

The Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION.
Daily Edition, by Carrier, per year.....\$5.00
Daily Edition, by Mail, per year.....3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition, by Mail, per year.....1.00
Single Copies Two Cents.

TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office.....Main 1722
Editorial and News.....Main 1746

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1912.

AN UNENVIABLE RECORD.

The anxiety of the Telegraph and Times to avoid a discussion of the finances of the Province as they were conducted under the Administration which was defeated at the last general election, is not to be wondered at. A day or two ago The Standard demonstrated how those who formerly controlled the destinies of the Province manipulated the accounts to show an excess of revenue over expenditure when there were actual deficits each year running into thousands of dollars. Just when this method of omitting the over-expenditures from the statement of current revenue and placing them in the balance sheet of the Province was first employed is difficult to ascertain, but the plan was in full working order in 1900 and for some years before that. The year 1900 was, perhaps, the worst on record for the old Government—or at least the accounts show a worse condition of affairs than any other year. This was, perhaps, due to information in the hands of the Government that the long drawn out contest regarding the Eastern Extension Claims with the Government at Ottawa was liable to be settled in favor of the Province and they could therefore afford to make a more truthful statement of their affairs than in previous years.

The Province started the fiscal year 1900 with a balance of \$54,557.55 against current revenue. The total revenue for the year was \$758,888, of which the territorial revenue yielded only \$175,818.39. The expenditures on ordinary revenue account for the year totalled \$794,476.85, showing on the face of the account a deficit of \$55,468.19. In the balance sheet the public works over-expenditure is given as \$102,227.32 and that of the Provincial Hospital at \$21,542.76. As a part of these over-expenditures had appeared in the balance sheet of 1899, to get the exact over-expenditure of the year 1900 these amounts should be deducted. When this is done the result is as follows:

Deficit in ordinary revenue	\$55,468.19
Public Works over-expenditure, 1900	20,927.32
Prov. Hospital over-expenditure 1900	10,736.56

Total deficit for 1900

But this is not all. Under the old Administration special accounts were kept for such transactions as the importation of horses, cattle, sheep and seeds, instead of passing them through the consolidated revenue account. The system was to borrow the money from a bank and deposit the notes and cash received to the credit of the account and when all collections possible were made, the loss, for there always was a loss, was charged to the agricultural appropriation. In 1900 the balance sheet shows a total of \$4,649.19 due the bank for special loans on account of stock and seed importations. Under the present method of bookkeeping every transaction appears in the Consolidated Revenue Account, so that it is no longer possible to hide away half of a deficit either in the balance sheet or in suspense accounts.

In 1901 the Province was paid \$275,692.18 in settlement of the Eastern Extension Claims. This large sum was dumped into the ordinary revenue for the year, which amounted to \$1,031,266. The ordinary expenditure charged in that year was \$910,345.80, which left a nominal balance of \$120,920.14, but as there was a debit balance against the account at the beginning of the fiscal year of \$97,998.21 the Government had very little actual cash on hand at the end of the year. The expenditures for public works are placed in the account at \$269,077, about \$100,000 more than was usually charged against this service for any year, but not sufficient to wipe out the over-expenditure. Notwithstanding the receipt of over a quarter of a million dollars the old Government showed the following as over-expenditures in the year 1901:

Provincial Hospital	\$ 14,419.94
Public Works	88,895.32
Agriculture	5,519.89
Royal Reception	15,487.26
Eastern Extension Arbitration	11,738.00
Harland Bridge	2,011.60
	\$126,972.02

This was certainly going some for a Province whose total revenue at the time was only about three-quarters of a million dollars. The following year, 1902, by issuing bonds to the amount of \$310,000, of which \$150,000 was for alleged damage to bridges and roads by an unusual freshet in January, \$100,000 more for permanent bridges and \$60,000 for smallpox expenditures, the accounts were got into a condition which showed some improvement, but the people paid the piper just the same. As an actual fact over half a million dollars were over-expended in four years and all the while the territorial revenue which should have been at least \$300,000 annually, and would have been under an honest Administration of the Crown Lands, was less than \$200,000 annually.

