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### TALK ABOUT AUDITS

AUDITOR-GENERAL OF THE DOMINION ADDRESSES CANADIAN CLUB.

Safeguards Surrounding Disbursements From the Public Treasury-Interesting Reminiscences of Early Days in Auditor-General's Department-Stories of Former Premiers and Their Methods -"A Quarter of a Century's Audit."

Mr. J. Lorn McDougall, Auditor-General of the Dominion of Canada, recently before the Canadian Club, Toronto, gave a most intersting and instructive talk upon the topic "A Quarter of a Century's Audit" Mr. McDougall related several interesting anecdotes respecting Sir John Macdonald, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir John Thompson and other prominent figures in the political history of Ca-

As indicating the lightness of the touch of Sir John, Mr. McDougall related his experience when he went to him to get his aid in preventing some expenditure. "Sir John, that will not do the Government any good," he remarked, and Sir John immediately replied, "No, no, you are quite right. It would only give rascally Grits like you a ground to run up and down the concessions abusing us. You can always count upon me helping you. Be sure to call upon me when anything like that occurs." (Laughter.) Mr. McDougall related other anecdotes of interviews with Sir John, who, he said, was, he knew, turning him inside out, but there was something pleasant to feel that he was operated on by so skillful a surgeon that there was not a scar (Loud laughter.) Mr. McDougall said he was also warmly assisted by Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who was his personal friend, although a political opponent when they were in Parliament together.

Dwelling upon the responsibilities of auditing the accounts of the Dominion, Mr. McDougall said: "A public servant, like any other servant, although engaged for a special duty, is a faithful servant only when his eyes are open to the general interests of his master as well as to the special." He explained the routine of expenditure of the public money of the Dominion, concerning which the general public have but a dim and hazvidea. There are, he said, two general methods of making payments: First, by Receiver-General's cheques. and, second, by cheques drawn under letters of credit. Receiver-General's rheques are, as a rule, confined in their issue to payments for contracts of magnitude on monthly estimates, and to repay the banks, chiefly the Bank of Montreal, for lette -of-credi cheques issued by the departments at Ottawa, or their servants in remote parts of the Dominion. Cheques of all kinds are made payable to the reditor Why ?

Because his endorsation shows better

than any special receipt that he has received the amount, and because no one through whose hands it might necessariy pass could withhold any part of the amount. There is much more use of the letter-of-credit system that would at first sight seem consistent with a careful safeguard of the public purse from improper payment. The public mind is greatly startled when infor-mation reaches it that there is a payment before audit. But anyone can see that a most important step has been made if payment without delay accompanies a process which removes the most important dangers of irregularity. Credits are never issued to a single person, except when there is a choice only between issuing a credit to him for advances to himself, as may be required, and issuing a direct cheque at once for the whole amount of the credit. The credit is in the name of two public servants of prominence, generally the deputy of the department and the accountant, or such substitutes as may be entrusted with the performance of their duties under order-in-Council, generally during their absence. Credits are issued where payments are required to be made at distant points, and without delay, to permanent officials. Now, it seems manifest that we cannot hol it seems manifest that we cannot

The credits being to men of prominence, who are presumably intellectually and otherwise reliable, the first source of confidence is secured. To bring about misappropriation it would be necessary that both should be dishonest, and that one of them should suggest the dishonest action to the other, and therefore put himself in the hands of the latter. A cheque once drawn, the amount of it cannot be refunded, and therefore the amount of a cheque cannot be simply borrowed. At the end of the month a statement of cheques drawn, giving the number of each and the amount is sent to the audit office for repayment to the bank. Under this system there is no money to be accounted for by the disbursing officers. They have the means of paying without having any money to handle. There is, therefore, no fear that if a statement of vouchers is not sent in, it is because the holders of the credit have to account for money which has been used by themselves. The best evidence of the success of the method in the one respect of its security against defalcations is that none has occurred, so far as I can recollect.

