

SURGICAL WONDERS.

Today, happily, the wounded warrior has a better chance to recover from practically any type of wound than any soldier ever had before. All the accumulated science and skill of the surgical and medical fraternity of the warring nations is being concentrated on the men who have been battered and maimed in battle. Marvels of surgery are being performed daily by these cool-headed, clever-handed doctors, whose wonderful skill and nerve in carrying through operations of the most appalling nature is in most cases crowned with complete success.

The war has furnished at once a test and a triumph for the science of healing. Within a few hours of receiving their wounds on the field of battle the soldiers of today are being cared for, and in many cases cured, in the most elaborately equipped of British hospitals.

"You want to see miracles," said the chief medical officer of one of the largest beneficent institutions to a press representative recently, "I can show you some here—some of them are modern surgery." And he was as good as his word.

Hobbling along one of the wide corridors of the hospital came a soldier—on the right of the soldier, a press representative, "I can show you some here—some of them are modern surgery." And he was as good as his word.

Even more remarkable, however, and the doctor was quick to admit it—were the cases of natural healing. There were several men—two of them, just back from the Dardanelles—whose a bullet had completely traversed and yet left organically unharmed. In one instance the bullet had entered through the neck, missed the main carotid arteries, pierced both lungs, escaped the aorta, and emerged under the arm. With the exception of a trifling flesh wound and of the punctured lungs (of which a little care had naturally to be taken at first), the patient was undamaged. A week or two saw him well again.

The astonishing feature of this case, as the doctor pointed out, was the fact that the bullet had, as it seemed, delicately described a curve round the danger zone. No surgeon in the world, he declared, could have directed a bullet along the course taken by this bullet.

Lung Wounds Not Necessarily Fatal.
Bullet wounds of the lung provided no large vessels are touched are seldom fatal in man or beast. A couple of remarkable instances of these injuries that occurred during the Boer War will prove of interest at the present time. Two officers were reconnoitering, when one suddenly leapt off his horse with a forcible exclamation to the effect that he had been hit by a bullet. The missile perforated his friend likewise dismounted, and proceeded to take off the wounded man's boot and apply "first aid," both officers then remounted and rode back to camp. On the way back the man who had been hit by the bullet complained of great pain in his chest, and before camp was reached he had fainted away. It subsequently transpired that the bullet had entered through his lung, and this must have occurred at the same instant his friend was hit in the foot, but in the excitement the latter was not hit. This officer completely recovered.

The other instance occurred in the person of a private who was wounded by a "pom-pom" shell, the diameter of which is 1 1/2 in. The missile perforated the left side of the chest, carrying away with it several pieces of ribs, and destroying the greater portion of the left lung.

After several operations the man left hospital and went on a globe-trotting tour, during which, with the object of turning an honest penny, he exhibited himself as a "freak." Ultimately, he arrived in Hong-Kong, where, for some reason or other, he managed to get jailed. Later, he entered the local hospital for a further operation, during which some dead pieces of rib were removed, and ultimately he was discharged cured.

Recovery from Brain Wounds.
One of the most remarkable and humane features of modern warfare is that bullet wounds of the brain are no longer necessarily fatal, as they almost invariably were in the days of the Marston and "Brown Bess." In such wounds brain matter may protrude from entrance and exit apertures, a phenomenon which is due not so much to the direct action of the bullet as to subsequent pressure set up by pathological changes. A soldier walked for miles after the battle of Magersfontein with brain substances emerging from each side of his head, yet this man made quite a good recovery.

There have been a number of peculiarly interesting "head" cases in the present war. One soldier had a large hole driven in the frontal region of his scalp. The wound was cleaned up, a number of bone fragments were removed, and several weeks later, the man was stated to be progressing favorably.

A gentleman despatching the work at the Australian Voluntary Hospital, Boulogne, quotes the case of a soldier, the vortex of whose skull had been shattered by a glancing wound. There was extensive paralysis of the limbs on both sides, without consciousness. An operation was performed at once, and the removal of the shattered splinters of bone was followed by the most improved, with every prospect of complete recovery.