Is the Telegraph's anxiety to get away from a record such as this to be wondered at, or is it surprising that Mr. Copp should say that the old Government has already been punished for its sins? In a measure it has, but Mr. Copp, who was a supporter of these methods, has so far escaped, and the punishment of the old Government will not be complete until every man who was a party to the fraud on the Province ceases to be a member of the Legislature.

To show the effect of such miserable financial management on the Province it is only necessary to point to the increase in the permanent debt due to the reckless extravagance of the old Government. In 1899 the funded debt of the Province was \$3,074,846.66. When all the temporary loans and over-expenditures of the old Administration had been adjusted, the funded debt amounted to \$6,174,346.66 as nearly as can be estimated. In nine years they had more than doubled the debt. Of the increase the Central Railway was responsible for \$887,431.72. The rest of it went to pay over-expenditure on current account for permanent bridges and railway subsidies.

A great deal of boasting has been done by Mr. Copp particularly, that the present Administration could not have made such a magnificent financial showing since they have been in power had it not been for the increase in the Dominion subsidy secured by the old Government. The subsidy was increased \$120,000. The interest and sinking fund of the debt which the old Government created in nine years amount to over \$150,000 annually, so that notwithstanding the subsidy the Province is short \$28,000 in the revenue it would have enjoyed had the Government been honest in managing the future.

30 Dock Street, Land W. Office Exchange, in the new building.

EXPERT OPINION ON THE LAURIER NAVY.

Evidence has been accumulating since the Laurier Government ceased to be a factor in the situation, that the naval policy they inaugurated for Canada had no friends among the English naval authorities. Politicians forbade criticism of a Government of one of the Dominions, and the demerits of the naval scheme were in consequence passed over almost in silence. The change of Government and Mr. Borden's well recognized progressive views on naval defence have paved the way for plain speaking. The Naval and Military Record, a journal whose authority to discuss the subject will not be questioned, voices this change of tone in a recent issue. "It is permissible to say now," declares the Record, "that the Laurier naval programme was paltry in comparison with that of the Commonwealth." And again: "In the circumstances the Admiralty had to approve the creation of a few cruisers and destroyers."

As an authoritative statement, giving the views of naval experts in England on the whole situation, the comments of the Naval and Military Record are worthy of perusal. It says:

"There will be general satisfaction at the decision of the new Canadian Government to abandon the Laurier scheme for the creation of a small Canadian navy. On this side of the Atlantic the scheme was never regarded with favor since the delay in construction in Canada was foreseen, and the proposal to divide the few ships between the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard was looked upon as strategically unsound. As an indication of the awakening spirit of the Canadian people on the question of naval defence the proposal was welcomed, but it promised no addition to the strength of the Empire on the seas. The Canadian Prime Minister did not go too far when he stated that, viewed in this aspect, the expenditure would have been useless. The new Government has determined to take the advice of the Admiralty to consider fully the needs of the Empire and of Canada, and then draw up a scheme. This probably means that at an early date the Minister for Naval Affairs, accompanied by Rear-Admiral Kingsmill, will visit London, and after the preparation of the scheme it will be submitted to Canadian opinion at the general election, which is anticipated will take place after the next harvest. Consequently there is no reason to anticipate that any effective action will be taken towards co-operation by the Dominion in naval defence for at least a year. It may be hoped that in the interval every effort will be made to place the Imperial issues before the Canadian people."

"The change in front is held to indicate the desire of the new Government to embark upon a more effective naval policy. Mr. Borden, we know, was never satisfied with the very modest programme of cruiser and destroyer construction to which the late Parliament assented. It is permissible to say now that the Laurier naval programme was paltry in comparison with that of the Commonwealth. On the other hand, it marked the awakening of Canada to her imperial obligations, and mainly for that reason the little programme was approved and encouraged by the British Admiralty. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, in effect: 'We are willing to spend such a sum, and what ships do you advise us to build with that money?' In the circumstances the Admiralty had to approve the creation of a few cruisers and destroyers. Then ensued the dispute in Canada as to whether the future navy should be controlled by the Dominion Government or by the Admiralty in time of war, with what results are known. If Mr. Borden gets his way with the electors the Dominion will unquestionably embark upon a more extensive naval programme than the one submitted to Whitehall in 1900. At this stage it would be useless to speculate upon the numbers or types of ships likely to be voted. Mr. Borden announces through the new Minister of Marine that the advice of Whitehall will again be sought, and, as we hope, with fewer financial restrictions."

