

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1912.

WHAT HONEST GOVERNMENT HAS DONE.

The newspapers opposed to the Provincial Government still continue to whisper about ancient history, when the record of the Liberal Administration in provincial affairs is referred to. It is so bad that no one ventures to defend it, hence the cry of ancient history. The Standard has already referred to the over-expenditures and extravagance of the late Administration which were largely responsible for doubling the funded debt of the Province in nine years. The administration of the Crown Land Department during these same years was perhaps the greatest scandal that has disgraced New Brunswick in its whole history. Without going further back than the last three years of the old Administration, during which the territorial revenue was the largest of their whole twenty-five years of office, a comparison with the last three years of the present Administration gives some idea of what might have been the financial condition of the Province had this department always been in capable hands and its revenues honestly collected.

From 1906 to 1908, inclusive, the territorial revenue of New Brunswick was as follows:

	Total.	Stumpage.
1906	\$204,313.41	\$171,672.25
1907	\$21,559.49	\$180,135.44
1908	\$43,292.77	\$191,414.63
Totals	\$969,156.67	\$542,622.32

The revenue derived from the same sources in the three years from 1909 to 1911, inclusive, under the present Administration, was as follows:

	Total.	Stumpage.
1909	\$35,283.58	\$246,742.77
1910	\$49,491.64	\$330,360.28
1911	\$28,429.04	\$367,679.14
Totals	\$1,418,214.26	\$914,782.19

These statements show that the present Government collected \$449,957.59 more territorial revenue in three years than their predecessors, and of this total \$402,159.87 was obtained from the stumpage of timber cut on Crown Lands. All the returns that are available go to prove that there was as much lumber cut on the public domain in the last three years of the old Government as during the three years from 1909 to 1911. Indeed, if anything, the cut was less in the last three years than it was from 1906 to 1908, but the old Government failed to collect the full revenue. The public treasury was mulcted out of over \$400,000 by the incompetence or worse of the men who supervised the collections. And all the while they were adding to the funded debt at the rate of over half a million a year, one half of which, had the books been properly kept and the charges made as they are today, would have been chargeable to current expenditure.

The effect of such maladministration of the affairs of the Province is plainly visible in the expenditures for its important public services such as agriculture, education, and public works. These were as follows for the years 1906 to 1908, inclusive:

Year.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Agriculture ..	\$26,029.25	\$26,524.84	\$21,987.19
Education ..	\$21,528.97	\$22,750.05	\$24,836.18
Public Works ..	\$197,350.00	\$204,421.61	\$228,133.71
Totals ..	\$444,908.22	\$453,696.50	\$474,957.08

This makes a grand total of \$1,433,967.90 expended in three years for public works, education and agriculture by the old Government. Compare these figures with the expenditures under the present Administration for the same services from 1909 to 1911, inclusive:

Year.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Agriculture ..	\$31,194.16	\$41,478.30	\$49,958.17
Education ..	\$26,522.45	\$26,892.89	\$26,512.91
Public Works ..	\$190,997.41	\$284,443.26	\$416,265.31
Totals ..	\$602,814.02	\$652,814.45	\$742,736.39

The grand total of the expenditures of the present Government for these important public services in the past three years is \$1,981,364.86 or \$547,396.96 more than the old Government spent in the last three years of their administration. Such expenditures would not have been possible had it not been for the businesslike methods of the present Government in dealing with the Crown Lands of the Province and eliminating for all time the scandalous graft that has marked the administration of that department for many years.

An attempt has been made on the part of the remnant of the supporters of the former Government in the House to make it appear that the increased Dominion subsidy of \$120,000 annually was responsible for the present prosperity of the Province and the buoyant condition of its finances. It has already been shown that more than the whole of this large sum is required to pay the interest on the funded debt rolled up by the old Government in nine years. In short, had the present Administration been content to permit the conditions existing in the Crown Land Department to continue and been content with about half the revenue that should have been collected, the Province would still be stumbling along and every year adding to its permanent debt to keep things moving. By collecting the honest due of the Province and treating every lumberman exactly alike, the present Government has been enabled to maintain the public services on a much better scale and to devote larger sums than ever before to important public expenditures.