Sergeant Parsons, formerly a gymnast instructor at the Brecon depot, attached to the 54th regiment, South Wales Borderers, who was wounded at the front, returned to Brecon after undergoing a remarkable and successful hospital treatment. During the fighting in the La Bassée region, Sergeant Parsons was hit in the skull, and the injury rendered him absolutely deaf and blind.

On the evening day he regained consciousness and underwent a serious operation, as the result of which he has now regained his sight and hearing, of which faculties he was deprived for sixteen days.

Very Different.
A gentleman travelling on the Great Northern Railway, having delivered his bag with luggage to the care of a porter, made his way to the carriage in the company of a body into a carriage for the "reward of merit." The said passenger, "I see by the letters in your bag, you are a Gratiot."

"Are you never received?" "A little mistake, sir," replied the porter, "it should be, Gratiot. Never Refused."—Scottish-American.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES AS THEY REALLY ARE

Hon. C. W. Robinson and W. E. Foster Analyze Recently Issued Government Statement—Expenditure Nearly \$700,000 Greater Than in 1907, and What Does the Province Get for It?

(BY HON. C. W. ROBINSON.)

A comparison of the auditor general's report on New Brunswick finances for the past year with that of former years does not show any radical change or difference. There is a steady growth in both receipts and expenditures, and there is an apparent surplus on the ordinary items of expenditure insignificant proportions.

No matter how buoyant the revenue, it is all used and the auditor has to be a skilful bookkeeper to keep a small balance on the right side.

There is of course the usual large addition to the debt of the province in the expenditure upon permanent bridges of \$354,877.53, the cleaning up of the old N. B. Coal & Railway over \$1,000,000, the contribution to the Canadian Relief \$27,456.54, and three or four smaller items making in all \$456,580.

The revenue has been good, but we can not expect so large an income for the coming year without the imposition of new taxes. The territorial revenue was increased during the past year by the high prices prevailing a year ago, but the present year's output of lumber will no doubt be much reduced and the stumpage income smaller than last year.

The receipts from succession duties made a record and were more than double the average receipts from this source. This amount was \$153,181.53, while the average of the past six years was only \$60,000 in round numbers.

The interest charges amounted to \$335,874.40 and with the addition to the debt and the higher rate of interest paid upon recent issues of bonds this amount will be greatly increased in the future.

The total debt of the province as shown for 1914 was nearly \$8,000,000, and the net debt \$2,206,609.02. The last year's operations will swell this total by about another half million dollars, making the apparent net debt now over \$6,000,000, and the gross debt eight and a half million dollars. In addition to this we must remember the indirect debt or the various amounts of guaranteed bonds upon which the province is liable as shown by page 425 of the auditor general's report for 1914. This amounts to \$5,407,531.56. So we see that the total liability of our province today, adding in the additions during the past fiscal year, is in round numbers \$14,000,000.

The auditor's statement recently published, gives no information as to how much of the interest on these guaranteed bonds the province has already been called upon to pay, though we know that a year ago the province was paying interest on some of the guaranteed debt, such as the Woodstock Cold Storage Company's bonds and the Southampton Railway bonds. We must conclude that there is something yet to be disclosed in this regard and it will be interesting to know the true facts concerning these matters.

The various sinking funds of the province are supposed to be invested and to be increasing yearly by the interest receipts. There are now supposed sinking funds to the extent of about one million dollars, about half of which is made up by the Crown Land Sinking Fund. This large amount should and no doubt does produce a revenue of over \$80,000 a year, but no account of it is given in the accounts recently published. Possibly a large portion of it has passed the sinking fund and is now sunk in the Consolidated Fund, existing only in imagination. However, some revenue must be accruing somewhere on this account, and it would be fairly good financing to show it in the statement annually published.

The main sources of revenue are two, the Dominion Subsidies and the Territorial Revenues, and of these two the Dominion Subsidies still hold the premier place. This amount is fixed every ten years according to the census. At present the yearly amount is \$687,976.16, and this amount will not change until after the census of 1921 when eighty cents per head will be allowed on any increase in population over 1911.

In this connection it would seem that the province was very badly served both at Fredericton and Ottawa when the recent readjustments between the dominion and the provinces took place since the advent of the Borden administration.

The dominion government in a generous mood showered territorial grants and money grants upon many of the other provinces with a lavish hand, while our province received no consideration worth mentioning. Never was a better opportunity afforded us and never did a government exhibit so many masterly inactivity and complete carelessness with regard to provincial interests.

