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Reports on Public Accounts

On the last day of the recent Legislative session, a few minutes before the Lieutenant Governor entered to prorogue the House, the chairman of the Public Accounts committee submitted the majority report of that committee. This report was signed by all the Government members thereon. Its presentation at the last moments of the session precluded the possibility of discussion. By thus fringing at the Legislature a brief, crude, undigested report, the majority of the committee may have hoped to mislead the public. But any hopes they may have had of escaping unanswered, fell to the ground when the majority report, signed by the Opposition members of the committee, was forthwith presented. Both these reports are incorporated in the Journals of the Assembly for this year and are both public property. The perfunctory manner in which the Government members of the committee discharged their duty in this matter is evidenced by their crude, puny, misleading report, which is as follows:

Your Committee appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts for the year 1907-1908, beg to submit that they have examined the same and find them correct. The receipts for the year according to the said report, including debentures sold totalled \$405,745.15, while the expenditure, including capital account, amount to the sum of \$420,816.33. Your committee recommend that a more searching inquiry be made as to the ability of the patients in the Hospital for the Insane to pay for their maintenance, and in case of their inability to pay, then of their friends and relatives doing so, who might be liable to pay, and especially in the case of harmless idiots who could be cared for more cheaply at home. Your committee also recommend that all arrears of road, land and income taxes be collected.

Our readers will notice that this report, like every other statement made by the Government regarding the financial operations of the last fiscal year, aims at misleading the public concerning the receipts and expenditures. The committee were careful to include in the receipts the money received for the \$400,000 debentures sold; but they failed to include the debentures on the expenditure side of the account. These debentures, at a once added \$40,000 to the debt of the Province and, added to the figures presented, would show \$460,816.33, on the debit side of the public accounts for the year ended Sept. 30, 1908.

The minority report was presented by Mr. Murdock McKinnon, and was signed by him, Mr. A. J. McDonald and Mr. J. A. McNeill, the opposition members of the committee. It is as follows: Resolved that after "1908" be struck out and the following substituted in lieu thereof: "Beg to submit the following report:

The undersigned Committee on Public Accounts endeavoured to have a full investigation of the Accounts made. Owing to the limited time at our disposal having had only two sessions of less than an hour each, the work of the Committee was scarcely begun. The Hospital for the Insane fees were considered

and after hearing the method and also the difficulties of collecting the same without undue hardship, your Committee recommend making a more searching enquiry into the ability of the patients' guardians to pay, especially in case of harmless idiots who could be more cheaply maintained at home. The Income Tax, Land Tax and Road Taxes were then taken up. Mr. Newbery was sent for and gave evidence regarding the method of collecting, which would tend to show that satisfactory results could not be obtained, however, nothing definite could be arrived at until the lists were obtained which Mr. Newbery promised to produce at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Hay account was considered and Mr. Newbery was questioned regarding proceedings since the last official report which stated that there were three cars missing, one of which was traced to a private firm. He stated there was a report prepared since which, he promised to lay before the Committee at their next meeting. In the opinion of the Committee both the tax and the Hay Accounts require investigation, but as the Committee sat at the call of the Chairman, and he did not see fit to call the Committee again, the papers were not produced and the necessary investigation could not be made.

We regret that while every other Committee appointed by this House was given a full opportunity to perform its duties, this Committee, whose duties are of equal if not greater importance, was not given a like opportunity. The Public Accounts show a large expenditure over the amount estimated and authorized by this House. We would consider it our duty to enquire into all the items of over expenditure had the opportunity been given.

The deficit of \$51,000, on the years transactions which makes the total debt of the Province \$850,000 apart from large liabilities incurred and numerous bills carried over the past year, places the Province in an unenviable financial position and your Committee would recommend that immediate steps be taken to find out our true financial position, and to make such changes in the administration as would enable this Legislature to make estimates more in accord with the expenditure, and if possible, provide revenue to meet our expenditure so that no further additions be made to the large debt already incurred.

The deficit of \$30,000,000 at Ottawa, and the addition of \$47,000,000 to the debt are reminders that Laurier is finishing his work.

The revelations of the royal commission in connection with Lieut-Governor Tweedie and Hon. Mr. Pugsley will at least illustrate to the people the advantage of an occasional change of government such as recently took place in New Brunswick.—Ottawa Citizen.