RAILWAY COMMISSIONS AND RATES.

It is evident judging by the complaints which were heard in the House of Commons this session that the inequality of the rates charged by railways is a burning question in many parts of the Dominion, particularly in the West. The Railway Commission, which was appointed eight years ago for the purpose of keeping rates at a proper standard, came in for severe and in many cases probably unjust criticism. No remedy was suggested if we except the opinion expressed by Mr. Maclean of South York, that it was the duty of the Attorney General of the day to see that the law was enforced. Mr. Maclean covered a wide field in his indictment, and maintained that it was the immediate duty of Parliament to give the people relief in regard to express charges, telegraph and cable tolls, and railway freight and passenger rates either by

active competition or by an insistence on a reduction of the charges before the Railway Commission. In the course of the debate both Mr. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out that the Commission was an independent body, amenable not even to the Government but only to Parliament. "We can merely bring matters to their attention," said the Premier, and made the standing offer that if any member of the House would bring complaints to his notice he would undertake that they should be brought to the attention of the Commission without delay.

While some dissatisfaction was expressed with findings of the Commission, it was evident that owing to the wide field to be covered the Commission had not been able to deal with many of the complaints which were clearly within its jurisdiction. It was not a question of lack of ability or fairness but lack of time. That the principle of placing all matters relating to rates and railway regulations under an independent Commission is sound and can and does bring satisfactory results is shown in the record of the work of a Railway Commission in the State of Wisconsin. Operating within a restricted area this Commission covers the ground thoroughly and has given no cause for complaint. Whether it would be possible to sub-divide the work of the Canadian Railway Commission is a matter which Parliament might very well consider.

An instructive review of the work of the Wisconsin State Railway Commission, and what it has accomplished, is given by the Toronto Mail and Empire, which makes the statement that in the opinion of those qualified to judge, the statute constituting this Commission is the best framed of all the laws in the United States designed to secure public control of public utilities. The Commission has been in existence five years. It was in 1905 that the bill for the creation of the Commission was before the State Legislature. The same bill provided for the physical valuation of railways within the State limits, on an ad valorem basis, for taxation. There was a powerful railway lobby against the bill. It was said that if the proposed legislation were placed on the statute book of the State, it would stop railway construction in Wisconsin, that it would force capital to seek less restricted fields of investment, that it would ruin the railways, and that it would not benefit the people of Wisconsin, but would result to their detriment.

Nevertheless the bill became a law. The State Railway Commission was established, and it lost no time in getting busy. It made reductions in freight rates that resulted in the saving of \$1,200,000 a year to the people who pay the freight; and it made passenger rate reductions that saved the travelling public some \$800,000 a year. And these reductions stuck, and still stick. The railways were not able to have them done away with on constitutional or any other grounds.

And what have been the results to the railways in Wisconsin? During the five years under review the tariff revenues of the railways in Wisconsin have increased 20 per cent., while the average increase throughout the United States has been but 16 per cent. In other words, the reductions in freight and passenger rates in Wisconsin have been followed by a great increase in the traffic of the State. And has the work of the State Commission driven railway capital out of Wisconsin? Nothing of the sort. During the five years since the Commission was created, the total amount invested in railway construction increased \$39,000,000. This sum is cash actually paid out for new road and equipment.

In one of its notable judgments the Wisconsin State Railway Commission declared that the cost of transporting any commodity over any mileage can be determined accurately as the United States Steel Company determines the cost of a bar of iron or a screw. The principle that the cost of operation is one of the factors which should rightly enter into the determination of any rate is one that the Wisconsin Commission has proceeded upon consistently. In a revision of the whole scale of railway rates in Canada this course might also be followed with advantage.

MRS. EDDY'S ESTATE.

Arising out of the dispute over the settlement of the estate of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, which involves the disposition of nearly \$3,000,000, the courts in the United States will give a decision on public policy in relation to Christian Science which brings up a question of very general interest. It will be necessary to decide whether the teachings of Christian Science are inimical to the policy of the State as to hygiene and sanitation. This question of public policy of Christian Science has been adjudicated upon once more, in the State of Pennsylvania, where the First Church of Christ, Scientist, applied for incorporation under the general corporation law of the commonwealth. The Supreme Court of the State held on appeal that the application for a charter was properly denied, as opposed to the general policy of the State in reference to the treatment and existence of diseases.

The case now pending in the courts of New Hampshire is not an attempt to break the will of Mrs. Eddy. The settlement is being fought on broader lines. Mrs. Eddy, prior to her death, made a family settlement with her son, Mr. George W. Glover, and her adopted son, Dr. E. J. Foster Eddy, a condition being that they would relinquish all claims as heirs to her estate. The sons now contend that the bequests to the various Christian Science churches are absolutely void and that part of the estate which was bequeathed to the church, stands the same as if Mrs. Eddy had died without leaving a will. They maintain that they are still the legal heirs to the bequests in question, despite the settlement made. The answer to be given to this question of public policy is considered by lawyers to be one of the most important questions ever presented to a United States court.

Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

As the prospects for the Unionists brighten, the situation becomes more interesting for other parts of the Empire, and for none more than for Canada. A Tariff Reform Government with Mr. Bonar Law at the head of it would usher in a new age for the Empire. Opinion in the United Kingdom is ripe for the change. The people are as ready for tariff reform as they are weary of the political adventures of the reckless Asquith Government.

(Philadelphia Farm Journal.)

Seventy-four women at present hold office in Kansas, to which they were elected by the votes of men. Forty-five women are county superintendents of public schools, five are county clerks, five are county treasurers, six are district court clerks, ten are registrars of deeds, two are probate judges and one is a mayor.

(Edmonton Journal.)

Seeing that they couldn't get reciprocity, the Americans are now trying to get Canadian goods admitted into their country free, anyhow. Which shows who was the real beneficiary of the proposed pact.

(Toronto Telegram.)

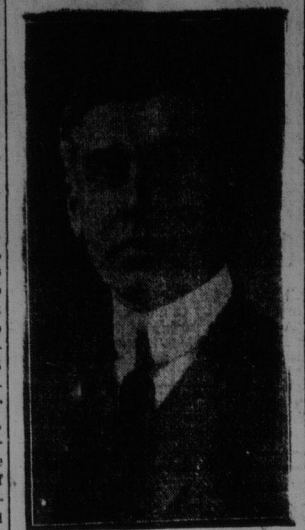
"The Liberals are getting out of the hospital," exclaims an organ, but what shall it profit a party to get out of the hospital and into the cemetery?

(Washington Star.)

The McNamaras were a pair of willing tools, indisputably wicked, but the main and most important quarry is yet at large.

HEWSON PURE WOOL TEXTILES LIMITED

Factors That Assure Another
Marked Success to Home
Company Manufacturing
A Staple Article.



FRANK STANFIELD,
President Hewson Pure Wool Textiles, Ltd.

The accomplishment of one marked success naturally and properly warrants the conclusion that, where practically the same men undertake a second and similar enterprise, under conditions that are identical, results equally satisfactory will be achieved. Stanfield's Limited is the company that has scored the great success alluded to, and the offering of securities of the "Hewson Pure Wool Textiles Limited," which is made elsewhere in The Standard today suggests the parallel.

The Hewson mills have been successful, their sales have been more than doubled in six years, and with the new capital now proposed, with three of the directors of five on both the Stanfield and Hewson boards, a success equal in every respect to that gained by the company whose headquarters and mills are in Truro is confidently to be anticipated for the company at Amherst.

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It will be observed that Frank Stanfield, managing director of Stanfield's Limited, is president of Hewson Pure Wool Textiles Limited, and that Harvey L. Hewson, of Amherst, is the vice-president and manager. The advertisement of the offering of \$150,000 cumulative 7 per cent. preferred stock and \$250,000 of 6 per cent. first mortgage sinking fund bonds will be read with interest.

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