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Those of our friends who have not yet remitted their Herald subscriptions for 1909 should lose no time in sending them along. Only two weeks of the year remain, and if they delay 1910 will be upon them before this obligation is discharged. Please do not delay.

We wish all our friends
"A MERRY CHRISTMAS."

Hon. William Campbell.

As briefly stated in our last issue, Hon. William Campbell died at his residence Sea View, on Wednesday last after a week's illness of pneumonia. Deceased was born on January 12th, 1836, so that he had almost completed his 74th year. He is survived by a widow, five sons and one daughter. Mr. Campbell was a farmer and miller, and in both these capacities did in his time extensive business. He was a man widely known and highly respected. He was first elected to the House of Assembly from the New London district as a Liberal, in 1873. Subsequently he joined the Conservatives and in 1880 became a member of the Executive and Commissioner of Public Works, in the Sullivan Government. This position he held for about ten years. He continued in public life till a few years ago, and was at one time or another a member of the House of Assembly or the Legislative Council; and after the amalgamation, a member of the Legislative Assembly. For the past few years he lived in comparative retirement. Mr. Campbell was a fearless advocate of the principles he professed, and a hard fighter in the political sense. He was a generous open hearted man, and had a great many friends. He was liked by his political opponents as well as by members of his own party. News of his death will bring a pang of sorrow to the hearts of his large circle of acquaintance who will condole with members of his family in their bereavement.

The Spurred Bribe

The offer of a senatorship by the Liberals, to Mr. John McLean of Souris, Conservative member of the Legislature, and the spurning of the proffered bribe by that gentleman, has been a lively topic for the past week or so. Quite naturally the matter soon found its way into the news papers. Its first appearance in print was in an editorial in the Guardian on Thursday morning last. All at once there was a flurry of excitement in the Liberal ranks and their organ started in to make denials and has kept at it ever since. Liberal members of Parliament and of the Legislature, one after another, have been publishing denials of their knowledge of the arrangement. This is the most natural thing in the world. The plot having failed; the offer having been refused; it is easy to imagine how anxious these prominent Liberals are to create the impression that they were not parties to it. Had the little game succeeded we would have quite another story. One denial, however, has not thus appeared in the Patriot. That is the denial of the Liberal who made Mr. McLean the offer, back as he stated, the Liberals of the Province.

As a matter of fact, the failure of the plot seems to have given our Liberal friends cold feet. They are at their wits' ends in their anxiety to escape from the odious consequences of the exploded conspiracy. In his desperation to divert attention from the real issue involved the editor of the Patriot regales his readers with a description of a disgusting, disgraceful orgy as follows: "At this festive season, it is customary when friend meets friend at large hotels in the city, to indulge in the joys of Christmas—sometimes in more than joys. As the stars glimmer out in the light of the coming day, toasts are occasionally drunk, and speeches made, which, if they do not evince great wisdom, at least give striking evidence of boon companionship. On such occasions promises are made without fear or favor, and governorships and senatorships are juggled about with amazing dexterity. What more natural, as the flowing bowl is passed, than in the speeches, bubbling with beer and frothing with cheer, a man from the East or a man from the West, should be offered in all sincerity, mark you—a senatorship or a governorship. Being half seas over, any old ship will do, and the rolling gait of prospective senators and imaginary ministers of state prove—"above proof"—that they are tars of the first water, or, should we say, fire water." No doubt, the Editor of the Patriot can speak with authority on matters of this kind. But he should be a little more definite; he should not beat about the bush; he should take the public into his confidence and tell them who were his "boon" companions at this carousal, which he so graphically describes.

Canada's Finances.