If convincing evidence were lacking that these criticisms and conclusions of naval authorities are just and accurate it lies in the fact that since Mr. Hazen, as Minister of the Naval Service, gave the House of Commons and the country the reasons why the Laurier naval policy had failed, not one word in defence of the policy has been uttered by any member of the late Administration, and there has been no lack of opportunity. There is no mistaking the charge that Mr. Hazen made. He said: 'Now why did the late Government embark on the day of May, allow them to remain in abeyance without taking a single step towards making a contract for the building of those ships? Was it because the late Government discovered afterwards that if they had done so they would have simply been throwing away about \$15,000,000 of the people's money? Because the fact is, and I have the evidence that cannot be contradicted and which I am prepared to give this House at any time if my statement is challenged, I have evidence that those vessels, under contract, and under the conditions, would not have been completed for six years from the time the contract was awarded, and by the end of six years these vessels would have been obsolete, entirely unfitted for the purposes for which they were designed.'

Mr. Hazen's statement has never been challenged and never will be challenged. No one realizes better than the members of the late Administration that the Laurier naval programme was impracticable and destined to end in failure. When they retired from office, of necessity, they left behind them the report of Admiral Kingsmill, received at the time of the general election, which in itself is sufficient evidence to condemn the scheme. With a naval policy condemned by their own experts, to say nothing of the adverse criticism of English naval authorities, the Laurier Government stands convicted of a monumental blunder second only in importance to the attempt to force reciprocity on an unwilling people.

Current Comment

(Calgary Herald.)

Mrs. Pankhurst, the suffragist, says that Hon. Mr. Borden should not be allowed to lead a comfortable life. If the Canadian suffragists should so far forget themselves, which we are sure they would not, as to undertake to assault Canadian Cabinet Ministers, we would suggest that Col. Sherwood, Commissioner of Dominion Police, should be authorized to recruit a bodyguard of Amazonian police officers, whose special duty it would be to deal with militant suffragist demonstrators. There would be hairpins on the green then.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Newspapers in the West note that men formerly prominent in the Grain Growers' Association are beginning to drop out of the offices and out of the organization as well. It is only a year since a delegation of the Grain Growers descended on Ottawa, evidently as part of a many phased movement to boom the Taft-Fielding Reciprocity Agreement, and roused the courage of the Ministers and their parliamentary followers. Then they seemed terrible. Now they are disintegrating. They had too many Liberal politicians among them for their good.

(Toronto Star.)

"When the boat was still some way from the shore the breakers began to fill her in spite of the fact that the Duke himself bailed as hard as possible," says an account of the wreck of the Delhi, on which the Duke of Fife was a passenger. "Great Scott! Didn't the water know that the Duke was bailing it?"

HOW CHRISTMAS WAS PASSED AT HAMPTON

Hampton, Dec. 30.—The Christmas season has been very successful from a business standpoint, but more especially so from that of society and the home. The end of last week brought many home comers to spend the holiday, or sent others off to more or less distant places to renew family associations and pass cordial good wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Churches and congregations followed in the line of presents and Yule Tide gifts, and every family was made happy by the presence of good and beautiful St. Nicholas. Church interiors were elaborately trimmed and decorated and at Sunday's services the choirs sang carols and anthems, and the people joined most heartily in hymns of praise and thanksgiving for Bethlehem's Babe and the world's Redeemer.

The Presbyterian congregations of Hampton, Hammond River and Robb's Bay, gave their minister, Rev. George Farquhar, a surprise on Christmas eve, when they presented him with an address of appreciation, signed by a representative of almost every family, and accompanied it with a handsome urlined coat and gloves.

William H. Yeomans of the parish of Hampton was married on December 27th to Lottie M. Forges of Sussex, by Rev. Geo. Farquhar, minister of the Hampton Presbyterian church. Miss Katherine R. Bartlett, teacher of the St. John School of Domestic Science, is spending her Christmas vacation at home.

The Hampton curlers have elected Messrs. G. M. Wilson and F. E. Giggie, skips, of the two rinks which will play against the Scottish curlers on January 9th at St. John.

