

THE BRANCH LINES

POLITICS IN QUEBEC

The report, apparently well founded, says the Quebec provincial elections are to be held in the next few weeks, but focus public attention for the next few days upon that politically troubled province. For the past four years Quebec has been the theatre of a series of sensational incidents and rumors. With practically no opposition party to contend against the governing party have been driven to fight viciously against the opposition, against man, faction against faction; personal ambition and personal spite taking the place of political issues as the main arguments. Though the government, but apparently not the people, in spite of its internal troubles, it seems from the outside impossible that it should not have been considered a strong and stable government. Material changes, particularly, are not healthy; as we have learned in New Brunswick of late. And now influences, notably that which finds its leadership in the province, have been directed against itself to public consideration. Altogether we would think that Premier Gouin and his ministry need not hope for a repetition of the clean sweep of the 1920 election. They have been too long before their weapons and their armor before entering upon what promises to be a real fight.

The provincial election in Quebec was held on NOV. 28, 1924, the

Without venturing to question President Hazen's right to spend the time and the public money in research of this kind, I am nevertheless inclined to believe that the people of New Brunswick who have chosen him as their representative in the provincial business are more concerned with the question of what he is going to do than with what he has done. His various predecessors have done it. It is the public interest, for instance, that the Government should as long as it remains the property of this province, should be operated properly and honestly and not wastefully and extravagantly and mismanaged. It should be proved or disproved that it is not, whether at all times it has been honestly and prudently managed or not. It must be admitted that, since the Government has been in the hands of the private ownership under which it was falling into decay and placed before its dissolution, its affairs have been very badly managed. The management of Senator King and Mr. George McAvity, both, by the way, gave their services to the province, and the management of Mr. Hunter, the present owner, has been improved in every respect and has been placed on a self-sustaining basis. It is not the province that is the cause of the surplus and nothing will be a continuance of similar management. It is needed to enable the road within

After securing from Mr. Turfitt, during his cross-examination under oath, the statement that he had never consulted with Mr. Burrows nor any other person in the purchase with respect to the number ten and, that he had no association with or interest in any of the transactions in question, a Conservative member produced with triumphant flourish, a document, bearing the name of Mr. McGee, as attorney for Mr. Burrows, in which he was transferring to Mr. Burrows the interest of one W. H. Nolan in a certain limit, won by the latter. Clearly, he intimated, here was conclusive evidence of the unreliability of the witness. The witness, however, in his own testimony, he was intimated, was associated with the men whose tendency it was his official duty to adjudicate upon. But the triumph ceased abruptly.

the fact that the Commissioner is not from the ranks and that the few good men they found are almost altogether in the lower ranks and of comparatively recent appointment.

Broder's speech, as he reported yesterday, indicates that the government is fully alive to its responsibilities and that in the immediate future a house cleaning will begin which will place the service, inside and out, on a more responsible, a more efficient and more business basis.

In addition to the criticism of the efficiency of the service the Commissioner recommends several important changes in the system of appointment and promotion, and an increase in the salaries of the lower ranks of officials. Salaries should begin, says the Commissioner, at \$2,000 a year, instead of \$500, and no efficient deputy

With the chain of responsibility running, as it should in a democracy, from the people through the central governing body to every public officer, the people themselves are responsible for every public act; and in the long run this system gives the people government not just as good as they desire and deserve.

◆ ◆ ◆

RIVER MAIL SERVICE IMPROVED

The establishment of a daily mail service between Westfield and Gage town, Oroonoto and Upper Gage town, Oroonoto, and Upper Gage town, will be heartily welcomed by the residents of the various communities, who have been directing the

Gottfried Hult; in the April Century
 What time the prairie still lay blea
 and froze,
 I sauntered forth; like some old pa
 That waits new writing for the o
 suppressed,
 Such seemed the dreary fields I wa
 dered o'er—
 A worn, age-yellowed parchment, litt
 more.
 Fragments of words whose thought
 could not be guessed;
 And not a single spear of grass to
 attest
 That here would yet be lavished
 new fire,
 Today upon the selfsame fields I strol
 The selfsame? Nay; the mighty ve
 low hath been
 Illuminated with its summer green

sities" if your dealer does not handle them.

naturalized but this was a delegate to the convention in St. John a little ago.

ago should have got the
Was it an election pr