Hon. Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister, delivered his budget speech in the House of Commons, Ottawa, on Tuesday last, the 14th, inst. Briefly summarized his financial statement shows the following: The income for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1910, will be about \$97,500,000; the expenditure on current or consolidated fund account, will be in the vicinity of \$81,000,000; and the expenditure on capital account will amount to \$35,500,000. These figures show a total expenditure of \$116,500,000. According to the manner in which the Government accounts are kept, the book-keeping surplus of revenue over current expenditure is \$16,500,000; but the true statement, subtracting the total revenue from the total expenditure leaves a deficit on the year's financial transactions of \$17,750,000. This increase of \$17,750,000 to the debt of Canada, added to the debt increase of \$46,000,000, in 1908 brings the net Federal debt, at the present time up to \$323,000,000. No better criticism of the budget speech can be given than the following summary of Mr. Foster's speech in reply, which we take from the St. John Standard:

Mr. Foster said that reduced to plain figures the trade of Canada in 1909 had increased \$67,000,000, revenue had increased \$11,000,000, and the expenditure \$21,000,000. The surplus of \$1,500,000 which had been counted on had dwindled to \$1,000,000 and had the bounties been charged to capital account there would have been a deficit of \$1,500,000. Whereas financial institutions and chancellors of the exchequer had prepared for the storm with economy Mr. Fielding had plunged forth with extravagance. He stated that his highest expenditures the Liberals of the Province, and \$46,000,000 had been

added to the public debt. With reasonable economy it could have been cut in two. Mr. Foster referred to the increased cost of loans which, he said, had gone beyond the average of the first fifteen years of Canada's financial administration. In the main estimates now before Parliament \$127,000,000 was asked for and many additions were to come.

Not to the finance minister was due the improved conditions re the financial position of the country but what had regenerated things was simply the work of the farmers, the greatly increased crops and the millions set in circulation in the marketing of those crops. This led Mr. Foster to recall that it was the Conservative party that built the C.P.R., opened up the northwest and paved the way for that prosperity of which the present administration was reaping the benefits. It was the strong arm and business methods of the farmers, the genius of commercial men, and the brawn of the artisan that was responsible for the optimistic conditions now prevailing.

Mr. Foster went on to twist the Government with turning back on its erstwhile professions of reciprocity and free trade. Markets were to have been opened, yet none had been though some had been closed as a result of the work of "this combination of all the talents." The French treaty was soon to come into operation, but the burden of the fat cattle had been dumped, and stockers would have a jolly time in getting into the French market under the conditions prescribed. The minister had omitted saying anything about the \$200,000 subsidy to the Franco-Canadian line.

Proceeding Mr. Foster said nothing was heard about the adverse balance of trade with the United States, which exceeded fifty or sixty millions. The total adverse balances of \$104,000,000 showed something radically wrong in fiscal administration. Even Mr. Paterson, he thought, would admit that the day of free trade had passed far ever. The Government talked of tariff for revenue and yet whereas the average duty from 79 to 96 was 28.35 per cent, from '96 to '09 it was actually 28.72 per cent. Mr. Foster agreed with Mr. Fielding in respect to President Taft's message. He characterized it as reasonable and statesmanlike, but the tariff of the United States already penalized Canada in regard to the export of paper and pulp.

Discussing relations with Great Britain, Mr. Foster said that less than six years ago were the ideas of Mr. Chamberlain promulgated, yet so rapid had been the change in public opinion that today South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Canada gave a preference to the mother country, while in the latter one of the historic parties was entering the great and crucial campaign with tariff reform for preferential treatment to the colonies as its watchword. Whichever party won in the impending elections, the time was coming very near when Great Britain would be able to give the Colonies a preference in return for what they had given it. The lesson of it all was that in these negotiations of the present day Canada should look to the future rather than tying its hands too closely. Not only Canada but the Empire had much to gain in the carrying out eventually of the policy of preference, meanwhile let there be no entangling alliances. It was more difficult to abrogate than enter into a commercial treaty.