hold the bank on which the credits

issue for any improper amount unless

its neglect were most palpable. You will, therefore, inquire what is the

justification for giving so much lati-

The probability of differences between the department and the Ministers respecting the practice to be followed , end the desirability of adopting definite rules were touched upon by Mr. McDougall, who spoke also of amendments which he deems necessary to render his work more perfect. Incidentally, he remarked that it, is not generally known that a Parliamentary audit owes its origin in Canada to Hon. Edward Blake, that wonderful man, who works like a slave on every detail of anything which he takes up, and yet grasps a subject with the greatest quickness."

# A Thing of the Past.

The town crier is a thing of the past, but medical methods as old and as obsolete as the town crier are still practiced in many a country town. fering from womanly diseases shrink from the offensive

delicate question-ings, and obnoxious local treatments, still in vogue with some local practitioners. Any sick woman is invited to consult Dr. Pierce, so avoid methods which are offensive to her modern held as strictly private and sacredly confidential. Ad. dress Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N.Y. Dr. Pierce's Fa-

vorite Prescription is peculiarly and particularly a medcine for the cure of womanly diseases. It estab-

lishes regularity, dries weakening drains, heals inflamme tion and ulceration, and cures female

weakness.

"You have my heart-felt thanks for the kind advice you sent me." writes Mrs. Florence Archer, of Eason, Macon Co., Tenn. "Words fail to express what I endured for about eight years with female trouble, The awful pain that I had to endure each month, no tongue can express. These bearing-down pains, backache, headache, distress in my stomach and sores in my breast, cramp in limbs—they have all left me and health has taken the place of these distressing troubles. What caused them to leave! It was the best medicine on earth—Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. In one week's time I began to feel better. After taking six bottles of the 'Favorite Prescription' and using the local treatment you advised I felt like a new woman."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets should Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets should always be used with "Favorite Prescription" whenever a laxative is required.

A Fall Jingle. Happy days'll come once more; Don't keer what they say.
Put some white sand on the floor; Dance the world away!

Reliability. "Is Wiggins a reliable man?"

"In one sense. If you tell him to do

anything, you can count absolutely on his forgetting all about it." Consider Well. No girl should say too quickly "Yes"

When ardent lovers press her.

If marriage is not a success, Divorce is a successor A Careless Fellow.

"Here's an automobilist who got killed himself while running over a lot of other people." "How careless!" The Schoolbey's Sorrow.

He studies his geography

And thinks he has it fine

When some one brings the soldiers out And moves the boundary line. As Usual.

"They say he has so much money he doesn't know what to do with it." "Yes. And he isn't doing it."

A Reduction. What! Twenty dollars for a ton Of coal? Nay, nay! I'll wait Until a bargain day and buy At \$19.98.

Case of Deduction. "Sister expects you." "How do you know?" "She told the maid she wasn't home."

No Balloon Route. To reach the mountain of Wisdom, So all the sages say, You must cross the vale of Experience For there's no other way.

Protracted. Bill-Did the giraffe have a long illness? Jill-Yes; he had a sore throat

Cupid's Luck. Poor Cupid is a lucky dog Since high priced coal has come to pass, For who will have the soul to kick When he turns down the costly gas.

Her Loving Neighbor, "Mrs. Nexdore is given to retailing gossip, isn't she?" "Not she. She wholesales it."

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No taste. No odor. Can be given in glass of water, tea or coffee without patient's knowledge. Colonial Remedy will cure or destroy the diseased appetite for alcholic stimulents, whether the patient is a confirmed inebriate, "tippler," social drinker or drunkrrd. Impossible for anyone to have an appetite for alcoholic liquors after using Colonial Remedy.

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Iadorsed by Members of W. C. T. U.

Mrs. Moore, Superintendent of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Ventura, Cal., writes:—"I have tested Colonial Remedy on very obstinate drunkards, and the cures have been many. In many cases the remedy was given secretely. I cheerfully recommend and endorse Colonial Remedy. Members of our Union are delighted to find a practical and economical treatment to aid us in our temperance work."