The territorial revenue reached the respectable sum of \$591,505.14, the largest in the history of the province. The output of lumber is keeping up well. An occasional increase in the rate of stumpage has helped to swell the revenue. A gradual rise in the selling price of lumber has further stimulated production and encouraged lumbermen to erect large modern mills in different parts of the province. Remote sections formerly considered inaccessible are now reached by the lumbermen and the result has been gratifying to the government. Some improvement in the management of this source of revenue has been brought about from time to time by the different governments, but our methods are still very crude and unsatisfactory. When a member of the legislature assists in the successful attempt to deprive the province of stumpage, justly due, some thought must be given to the necessity of the legislature and the interest in the lumber business? With the power of patronage in their hands, are they always careful to see that the province is paid its full stumpage? Scoundrels are rather popular means of relieving a bad situation without improving conditions.

Comparing the different sources of revenue for the last two years, there appears to be a general increase showing an all round healthy state in business activities of the province.

Territorial revenue increased \$57,444.19. Fees provincial secretary's office increased \$986. Taxes on companies increased \$1,751.50.

Private and local bills increased \$106.01. Succession duties increased \$155,088.08. This was of course phenomenal and not likely to be maintained, as the mortality among rich men is not abnormally high during the year. The king's printer has not done as well as usual and the receipts from this source decreased \$667.50. Receipts from school book vendors decreased \$417.79. The total receipts from this source, \$10,824.16, are not a profit, as the cost of this branch of service was \$10,846.24, or a loss of \$22.08.

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(BY W. E. FOSTER.)

What strikes the ordinary man in looking at the provincial statement of receipts and expenditures just issued, is the large increase in ordinary expenditure. In 1907, this amounted to \$869,939.39, while for the past year, this ordinary expenditure amounted to \$1,634,079.44, a difference of \$864,140.05. The question now is, What are we receiving in value for this largely increased ordinary expenditure?

When business, and other men of this province, review the statement of the receipts and expenditures just shown by the Auditor General for the year ending October 31 last, they will certainly have cause for reflection, and the more the financial position of the province is considered, they will have greater cause to ask themselves the question, "Whither are we drifting?"

In examining the statement, we do well to look at it just as any ordinary man would review a statement of his own income and expenditure for the year, since such little in his receipts as a special saving while at the same time eliminating from his expenditures any payments made on any loans he had previously contracted, or any money set aside for the retiring, at some future time, of some future obligation. This, it seems to me, is the only way he would arrive at the net result of his year's operations.

Now for the statement of the province:

Total expenditure per statement	\$1,634,079.44
To be deducted:	
Balance from last year	\$147,423.73
Debitures	18,400.00
Temporary loans repaid	1,684,111.10
Deposits of temporary nature repaid, various amounts	23,662.67
Expropriation act, deposits withdrawn	29,289.29
On the receipts side we find total	\$4,315,003.41

To be deducted:	
Crown lands sales	\$2,681.30
Bonus on timber licenses	1,971.30
Temporary deposit, crown lands Dept.	4,329.00
Contractors' deposits	13,737.00
Commuted pensions	100.00
Probate court deposits	671.04
Supreme court deposits	1,113.34
Revenue Falls bridge expropriation deposit	2,113.23
Proceeds bonds sold	\$2,689,509.00
Sinking fund, (municipalities)	\$4,669.01
Properties of lunatics	600.00
Less sinking fund	\$4,669.01
Balance over-expenditure (deficit)	\$15,040.40

These figures would plainly show the ordinary man who is reviewing his affairs for the past year, that the report over \$400,000 more than he had received, surely a sorry result for his efforts in whatever direction they might be.

But, take the case of the province, and add this amount to the over-expenditure of the previous year, which was in the vicinity of \$700,000 and we have more than \$1,000,000 over expenditure in two years, not taking into account any moneys remaining unpaid at the end of the fiscal year, which amount the taxpayers of this province will probably know about only too soon.