Dealing with the financial flurry, Mr. Foster said the minister should have foreseen it and prepared for the storm by drawing in his extraordinary expenditures. The country had not been struck a fatal blow, perhaps, by this imprudence, but the financial condition had not been improved and whereas the general tendency is downward for interest on loans, Canada was paying the highest percentage it ever paid. In this connection the speaker quoted many illuminative figures as to brokerage and commissions than was paid on all borrowings between 79 and 94. In place of constantly increased expenditures it was business prudence to lay aside from the buoyant revenues something by way of diminishing the public debt. Mr. Foster referred to the maturing loans and the obligations resulting from heavy guarantees of railway bonds and said the latter was invariably secured and calculated upon by money lenders in estimating the extent of the country's credit.

Resuming after recess, Mr. Foster dealt with expenditures in which he said the government had gone bad on all its professions when in opposition. The increase from 97 up he characterized as startling. In 1897 the government had taken \$618,000,000 from the country in taxation. In the preceding 123 years the Conservatives had taken but \$340,000,000. The Conservatives in their regime had added to the debt \$118,000,000 but had added to the country as a live asset 7,500,000 acres of land worth on a modest valuation of \$60,000,000. What live asset had this government added to the country. It had been hasty to dispose of lands to its partisans at ridiculous figures. Discussing the increase of expenditures from \$43,000,000 in 96 to \$133,000,000 million last year, Mr. Foster characterized the augmentation as wholly inordinate. He contrasted this with the average Conservative expenditure of \$42,000,000 from 97 to 96. In 123 years, the government had spent \$927,000,000, which was within seventy millions of what was spent in the preceding 29 years. "Now," asked Mr. Foster, "just that going some?"

The crucial consideration he went on, was what was taken out of the people. For twenty years it had averaged \$65,000,000 per year, which was equivalent to \$11 or \$12 per head of population as compared with less than \$5.50 per head previous to 96. What was there to show for the \$927,000,000 expenditure? He could not escape the conviction that millions of it had practically been wasted. Thanks to the repressive system of the government, inquiry was restricted if not prevented. The lid had been lifted on one department and a shocking condition revealed, in the others the door was barred. Continuing Mr. Foster read a table of departmental outlays showing the decided tendency to increase. He referred particularly to public works.

In eight and three-quarter years, \$57,000,000 had been spent by this department alone. It was inordinate and without compensatory advantages. There was no systematic plan on which these immense amounts were spent; there was no publicity, it was between the members and the ministers. Once estimates were brought down change in 99 cases out of 100 was impossible. The other day there was an estimate of \$25,000 for a post office, with a revenue of \$700 and without the postmaster-general asking for it. Some one had simply buttonholed the minister and got the vote. Was it not an outrageous system, he asked. This was one of several pattern cases where money was spent with patronage as the primary consideration and which was responsible for the great increase in expenditures. There should be a board to pass on the needs of such buildings and public expenditures under the department. For shame's sake the Government should provide some business methods of constructing its works.

On the dredging money had been absolutely thrown away. He cited one case where \$45,000 was spent on a lake in New Brunswick for five feet of navigation for a friend of the Government. He challenged the Government to allow an independent commission of three business men to inquire into the sense of that expenditure.

Coming to the question of general administration Mr. Foster dealt with the Yukon. In 1901 there was a surplus of \$1,680,000 on operations in that territory. In eight years since this surplus had been got rid of and a deficit of \$2,236,367 accumulated. He referred to the Yukon railway bill thrown out by the Senate, but after the Government had entered into an injudicious contract which resulted in damages of \$232,000 being paid without return. Then there was the Drummond counties railway and, more recently, the Quebec bridge, seven millions spent and the bridge collapsed, while the holding company got compensated for its stock and 10 per cent. added, so there would be no hard feelings. Of the total eventual cost of fourteen millions—seven millions were lost.

Mr. Foster's detailed examination of the extravagance of the Government was very effective. In particular he dealt with the Public Works Department. "There is no plan upon which these expenditures were made," he said, "there is no setting down by competent authority or competent board, taking into account the amount of money it would be wise to spend, taking into account the needs of the services for which alone the money should be spent, taking into account the localities which are to be served and in the line of precedent."