Nowadays when everybody wants to get plums at the start it is refreshing to know that a young man has been discovered in Bellaire, Ohio, who was anxious to begin at the very bottom. He was a burglar who wanted to rent the basement of a savings bank.

The British War Office has been experimenting with women clerks and finds that because they pay too much attention to fashion and not enough to their food they need more sick leave than men, and so do not make

such satisfactory public servants as their brothers. It seems to be for the Minervas to choose between being useful and being stylish.

The Canadian Pacific railway evidently believes that the most effective method of protection consists in going after the aggressor. Jim Hill has been tentatively invading our Northwest, and now the C. P. R. has bought its way practically into Chicago, while at its eastern end it is competing with American transcontinental lines for freight from New York going West.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier says that Mr. Mayes is a confessed boodler. He seems to have been a party to the deal in the same sense that a passenger who delivers his watch to a masked stranger is a party to the hold-up. Sir Wilfrid has no unkind word for the person who got the swag. All his wrath is reserved for the victim who handed it over.—St. John Standard.

The Moncton Times says that those who expected Mr. Pugsley to resign as a result of the Central Railway Commission do not know that gentleman. He has worked hard in devious ways, politically, to attain to his present position, and the opportunities it affords are too great to be given up without a struggle. A Minister of the Crown in Great Britain, with such a report hanging over his head, would not think of retaining office for a minute, indeed, it would be impossible for him to do so. In the mother country ordinary members of Parliament have stepped down and out for much less reason.

There has been an increase in the net debt of Canada during the twelve months ending 31st March of \$46,666,595, almost double that of any previous year in the record. The Montreal Gazette remarks truly that this is not a pleasing situation to contemplate nor is the outlook improved by a study of the details of the debt and the obligations of expenditure which the Government has undertaken. The obligations include \$13,608,333 of temporary loans to bankers in England. According to the terms of the last bond sale made in January, there is still 50 per cent of the \$6,000,000 to be paid by the subscribers. Unless the temporary loans at rather high rates of interest are to be continued for an indefinite length of time, therefore, their redemption and the adjustment of accounts of the past year will absorb all the cash the treasury can command during the next two months. The expected outlay for the current fiscal year (1909-10) is over \$110,000,000. The revenue may not be expected to greatly exceed \$85,000,000. There is a loan of \$6,433,000 maturing on January 1st, next, for which the sinking fund only partially provides. The prospects are, therefore, that during the current twelve months. Mr. Fielding's record as a borrower will be only slightly less remarkable than that he made last year, which showed him to be the most reckless and incompetent administrator of the national finances Canada ever had.

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LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS

During the past week flour has advanced 25 cents per barrel in Charlotte town the brands most commonly used selling from \$6.25 to \$6.50. This is about 50 cents higher than last fall, and \$1 per barrel higher than this time last year.

An area of a thousand square miles on the south coast of Newfoundland has been purchased by a New York concern to be made the centre of extensive paper-making operations. A ten-million-dollar plant is to be erected, with a capacity of four hundred and fifty tons of paper daily. The locality includes a port which is free from ice all the year round.

The first catch of mackerel of the season was taken into Norfolk, Va., by the Gloucester schooner Electric Fish, according to a telegram received at Gloucester on the 18th from Captain Bisset, master of the vessel. Captain Bisset reported the arrival of his schooner with 13 barrels of large mackerel, caught thirty miles east of Cape Henry.

On Sunday last, Low Sunday, Pope Pius X at the great high altar of St. Peter's Rome, surrounded by the French hierarchy and the cardinal prelates and bishops of the church, in the presence of delegates, lay and clerical, from the whole world, solemnly conferred the honors of beatification on Joan of Arc. Honorary priests may offer Mass in her honor and the people may seek her intercession, saying, "Blessed Joan, pray for us."

Thousands of whales were seen of the west coast of British Columbia recently by the steamers Tees and Otter, which returned to Victoria, with cargoes of whale oil, etc. The Otter and St. Lawrence had taken twenty-two whales. On Thursday last the St. Lawrence was towed by a whale harpooned by the gunner. The whale started away with the whaler in tow, despite the fact that the engines were put astern to counteract the animal, which had become a tugboat. Then the line parted. On Sunday the whale was found dead with the harpoon in its carcass.