It might not be out of place here to look at some of the larger items on both the debit and credit columns of the statement published. The largest item on both the debit and credit columns is the sale of land. The government themselves and the press supporting the government have taken great credit upon themselves for the sale of debentures at a price which they consider proves their contention that the credit of the province is in the first rank; but let us compare the price received for their bonds with other provinces, and I do not think we can make a better comparison than that of our sister province, Nova Scotia. I find upon examination that the province of Nova Scotia sold an issue of \$500,000 ten-year 5 per cent. bonds at 97 1/2, while the "Financial Post," a newspaper which I think is reliable, makes the statement that an issue made by this province of \$700,000 within a few days of that made by the province of Nova Scotia was sold by the province of New Brunswick at only 95, a difference of nearly two and a half points.

Why is it that the tax-payers of this province are compelled to pay \$14,910 more for the same amount of money than would our good neighbors in Nova Scotia? Is it due to the fact that our legislature is not as keen as the Nova Scotia financiers, or is it because our financial position is not as sound as it might be? I give you herewith a few figures and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions.

1908, the total debt, \$8,697,835.85.
1913, net funded debt as per statement recently issued by purchasers of the issue of bonds above referred to, statement given to them by the province officials, \$8,477,338.94.

1908, the total liabilities in the form of bond guarantees as at October 31, 1914, \$5,407,531.56.

Then we have the territorial revenue, the largest in the history of the province, amounting to \$591,505.14, although it was not one of the best years in the history of the province. If it was not a good year, how comes it that more money was collected? Is it because the government "needed the money," and the lumbermen were "touched up" to a greater extent in their sale?

Also, we have receipts from succession duties, amounting to the record sum of \$153,181.53. Fortunately for the finance minister, the revenue from this source was the largest on record. It took, however, \$32,829.39, to collect this amount, the greater part of it at all events going to the attorney general, which together with his salary of \$2,100, a total of nearly \$8,000, is a nice tidy sum for anyone to receive as an income from one source in this time of war and financial stringency.

Turning now to the expenditure side, we find a large item for interest, namely \$335,874.40, a large increase. This is nearly \$1,000 per day, and nearly \$1 per head for every man, woman and child in the province, or 30 per cent of our total revenue. This is the largest on record. In fact the very foundation and strength of our position, only receiving the amount of assistance equal to the cost of our executive government.

There is one other item—contribution to the Belgian relief, \$27,456.54. If this is placed in the proper column, it would be in itself entirely unimportant, but the claimed surplus, which after all is only a bookkeeping surplus. The accountant who made up the statement might just as well have shown a large deficit. This amount, like many others, falls in detail, and we are not informed where this contribution was in cash or was in the form of "patronage" or "votes," which added to the \$30,000 charged last year, brings this amount so far up to \$118,086.11, a sum hardly in keeping with the idea as outlined in the special warrant of his honor the lieutenant-governor, dated Sept. 2, 1914, as follows:

"The lieutenant-governor-in-council have decided to make a contribution of 100,000 bushels of potatoes to the government of Great Britain at an estimated cost of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars, for the use of the army and navy, as a token of loyalty of the people of this province to the Motherland."

The end of this is not yet for the full story in connection with this transaction will yet be told in all its details, notwithstanding the obstruction.

The burden of debt which is rolling up so tremendously year by year is bound to be felt before long, and when new ways of raising revenue must be found, these burdens will then be felt in every factory, in every store and office, and in fact by everyone having anything at stake in the province.

Will owners of property not do well to study the auditor-general's report of this province which will be issued before long, and think it over?

In the main, quite a gratifying presentation." To such a one there may be some personal grounds for gratification which do not publicly appear, but the electors generally do not see it in that light.

Most of the other items show no marked change. Public works has increased from \$392,589.54 to \$405,612.92. This is the largest spending department as it also includes the large additional expenditure on permanent bridges of \$354,877.53. It accounts for one-quarter of the ordinary expenditure and three-quarters the increase in the debt. It transacts as much business as the whole province did eight or ten years ago.

The cost of stumpage collection increased from \$27,514.79 to \$31,911.06. The total capital expenditure was \$468,888.09 as compared with \$368,753.80 in the previous year.

Some debentures were retired during the year and the province issued new short term debentures to the extent of \$2,975,800 at 4 per cent. The balance on consolidated revenue account has been reduced during the year from \$147,423.73 in the previous year to \$119,285.80 in the year just ended.