The curling contest of President vs. Vice-president, will come off in the Hampton rink on New Year's Day, lined up as follows:

President	Vice-President
A. J. Brooks	J. M. Scovill
Zobieski Fleming, Jos. Ross	F. S. Compton
T. W. Barnes	J. R. McArthur
Wm. Langstroth	M. J. Co-way
T. C. Donald	Wm. H. March

Cecil Langstroth, Percy G. Tayte, Dr. H. C. King, Dr. F. H. Wetmore, E. E. Ansevine, Dr. F. H. Wetmore, H. J. Evans, Louis Conway, J. M. Wilson, F. F. Giggie.

Ott. Barnes, M. J. Logan, A. W. Hicks, Rev. Geo. Farquhar, Mr. Gladwin, Wm. Bovard, E. A. Schofield, J. W. Giggie, R. H. Smith, Jas. H. Sprout.

Clarence Conway, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Conway, Railway Avenue, is spending his vacation at home. He returns to St. Joseph's College, Menamack, for the reopening on Monday, Jan. 8th.

Miss Jean Peacock, teacher of Domestic Science in the Hampton Consolidated school, is spending her vacation at her home, Murray's Cove, Westmoreland Co.

Miss Ruthie Thurber, teacher of manual training, is at home at Millerton, Northumberland county, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Captain James Adams came home from Halifax to spend Christmas with his wife and family at Hampton Village. R. A. March and J. E. Ansevine, left on Tuesday afternoon for Montreal. Peter Forestall came home from Montreal to spend Christmas with his sister, Mrs. John L. Coleman, Hampton Village.

Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, widow of the late William McManus, who died at her late home near Hampton Station on Monday, 24th inst., was buried today in the churchyard of St. Paul's parish church Lakeside, after service by the Rev. Mr. Croft, rector. Mrs. McManus was 75 years of age, and leaves two daughters and four sons. The former are Mrs. A. S. Wetmore, of Newcastle, Penn., and Mrs. J. H. Yeomans, of Pettitcodiac. The sons are Alexander, of Hampton; William, of St. John, and John and James of Hampton. The deceased who was formerly Miss Elizabeth Lattimer, of St. John, also leaves one brother, Jas. Lattimer, of St. John, surviving her.

Crawford Montague, a well known figure in Hampton parish for the past 50 years, died from heart trouble on Tuesday morning, 26th, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Paul's, at Lakeside, yesterday afternoon. He was for many years in charge of the farm occupied by the late James Trueman and Howard D. McLeod and last summer kept in order the tennis courts here. He was a quiet, respectable citizen, faithful and unflinching in his duties and his death is generally lamented. He leaves one brother, John, of St. John, and other relatives in Nova Scotia.

The quarterly board and members of the Methodist church congregation of the Methodist services rendered by Mrs. R. A. March and C. S. March as their organist, by the presentation of handsome sums in gold as a Christmas offering of appreciation. The choir has been producing some excellent music during the year and last Sunday's carols and anthems were the crowning point of excellence.

Public conversation and praise is also due to the choir of the Presbyterian church under the services of Miss Bessie Howard, an organist for their much appreciated efforts in leading the singing of the congregation.

Miss Minnie Travis spent Christmas in St. John with family connections and friends.

Robert A. Smith, of Barronsfield, N. B., is spending Christmas week with his sister, Mrs. F. M. Sproul, Hampton Station.

E. G. Evans and his son Harry, came home for Christmas, the former from Montreal, and the latter from MacDonald College, St. Ann de Bellevue, Quebec.

Thomas A. Peters came from P. E. Island to spend Christmas and New Year's with the families of his married daughters here and at Bloomfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barbour spent their Christmas in St. John with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Ernest Fowler and family, Norton, spent Christmas at the paternal home of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Fowler, Main street, Hampton Station.

Miss Hazel Flewelling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Flewelling, Douglas avenue, St. John, is spending some days this week, the guest of her aunt, Mrs. C. S. March, Railway Avenue.

Among St. John people visitors at Hampton the last week end and early this week were E. B. Seely, H. C. Mott, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Mott, A. W. Baird, M. C. McPhail and others.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

—Royal.
G. P. Kirk, Junction; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. C. Hamilton and boy, Montreal; C. J. Burrell, Sydney; R. C. Mackay, Philadelphia; J. E. Patte, Stratford; W. M. Bristol, Halifax; W. J. Shorland, L. W. Cameron, Montreal; D. Townshend, M. D., Mrs. D. Townshend, Sussex.

—Park.
J. A. Langis, R. M. Armstrong, A. R. Hamilton, Moncton; A. S. Elder, Edmonton, Alta; H. L. Keith, Pettitcodiac; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Brown, New York City; J. A. Macdonald, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Branscombe, Cumberland Bay; J. A. McArthur, Sussex; H. B. McKinnon, S. B. Lane, Truro; O. G. Carlton, Sussex; A. S. Hubley, A. B. Hanes, Halifax; J. Simpson, G. L. Mann, J. R. Wentworth, Winnipeg; R. Collins, Yarmouth; J. R. Smith Calgary.

—Victoria.
F. G. Robertson, Halifax; J. R. McAuley, R. R. Bradley, Lower Millstream; Geo. K. Wark, M. Codner, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kellogg, George Anderson, North Bay, Ont.; Chas. Lounson, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. White, Canterbury; M. L. Holt, St. Stephen, P. A. Young, J. D. Chisholm, Halifax; John Morrison, Woodstock.

—Dufferin.
W. H. Thackeray, Halifax; H. M. Dickson, Montreal; Fred S. Lorraine, Madam Sherry Co.; E. A. Mullin, Newcastle; P. V. Stevens, Moncton; Joseph A. Carr, Fredericton; J. J. Dickson, Brantford; Norman Gray, Charlottetown; J. A. Marcoux, Mrs. S. Chasne, Buctouche; L. W. Wheaton, Moncton; J. A. Macdonald, St. John; C. G. Fraser, Parrsboro; W. A. McLaren, Moncton; F. M. Graves, Bridgetown; S. L. Moran, Chatham; Jas. W. Day, Parrsboro; Bud Cameron, Amherst; P. B. Duff, Bridgewater; W. W. Wilson, Halifax; Albion Foster and wife, Arthur Foster, Hartland; Geo. G. Grimmer, P. S. Sullivan, St. Andrews; H. G. Noble and family, Woodstock; H. H. McLean, St. George; E. P. Meagher, Halifax.

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—Hotel Arrivals.
—Royal.
G. P. Kirk, Junction; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. C. Hamilton and boy, Montreal; C. J. Burrell, Sydney; R. C. Mackay, Philadelphia; J. E. Patte, Stratford; W. M. Bristol, Halifax; W. J. Shorland, L. W. Cameron, Montreal; D. Townshend, M. D., Mrs. D. Townshend, Sussex.

—Park.
J. A. Langis, R. M. Armstrong, A. R. Hamilton, Moncton; A. S. Elder, Edmonton, Alta; H. L. Keith, Pettitcodiac; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Brown, New York City; J. A. Macdonald, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Branscombe, Cumberland Bay; J. A. McArthur, Sussex; H. B. McKinnon, S. B. Lane, Truro; O. G. Carlton, Sussex; A. S. Hubley, A. B. Hanes, Halifax; J. Simpson, G. L. Mann, J. R. Wentworth, Winnipeg; R. Collins, Yarmouth; J. R. Smith Calgary.

—Victoria.
F. G. Robertson, Halifax; J. R. McAuley, R. R. Bradley, Lower Millstream; Geo. K. Wark, M. Codner, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kellogg, George Anderson, North Bay, Ont.; Chas. Lounson, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. White, Canterbury; M. L. Holt, St. Stephen, P. A. Young, J. D. Chisholm, Halifax; John Morrison, Woodstock.

—Dufferin.
W. H. Thackeray, Halifax; H. M. Dickson, Montreal; Fred S. Lorraine, Madam Sherry Co.; E. A. Mullin, Newcastle; P. V. Stevens, Moncton; Joseph A. Carr, Fredericton; J. J. Dickson, Brantford; Norman Gray, Charlottetown; J. A. Marcoux, Mrs. S. Chasne, Buctouche; L. W. Wheaton, Moncton; J. A. Macdonald, St. John; C. G. Fraser, Parrsboro; W. A. McLaren, Moncton; F. M. Graves, Bridgetown; S. L. Moran, Chatham; Jas. W. Day, Parrsboro; Bud Cameron, Amherst; P. B. D