A triple drowning accident occurred on the St. Lawrence, between Gananoque and Clayton, N. Y., Saturday afternoon. The victims are J. M. Taylor, aged 18, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Robins, aged 23 and 27 respectively. The three left the town about one o'clock Saturday in a small skiff. It is not known how the accident happened as nothing was seen of them until N. Pelon, who works on Club Island, on the New York shore, heard some one calling for help. He saw two clinging to the up-turned boat and hurried to aid them in a skiff of his own, but when he reached the place both had dropped off. The bodies of Taylor and Mrs. Robins were recovered Sunday in 20 to 30 feet of water.

The trial of the election petition against Lauchlin McDonald, M. P. P. for the first district of King's County, commenced at Souris, yesterday forenoon, Mr. Justice Fitzgerald presiding. Messrs Morson K. C. and Mathieson K. C., appeared for the petitioner, and Attorney General Hazard and J. J. Johnson K. C. for the respondent. At the beginning, the Attorney-General moved that the case be dismissed on the ground that the postponement on Feb. 3rd was irregular. He argued at some length for the dismissal of the case on technical grounds. Mr. Morson argued against the contentions of the Attorney-General. At the close of the argument, the Judge quoted the statute and decided that the proper course had been followed; that the case was properly before the Court, and dismissed the objections raised by the Attorney-General. The taking of evidence then commenced and is now going on.

Four Men Drowned.

Four men named Michael Driver, George Hancock, Harry Gardner and Wm. McLeod, were drowned off B. G. Bay, O. B., on Friday, by the capsizing of a boat. Another companion, Thomas Wrench, was rescued in an unconscious condition, but is expected to live, although not yet sufficiently revived to give an account of the accident. The boat's sail refused to work when it was sought to turn the craft homeward, and a squall struck it carrying the boat over. Two of the men were found entangled in the sail, and the remaining three were discovered a short distance from the scene of the accident, and about three-quarters of a mile from the shore. The water is shoal and this made the discovery of the bodies easy.

Graft in France.

The parliamentary committee of investigation during the course of their tour of the dockyards at Toulon on the 15th, unearthed a number of complete but unused boilers which had lain there since 1898, when they were bought to replace the worn-out boilers aboard the cruiser Cosmo, the former battleship Richieu and the Admiral Du Pierre and other obsolete vessels. They were never even fitted into position, and are now useless although coated with lime for preservation purposes. The committee also discovered that all guns on coast defence ship Terrible had been fitted with new apparatus on the day she was struck out of service. They must have taken lessons from Ottawa.

Marion Crawford's Will.

The will of F. Marion Crawford, the novelist, who died in Italy, was filed with the surrogate in New York last week on behalf of Arthur Larry, the brother of the testator, who is appointed executor. The value of the estate was not indicated. Mr. Crawford leaves \$10,000 to his wife, saying that she had been amply provided for by the will of her father, General Hiram Borden. The residue of the estate is left in trust to his brother to pay the income to his two sons, and his two daughters, who reside at Sorrento with their mother, until they reach the age of 25 when the principal is to be equally divided between them.

A Veteran pedestrian.

Edward Payson Weston marched through the door of the Illinois club Chicago at 6 o'clock Saturday night completing the first great lap of his New York to San Francisco walking tour on his first trip. A reception was given at the club during the evening and he was accompanied by a police escort and was cheered by the crowds as he passed through the streets, head erect and step as firm as it was forty years ago when he passed through Chicago on his first trip. A reception was given at the club during the evening and he was accompanied by a police escort and was cheered by the crowds as he passed through the streets, head erect and step as firm as it was forty years ago when he passed through Chicago on his first trip.

Intercolonial in Commission.

In the House of Commons at Ottawa, recently, Hon. Mr. Graham, minister of Railways announced that the Government have decided to have the Intercolonial run by a commission. The commissioners are to be M. J. Gaultier, Deputy Minister of Railways, David Foster, General Manager, E. Tiffin, Traffic Manager, and Frank Brady, until a short time ago, the General Superintendent of the Lake Superior Division of the Canadian Pacific. This board, said Mr. Graham, would operate the road in the same way as a Commission now operates the Pennsylvania Lines. There had been a great deal of talk about selling or leasing the Intercolonial but the Government was not in favor of either of these plans at the present time, and for a year would examine the list of proposals in the hope that it would produce better results.

