of the London Daily Express, writes a ghastly story of capitalism at sea brought to Singapore by two survivors of the Nova Scotia barque Angler wrecked six days sail from Manila October 23 last. The correspondent says: "The survivors—Johnson, a Swede, and Marticomar, a Spaniard—assert that the Angler struck a reef. Two rafts were built, the smaller, bearing five men, disappeared. The latter, with twelve, waited for forty days. The sailors ate barnacles, seaweed, and finally their boots. On the twenty-fifth day we became insane and killed themselves. On the twenty-sixth a Frenchman killed the mate with an axe, drank his blood and tried to eat his brains but was prevented by others."

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Next day the Frenchman was killed

will attempting to murder the captain. The survivors, all of whom were insane, ate the Frenchman's body. Cannibalism continued until only Johnson and Marticomar remained. On the forty-second day the raft stranded on Subi or Flat Island in the Nutuna group (north west of Borneo). Johnson and Marticomar were awfully amaciated. Friendly Malays sent them by junk to Singapore."

FUNSTON'S REWARD.

President McKinley has signed the commissions of Lloyd Wheaton as major general and of J. H. Smith and Frederick Funston as brigadier-generals of the United States army, the commissions of Wheaton and Smith bearing date of march 30 and that of Funston of April 1.

In China!

A Peking despatch dated April 3rd says: "The Chinese government has formally notified Russia that China, owing to the attitude of the powers, is not able to sign the Manchurian convention."

"It is China's desire," says the formal notification, "to keep on friendly terms with all nations. At present she is going through a period which is the most perilous in the empire's history, and it is necessary that she should have the friendship of all. However much she might be willing to grant any special privilege to one power, when others object it is impossible, that for the sake of making one nation friendly, she should alienate the sympathies of all others."

Li Hung Chang says this letter settles the matter definitely, and that Russia was informally notified to the same effect March 29.

Prince Ching asserts that every Chinaman except Li Hun Chang was against signing the convention.

The war office at Berlin has received a despatch from Count Von Waldersee formally reporting the defeat March 31 of a thousand Chinese robbers by a company of Germans seven miles north of Tien Tsin. He adds that the robbers are being pursued, and also that a detachment of infantry, at the request of the Chinese local authorities, have been sent from Tien Tsin at Hung Swan and Lie Ting Kan to protect the inhabitants from robbery.

A despatch to the Cologne Gazette from St. Petersburg says hard fighting is reported to have occurred between the first, second and third regiments of Siberian rifles and several thousand Chinese troops, between Kobansky and Sin-Min-Ting. The Russians lost a captain and several men killed, and a Lieutenant colonel, several other officers and many men were wounded. The Chinese lost heavily and retreated, with the Russians pursuing them. The date of the engagement is not mentioned in the despatch received.

A Peking despatch of the 7th says: "Mr. Rockhill, United States special commissioner in Peking, had a long interview yesterday with Li Hung, who satisfied him there is not likely to be any further important hitch in the negotiations for settlement between China and the powers. Li Hung Chang says the court is extremely anxious to return to Peking as soon as the foreign troops evacuate the capital. Some of the ministers of the power begin to think that so large a force as 3,000 troops acting as legion guards in the city proper would be a great mistake. Such a body would have to remain in a space of one square mile. Moreover several ministers have been insulted by troops of other nationalities. Mr. Rockhill and Sir Ernest Mason Satow, British minister, were returning from dinner in Sedan chairs when the chairs were stopped by German soldiers who proceeded to beat the bearers. The ladies of the party were greatly frightened."

A. L. Fraser, B. A.

Attorney-at-Law. SOURIS, P. E. ISLAND. MONEY TO LOAN.

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