No country in the world proceeds to its expenditures upon public works on the haphazard and secret plan on which this Dominion of Canada proceeds. It is a matter between the candidate or the person pressing for the expenditure and the minister who has charge of the expenditure.

In the United States where we think they have been pretty extravagant, no congressman can get an appropriation by simply going to a minister and buttonholing him. He has to submit his resolution that it is wise to have a public building built in a certain place; he has to substantiate that before a responsible committee and that committee has the oversight of the whole amount that is to be expended during any one year. The Minister of Public Works admits that he is asking appropriations for buildings to house departments of the public service which has not asked for them. The meaning of that plainly is that the Government is not creating public buildings for the use of the service but for patronage purposes. That is the system upon which this immense expenditure in the public works has grown up, until it is today \$12,000,000 under the administration of the present minister. Does not this House think that before a public building is erected the departmental head of the department which requires the use of it ought to express an opinion upon its necessity? Does not the House think there ought to be some board which would take all these matters into consideration and appropriate moneys for public buildings?

On the other hand you have a city like Lethbridge, which has a postal revenue, of \$20,000 and more, which has absolutely no decent place where people can get their mail matter, and yet there is no post office building there good or bad and there is no proposition to put one there. But, because the member representing Lethbridge happens to be on this side of the house he must go chasing around for ever looking for his just rights.

"Well, neither the member for Lethbridge should have to chase around looking for suitable accommodation for the postal service in his city, nor should the other man get a building in his village for patronage purposes, but when such buildings are necessary for the service the department should consult and decide the building was necessary and the kind of building suitable for the conditions of the public service."

Other instances given by Mr. Foster were an appropriation of \$27,700 for a piece of dredging designed to deepen from 5 to 8 feet a channel used by one gasoline launch and one steam vessel. There was the new market canal a euphemism for the Aylesworth ditch. There is the St. Andrew lock, near Winnipeg. Of that \$200,000 for a highway bridge for which no vote was ever taken. There was the Arctic, there was the Port Colborne arrangement. The Department of Public Works has spent \$204,000 and the Railway Department \$1,700,000 there. What was there to show at Port Colborne for the \$2,600,000? Now the Welland is to be deepened.

Mr. Foster turned to the Intercolonial. "From 1893 to 1896," said he, "under Liberal-Conservative rule the net deficit of that road was \$25,354, an average of \$6,488 per year. The capital expense in that period of four years was \$981,485, an average of \$245,371. This government comes in and takes hold of the Intercolonial. They have men of business capacity among them who know how to manage railways. They are a business government and what is their record? From 1897 to 1908, the net deficit of the Intercolonial was \$350,203, an average of \$80,040. In 1904 the deficit was \$900,751. From 1905 to 1909 the net deficit was \$2,230,000, an average of \$446,000 a year. In that time \$33,100,000 has been expended on capital account and an average of \$2,560,000 a year. The last year of its operation has shown a deficit of over \$800,000. This period of 1897 to 1909 we have described to us in panegyrics of praise by the Minister of Finance no later than this afternoon. I mark the highest level of conditions of development, trade and prosperity. Yet during that high water mark, this I.C.R. had been so mismanaged that it had eclipsed all its previous records for deficits and all previous records for capital expenditure and the deficit of the enormous amount I have mentioned." And Mr. Foster compared this dismal record with the work done by a Canadian with the Government of Victoria, Australia.

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" "	36	45.00	for 29.00
" "	36	53.00	for 35.00
" "	38	58.00	for 39.00
Bokaharan Lamb	35	60.00	for 39.00
" "	36	65.00	for 39.00
Russian Lamb	36	100.00	for 49.00
" "	36	80.00	for 49.00
" "	38	85.00	for 56.00
" "	36	95.00	for 59.00

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