Convenient Travellers' Cheques.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has just brought out a new form of Travellers' Cheque, which will prove very popular among tourists and travellers. They are issued for the sums of \$10, \$50 and \$100, and will be cashed by banks, hotels, etc., in practically every country in the world. All over Canada and the United States the face amount in dollars is payable without deduction. In Great Britain and Europe the amount of foreign money which can be obtained for them is stated on the face, and discounts as to over-charge or extra-charge cannot arise. Identification is provided for by a letter of introduction which accompanies the list of banks which will cash them. The cheques can be obtained at any office of the bank.

Flour Advanced in Price.

Ottawa advices of the 15th, say: Local flour dealers have been advised of an advance of 30 cents per barrel or 15 cents a bag in the price of flour and accordingly the different brands of the product will be increased. At the local office of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company it was ascertained that they had received word from the head office of the advance, but that no reason had been given for it. "Wheat has been steadily advancing, while the price of flour for some reason has remained stationary" was the statement made. "Therefore it had been necessary to bring the flour up with a rash." Other firms interviewed confirmed the views of the increased prices.

Tainted Canned Meat.

Twenty-five thousand tins of canned meat were on Saturday confiscated by the Montreal police department as being unfit for human food. There will be other consignments destroyed in the city during the present week. The consignment, which comprised 25,000 cans originally came from Chicago and was sent to Toronto, because it was sold to a retailer in Montreal. The meat was sold at less than half the wholesale price, but the city inspector got on its track before more than three cases were sold to a retailer. The meat was old and tainted and in many cases the cans had become rusted through, while fancy labels had been pasted on to give them a saleable appearance. Prosecution took place on Monday.

Schooner Totally Wrecked.

Boston advices of the 15th say:—The large four masted iron barkentine Lakeside, of Yarmouth, is a total wreck on the west side of Desolade Island, eight miles south of Machias Vineyard. Although the course struck during the storm of Wednesday night no one except those on the Island knew of the disaster until the revenue cutter Acushnet sighted the stranded vessel. Captain Wetmore and a crew of a dozen men, mostly Nova Scotians, were found on the Island. The captain and second mate, Jean Fratic, were taken to Vineyard Haven, Fratic was placed in hospital with a broken leg, as a result of falling. During the storm and fog of Wednesday night the vessel struck on No Man's Land. Next morning the crew landed in boats and were cared for by fishermen on the Island. The vessel is full of water. She will undoubtedly be a total loss.

One Kind of Vindication.

"Parliament vindicates Mr. Pugsley," "The Attack Defeated," "A Vindictor for Dr. Wm Pugsley," "The Minister Endorsed," "Tory Plot Exposed," "Final and Crushing Defeat." These and other headlines and phrases show the spirit with which the Pugsley organs in this city report Thursday's occurrence in Parliament. What happened was that the party majority of Parliament at the request of the Premier voted down a request for an inquiry. Had an inquiry taken place and the evidence shown that there was no \$35,930 rake-off or that Mr. Pugsley had not assisted in any transaction which gave that amount of the people's money to the middleman, these shouts of victory would be appropriate. But when a minister's friends grow so hysterical because he has been able to withstand inquiry and escape exposure to robust indignity and escape exposure to robust indignity they must consider his case to be. We may conclude from these anthems and psalms of joy over the escape from inquiry, how bad the verdict would be if the truth were brought out. Therefore it was a great day for parties quite near the Telegraph when the Government majority headed off an examination into this deal. Such a "vindication!"—St. John Standard.

Startling Conclusions.

Mr. Borden's calculations regarding the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway are startling. The result is the conclusion that the Transcontinental Railway, both divisions, the eastern, owned by the Government, and the Western, owned by the Grand Trunk Pacific, will cost \$280,000,000 or thereabouts. The cost of the Government-built end of the road from Montreal to Winnipeg will cost \$180,000,000, and the cost of the Grand Trunk Pacific from Winnipeg to Prince Rupert will be, say, \$100,000,000. The amount which the people take on in real money and guarantee of Grand Trunk Pacific bonds is somewhere between \$270,000,000 and \$280,000,000, roughly speaking, as follows: Government's total guarantee, \$66,658,000; Government loan, \$10,000,000; Interest for seven years on mountain section, \$13,413,750. Cost of Eastern section, \$190,000,000. Total, (approximately) \$280,000,000. The contribution of the Grand Trunk, the parent Company, is \$28,000,000 odd. That is to say the Grand Trunk is responsible in real money and bond guarantee for about a tenth of what it is to get from the people of Canada. And as against this \$28,000,000 it is to hold \$25,000,000 common stock in the Grand Trunk Pacific Company.