Further borrowing either on debentures or by way of temporary loans will be needed in the near future, and probably some temporary loans have already been made. All loans made now will cost much more than five per cent interest, but the charges will have to be paid. It is a fortunate thing for the province that most of the 3 and 3 1/2 per cent debentures issued by the old government still have over twenty years to run, and very few 4 per cent mature in the next few years. The present emergency have been dealt over by this issue of short term bonds. When this issue matures a new arrangement will have to be made and the cumulation of loans in the meantime will have to be taken care of.

Nothing is said regarding the large amount of the provincial money in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company or the security for the same.

It is not so much the statements published as the facts not published which are most interesting to the public, and the constant glimpses into the accounts as a result of royal commissions are not reassuring to thoughtful citizens.

BIG DECREASE IN LUMBER CUT ON THE PENOBSCOT

Bangor, Me., Jan. 2.—Indications are that the lumber cut on the east branch of the Penobscot river will be about one-third less than average this season, and will total close to 25,000,000 feet, not including a few small independent operations. Last year, the total drive from the Penobscot east branch was about 41,800,000 feet.

The Eastern Manufacturing Company, which formerly cut 20,000,000 feet or more on these waters, is cutting near this season. Last year, this concern cut only about 8,000,000 there.

On the upper waters above Chamberlain, G. E. Murphy, of Bangor, Old Town, has an operation which will turn out about 3,000,000 feet, and at Grand Lake, Moosehead Lake, Old Town, is cutting between 4,000,000 and 4,500,000 feet. Lower down on the branch at Sebasticus stream, E. G. Bryson, of Houlton, has an operation of about 5,000,000 feet. Paul Gagnon is cutting about 2,000,000 feet in the same section.

Between Sebasticus stream and Grandstone and on Sebasticus stream, about 12,000,000 feet are being cut. The total drive from the Penobscot, Old Town, and the Barker Lumber Co., of Millford.

Much pulpwood is being cut on the east branch waters, but this is in four-foot lengths and will come along in the drive in the spring.

RECRUITS OFFERED FOR "FIGHTING PARSONS' BATTALION"

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—(Special.)—The minister of militia is beginning to receive recruits for the proposed "Fighting Parsons' Battalion." He is considering Mr. Muncester, of Calgary, telegraphed that he would be glad to take a place in the ranks of such a battalion.

General Hughes was considering more of clerical men in Canada who want to go as fighters if they are not needed as chaplains.

Kaiser Really Has Cancer of Throat

Paris, Jan. 4.—The Matin affirms, notwithstanding denials, that the German emperor is suffering from cancer of the throat, and is no longer able to speak.

In February, 1911, according to the Matin, "the doctors were considering whether it was necessary to remove the entire larynx in order to stay the progress of the disease. That raised the question as to whether the emperor would be able to speak, if such an operation were performed. The leading specialists of every capital in Europe were consulted. It was learned that an emolumentary of Paris had, with an artificial larynx and a breathing tube opening into the trachea, restored the power of speech to cancerous patients who had undergone total ablation of the affected organs."

"This doctor, whose name the Matin withholds for reasons of professional etiquette, was asked to go to Berlin by the German ambassador. He was offered 100,000 francs and all his expenses, and was requested to bring with him a patient who had been fitted with the apparatus so that the emperor might himself see if he was able to speak."

"Meanwhile, as a result of a minor operation with a histology and a few weeks' absolute rest, the emperor's condition improved, at it often the case in this disease, the progress of which is imperceptible, but slow. It is another operation of this kind which has just been performed. But it is only palliative. The German emperor must either make up his mind to complete the removal of the larynx, or be stifled by the growth."

"This emperor, why the emperor went neither to Warsaw, Constantinople, or Brussels."

Assaying the Soil.
Chemical tests of soils are seldom made because in most cases they are of no practical value. Instead, the Jones method of testing soils gives a fair indication of the amount of lime required for the neutralization of their acidity. The agricultural chemist, Dr. Jones, of Farm and Home says that many of the experiment stations will make this test for farmers of their respective states.

A little sample is absolutely necessary. A little earth picked up anywhere in the field may give very misleading results. The following method of sampling should be followed: