

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20th, 1903. SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY JAMES McISAAC, Editor & Proprietor

Subscriptions for 1902 and previous years are now overdue; and subscriptions for 1903, are now payable. Our friends will please bear these facts in mind

Conservative and Liberal Records Compared.

From year to year, since the Liberals assumed control of the Provincial Government, we have pointed out their recklessness and extravagance in the conduct of our public affairs and have set before our readers incontrovertible proofs, drawn from the statements of their own officials, of their annually recurring deficits and the enormous accumulation of our Provincial debt. But since they have now been twelve full years in office, the same length of time that the Conservative Government immediately preceding them held power, we feel sure our readers will be interested in comparing the two records. For this purpose we will deal in this article with the questions of debt and taxation, and in future issues will refer to other phases of the respective records. When the Conservatives took over the reins of power from the Davies Government, they inherited, according to the sworn statement of the auditor of the Davies administration, a debt of \$51,740. The Conservative Government remained in office for twelve years, and when they went out of power in 1891 the public debt of the Province was, according to the statement of Hon. Donald Farguharson, when he was Premier of the Province, \$128,429. These statements of a Liberal Premier and a Liberal official will surely not be controverted by our opponents. These two statements of our opponents being accepted as true, all will admit that the portion of the Provincial debt properly chargeable to the Conservatives is the difference between the amount assumed from their predecessors in office and the total debt of the Province when they gave up the reins of Government. Therefore, subtracting the \$51,740 assumed from the Davies Government, from the \$128,429 against the Province when the Peters Government came into power in 1891, we find that the Provincial debt accumulated by the Conservatives during their twelve years of office, amounted to only \$76,689, or an average of \$6,390 a year. During these twelve years the Conservative Government collected taxes for three years only, altogether the sum of \$82,000. This, in brief, is the record of the Conservatives during the twelve years they controlled the Provincial Government. All must admit that it is a creditable record.

Let us now turn to the record of the Liberal Government inaugurated in 1891. When they came into power they found a debt of \$128,000, and they said this must be wiped out; revenue and expenditure must be made to meet. At the same time they proclaimed that the day of taxation was far off. They have now been twelve years in office, and let us see how they have kept their promises regarding the equalizing of revenue and expenditure and keeping the day of taxation "far off." For nine of the twelve years they have been in office they have collected taxes amounting in all to \$492,861, or an average of \$54,540 for the nine years. While they were gathering in all these taxes they were not making revenue and expenditure meet, but on the contrary were widening the breach between them by creating annual deficits, at the average rate of \$48,134 for their twelve years of office. So successful have our Liberal friends been in falsifying their promises that they have succeeded in rolling up the Provincial debt to the enormous proportions of \$654,299, according to the statements of their own officials. We may be very sure the debt is much more than this; but taking their own statements all will surely admit that it is had enough. We do not wish to charge our Grit friends with anything of which they are not guilty; for in all conscience their own sins are numerous and deadly enough. Therefore we will deduct from the figures of the Provincial debt presented by their own auditor the \$76,689 of debt chargeable to their Conservative

predecessors, and that will leave the debt created by the Liberal Government at \$577,610, or an annual average accumulation of debt of \$48,134. We know very well that there were accounts carried over and that the figures set down in this calculation do not fairly represent what the Provincial debt was on the 31st of December last. It is altogether likely the debt is very much nearer \$700,000 than \$654,299 if, indeed it does not exceed \$700,000.

With these facts and figures before us we may summarize the records of the two parties as follows:

The Conservatives during twelve years of office, collected \$82,000 in taxes and created a Provincial debt of \$76,689. The Liberals during twelve years of power took from the people in taxes of different kinds the sum of \$492,861. 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?

Ottawa Weekly Letter.

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT. The number of private bills before Parliament this session is larger than ever before. This week many were disposed of. The house adjourned on Monday as a mark of respect to the late David Mills.

The Treadgold concessions were discussed. Mr. Casgrain moved an amendment to the motion to go into supply, condemning the action of the government in giving away valuable franchises. It was shown that great injustice was imposed on the miners of the gold fields, and that fraud had been practiced in order to get the grant. The Government declined to investigate the grave scandals brought to its notice by Governor Congdon of the Yukon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in answer to many questions from the opposition benches, stated that there was no truth in Hon Raymond Prefontaine's statement, that part of the patronage of the Public Works Department would be handed over to the Marine and Fisheries Department.

A resolution was passed favoring an increase in bonuses for steel ship-building from two to three per cent.

A motion by Hon Wm. Paterson provides for many important changes in the customs laws. It was shown that under the so-called British preference goods made in Germany and other countries have been admitted in large quantities to Canada with a reduction of 33 1/2 per cent in duty. Hon William Paterson admitted that such conditions existed.

The appointment of Hon. Raymond Prefontaine to a cabinet position was ventilated. Hon. A. P. Brodeur, speaker of the Commons was appointed to succeed Hon. J. Israel Tarte but a plot was put on foot in favor of Mr. Prefontaine and Mr. Brodeur was thrown down by his leader.

LAURIER HAD TO PASS THE LIE.

An incident in connection with inquiry as to the division of the patronage of the Department of Public Works with the Department of Marine and Fisheries furnishes food for reflection for those who believe in honor in high places. The Government has been asked to state their position in this matter, but they have failed to give any information on the subject. Hon Raymond Prefontaine owes his election very largely to a statement made before the electors of Maisonneuve, to the effect that he was to have handed over to his care a very large share of the moneys voted for Public Works. In order to make the announcement stronger, he pretended to have the authority of the cabinet for it. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was forced to deny his new minister's statement, and he did it with bad grace. With his whole person trembling with rage he denounced the Conservative party for daring to question him. The wild passion displayed by the Premier has seldom been witnessed

in the commons. No doubt he felt his position keenly. It is not pleasant for a leader to have to give the lie to one of his principal supporters. But the point of the situation is to be found in the fact that ministers of the crown are no longer to be believed. That a minister of the crown should be branded as a liar by his chief, places the Laurier cabinet in a bad position. It is an outrage that such things can happen in this country.

THE UNFORTUNATE LABOR BU-REAU.

Sir William Mulock, by his failure to settle the big Montreal strike proved beyond question, that the allegations respecting the uselessness of the labor department are well founded. With all the prestige of his official position he failed dismally to accomplish anything in the way of reconciling the opposing forces representing labor and capital. All Canada was affected by the struggle, and it was important to arrange a speedy settlement. Sir William tried his hand but could not get the cars of either side. He was compelled to abandon the task, which was taken over by J. Israel Tarte. That gentleman, in his capacity of a private citizen, brought about the termination of the trouble within twenty-four hours. The men are now back at work and the wheels of trade are once more revolving. If a private citizen could bring about such a desirable condition, what must the country think of the incapacity of the so-called Minister of Labor? That department, although it costs thousands of dollars each year, is about as useful as a fifth wheel of a coach. It is patent to everybody that the country is being bled to serve an empty fad. It is another excuse for throwing away money.

ECONOMY AND EXTRAVAGANCE.

From 1891 to 1896 there was a period of depression which was felt throughout the entire world. Every country had its armies of unemployed, who almost rose in rebellion in order to get bread. From 1896 to 1902 Providence has been smiling as she was ill-natured during the previous six years. From 1891 to 1896 the Conservative government succeeded in carrying on the affairs of the country with a net loss of \$21,000,000. Then Sir Wilfrid Laurier came to power and in six years of plenty he has increased our net debt by \$15,000,000. The following tables show how the increase in the net debt for the two periods were regulated.

Table showing net debt for various years from 1891 to 1902, including Liberal and Conservative periods.

The Prices.

Table listing prices for various commodities such as Butter, Cabbage, Beef, Pork, etc.

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO INVESTIGATE.

The more the Treadgold concessions which give to favorites of the government all that is worth having in the Yukon gold fields are investigated, the more apparent it becomes that a gigantic outrage has been imposed on the people of this country. Governor F. T. Congdon has called the attention of the administration to the fact that gross fraud and misrepresentation were practiced in order to secure privileges which are denied the individual miner. This protest was followed by another from the Dawson Liberal Club, and Hon. James Ross had to give the people of the Yukon his solemn promise that the grants would be cancelled, before he would hope to secure his election to Parliament. In the face of such overwhelming evidence Sir Wilfrid Laurier declares the Treadgold job to be a model of propriety. Canada relinquishes the right to collect any fees from the com-

pany except royalties, and hands over to them property worth over \$3,000,000 per annum. This is what Mr. Blair characterizes as making the venture attractive to capitalists. How far have the capitalists gone to make the proposition attractive for members of the government? Rumors of a grave nature are flying about and fraud is charged in a most explicit manner by responsible parties. Yet the government has refrained from enquiring into the facts, although they have been in possession of strong evidence for months. The question has not been disposed of, however, and the country is likely to hear of startling disclosures if the government insist upon pursuing their illegal and outrageous course.

ANOTHER ELECTION STOLEN.

The Liberal machine did what was expected of it in the Yukon during the bye-election there. Nothing calculated to secure the return of the government candidate was left undone. The vote stood Ross, 2,971 and Clark, 2,079 with two spoiled ballots. This election took place on December 2nd, 1902. On January 17th, the Territorial council elections were held, and on that occasion Mr. Clark was triumphant. Singularly enough, although the interest in the latter contest was as keen as in the first the aggregate vote fell off very materially. The explanation of this is to be found in election returns, which show that at Miller's Creek—population 40—there were 241 votes, were cast for the Liberal candidate. At Caribou Crossing—population 20—the Hon. James Ross was supported by 109 electors. No more glaring case of wholesale ballot box stuffing has ever been brought to light in this country. The Federal government has made it plain, that the methods of the Ontario franchise are to play a prominent part in Dominion elections. The honest voter is thus placed at the mercy of men who should be in the penitentiaries and anything like proper parliamentary representation is placed beyond the bounds of possibility. It is a curse to Canada that such crimes should be condoned by men at whose hands we look for pure government. But the day of reckoning is coming and those responsible for the degradation of the franchise will receive the punishment which they deserve.

HIG PRICE FOR SALT MACKEREL.

Gloucester Times says: The fare of southern salt mackerel on the schooner Golden Hope, 10 barrels, sold to the Gloucester Mackerel Co., at the market price of \$19.50 per barrel. The bidding started at \$10 per barrel, and by half dollar raises advanced to \$19.50 at which figure the Gloucester Mackerel Co., secured the trip. Old mackerel men say that never in all their experience do they remember of early salt mackerel bringing such a price.

SHOCKING FATALITY.

The rope works, Dartmouth, N. S., was the scene of a shocking fatality last Thursday afternoon. William Gray, aged sixty, employed as a toiler in the works, came to a sudden death. No person saw the accident occur, but it is supposed that the unfortunate man went in between the big fly wheel and the wall, where he either tripped, or lost a foot, and fell, when the belt of the wheel, which at the time was whirling at the rate of 100 revolutions a minute. He was thrown back against the flange of the fly wheel and mangled in a horrible manner.

IRON SHIP-BUILDING AT SYDNEY.

The town of Sydney, C. B., may possibly add an immense ship-building plant to the already extensive industries there of the Dominion, Iron & Steel Co. A Montreal dispatch says, definite arrangements to this end have been reached. A Toronto director of the company said, however, last night that nothing definite had yet been settled, although the company had been asked to consider a proposal from the city of Sydney and from the Nova Scotia Government. This proposal has not so far been laid before the directors consequently no definite announcement could yet be made. The Nova Scotia Government have offered a bonus of \$100,000 for the erection of a ship-building plant either at Halifax or at Sydney, while the latter city has already voted a bonus of \$250,000 in an open offer. The joint offer is now before the company.

DIED

At Orwell, April 28th, 1903, Jane McDonald, aged 85, relict of the late Donald McEwen, of Orwell, leaving one son and one daughter, Joseph and Mary at home, one sister and one brother, Alexander McDonald, of Souris, and Margaret of Orwell, to mourn the loss of a loving mother and kind sister, May her soul rest in peace.

At Grand Tracadie, on Sunday, May 3rd, Mary, beloved wife of the late Malcolm McAlay, 74 1/2 years. May her soul rest in peace.

At his home, at Big Pond, Lot 45, on the 7th inst., of pneumonia, Nell J. McPhee, in the 76th year of his age. May his soul rest in peace.

At Lakerville, on the 10th inst. after four days' illness, Mrs Patrick McInnis, May her soul rest in peace.

At Scotchfort, on the 13th, inst. Alexander Mitchell (Micmac Indian) in the 95th year of his age. He devoutly received the last sacraments and died a good Christian death. May his soul rest in peace.

At Tracadie, on May 17th, Emmet, son of Angus and Mrs McAlay, aged 8 years and 9 months.

Remnants.—Such bargains in Remnants of Cottons, Cloths, Dress Goods, Flannels, Flannellets, etc., were never before given in Charlottetown as we are offering to clear lengths from 1 1/2 yds. to 10 yds. A lot of Ladies' Gloves and Mitts at half price. You should see them and share in them.—J. B. McDonald Co.

BUSH FIRES IN MANITOBA.

A special of the 15th to the Toronto Globe from Winnipeg says: Owing to the absence of rain, bush fires are causing enormous damage in the west, word reached here of terrible forest fires raging on both sides of Lake Winnipeg. The fires commenced about three days ago and parties arriving from Sulkirk say that an army of soldiers could not stop the conflagration. The district on fire covers thousands of acres of valuable timberlands, chiefly the property of the Dominion Government. The loss of property is also tremendous and over a hundred families lost their homes and stock.

NOTICE.

As our partnership expires in July, and we are making a change in our business, all accounts due Senter McLeod & Co. must be paid at once. After the 1st day of July, 1903, all accounts not paid will be placed in the court for collection.

Senter, McLeod & Co.

James A. MacDonald — P. J. Trainer, MacDonald & Trainer, Barristers, Solicitors, etc.

OFFICE—Great George Street, near Bank of Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

MONEY TO LOAN. May 20, 1903.

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