DIED

At New Annan on the 12th inst, Mrs Thomas Condon, aged 43 years, leaving a disconsolate husband, one daughter and four sons to mourn. R. I. P. In this city, April 14th, Simon Higgins aged 88 years. R. I. P. At Fort Augustus, after a lingering illness, Catherine, beloved wife of Thomas Curly, aged 59 years. May her soul rest in peace. At Glenfinnan, on Saturday, April 17 of pneumonia, James J. McDonald, in the 54 year of his age. May his soul rest in peace. At Piquet East on Friday, April 2nd Mary McDonald, in the 70th year of her age, after but one week's illness with congestion of the lungs. The deceased was a daughter of the late James and Ellen McDonald, of Apple Valley. Of a family of seven sisters, only one, Mrs Donald McDonald (Barnish) survives. The numerous friends at home and abroad, particularly in Boston, Mass., and San Francisco, Cal., in both of which places she lived for some years, will regret the death of one whom they highly esteemed. R. I. P. At Bear River, on the 9th inst Margaret Cabill, beloved wife of Dennis Costello, leaving a disconsolate husband and two sons to mourn. R. I. P. At the house of Dennis Costello, Bear River on the 12th inst, Miss Bridget Ryan aged 86 years. R. I. P. At Mount Stewart, on the 13th inst, of pneumonia, W. J. Logan, aged 70 years, leaving a widow, four daughters and five sons to mourn. May his soul rest in peace. At the residence of his brother, Rev. T. Campbell, P. P. Kelly's Cross, on April 17th, Rev. C. A. Campbell, D. D. aged 43 years. May his soul rest in peace.

At Fire House, Lot. 42.

At Fire House, Lot. 42, on the 3rd inst, after an illness of two years, borne with Christian patience and resignation, Margaret Lawless, beloved wife of James Dean, aged 57 years. Deceased bore up patiently under her long illness and did not give in until about four weeks prior to her death. She was a religious kind-hearted woman, generous and hospitable in her home. In her last illness she devoutly received the Sacraments for the dying and departed this life fortified by the rites of holy church. The funeral took place to St. Peter's on the 5th, where a high mass of Requiem was celebrated by the pastor. She leaves to mourn, a disconsolate husband and many relatives and friends. May her soul rest in peace. (Other papers please copy) At Head St. Peter's Bay, on the 11th inst, Mary, widow of the late John Moynis, aged 94 years. Deceased had enjoyed good health, for the most part, during her long life, and at the last was ill only a few days. She devoutly received the last Sacraments and had the consolations of our holy religion in her last hours. She leaves to mourn three sons and daughters; many grand children and a large circle of friends and acquaintances. May her soul rest in peace.

Farmers who send their sons and daughters to the Union Commercial College can rest assured they will not waste their time. No nonsense. Write for new illustrated prospectus. Wm. Moran, Prin. Ch. Town.

Our store has gained a reputation for reliable Groceries. Our trade during 1908 has been very satisfactory. We shall put forth every effort during the present year to give our customers the best possible service.—R. F. Madigan.

Trunks and Valises.—When you want to go travelling I can fit you out with a trunk, suit case, grip, telescope or anything else you need. Don't forget my prices are the lowest. H. H. BROWN The Young Men's Man.

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Do you need a new Spring Coat? We can assure you that nowhere else will you find as fine a range of Coats at such little prices. \$4.25, \$5 and \$6, etc.

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English Mammoth Late Red Clover Imported Direct from London, England.

Just arrived, a shipment of this Best of all Clovers. Many farmers have asked us why we cannot procure the Old English Mammoth Clover that used to produce such large crops years ago. Well, we find it difficult to get a really good sample of the Genuine Mammoth variety. Two years ago we imported a nice lot that sold readily and gave excellent results; last year we could not get a pound of Choice Seed, as the English crop was very poor, and the Seed could not be recommended. A lot of Chilean Red Clover Seed has been sent to Canada in recent years and sold as English Clover. No farmer should sow this variety; it is not at all suitable for this country. A guarantee that we have the Genuine Old English Mammoth Late Red Clover Seed is that a sworn statement to that effect accompanies the shipment. The Seed is large, plump, and very free from Weed Seeds. It is the finest quality of this variety that we have ever seen. Costs a little more than the Canadian variety, but the cost of the Seed is small compared with the increased yield of nutritious Hay produced. Only a limited quantity to offer. Write us for samples and prices.

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