Sold by druggists everywhere and by mail.

Pile \$1. Trial package free by writing or calling on Mrs. M. A. Cowan (for years member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union), 2204 DAVIS' DRUG STORE Garner Block, King St., Chatham.

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### FRENCH PARLIAMENT

CEREMONY OF OPENING THE CHAM-BER OF DEPUTIES.

the Republic - Perquisites of Some Cabinet Members-M. Combes, French Premier, Who Is Also Minister of the Interior - How Deputies Sometime Give Administration a Majority.

The opening of the French Chamber of Deputies, always interesting as a spectacle, attracted unusual attention at the recent reassembling by reason of the troubles in France during the past summer caused by the enforcement of what is called the associations law.

Premier Jean Louis Combes, who succeeded M. Waldeck-Rousseau as prime minister a few months ago, is held responsible for the enforcement of the law, which is aimed to bring certain orders of the Catholic church under Government control or to dis-perse the congregations. In this Premier Combes has the support of the majority of the deputies, and the country at large by the last general election and by the resolutions re-cently adopted with an overwhelming majority of departmental legislatures is committed to the same policy.

The opponents of the law have been clamoring for the return of M. Waldeck-Rousseau to the head of the Cabindet, but it is unlikely that they will prove strong (nough to cause the downfall of Premier Combes.

Dr. Combes is a man of wealth and



in politics since 1876 and is

what is known as a progressive Republican in politics. He was formerly vice president of the French Sen-

Before he entered politics Dr. ombes, who is sixty-two years of age, had amassed a fortune in busi-When he made his first race for membership in the chamber he had a hard fight to secure his seat, but trium hed over his difficulties. Since then he has been a prominent figure in the chamber and the senate and has made many friends in both

bodies. A good deal of the pomp and ceremony which pertain to monarch still clings to the opening of the French Chamber of Deputies.

The president of the chamber lives in a mansion on the Quai d'Orsay, the ground of which join those surrounding the Chamber of Deputies. Before the opening of each sitting he is escorted through the long salle des pas perdus (reserved for the use of members and journalists) by a detachment of infantry in command of captain. The drums beat and the procession is preceded by a gorgeousattired usher, who announces, "Monsieur le president." Other ushors-or policemen in times of excitement-form a double line to keep

he passage clear. Thus escorted, the president mounts to his seat, high above the tribune from which the members speak, and immediately there is a rush of the members to be seated. After tap-ping his desk with a large paper hife or in case of much noise ringing a brass bell the president de-

clares the sitting open, and the discussion of the day begins. The ushers form a not unimportant part in the proceedings. Those inside chamber wear evening dress, white ties and swords, and when in the heat of debate deputies become excited the ushers have frequently to

interpose to prevent a bout of fisti-It is upon these occasions that the French assembly treats the world to some of those surprises, which are hard to understand, whereby a Government majority to-day is turned

into a minority to-morrow.

But still the majority of the dep uties are men who would be loath to lose their pay of 25 francs per day and the honors attached to the post of representative of the people. That is why the fear of dissolution often induces them to give a ministry a majority rather than provoke its overthrew and the crisis consequent thereon, with the added doubt of their being returned as members of the chamber.

M. Combes, besides being Premier is also Minister of the Interior. This post and that of finance are the most sought after, for, besides the importance of the posts, there is an ancient custom in connection with them. The day after the acceptance of either of these portfolios one of the ushers calls upon each Minister and hands him an envelope containing 60,000 francs for moving expenses. If he retains the portfolio bilt a single day, he does not return the \$12,000, nor is he expected to.

A Varied Experience. Mme. Patti, who has just taken out papers of naturalization as an English subject, was born in Madrid, brought up by an American stepfather in the United States, married a Frenchman, and then an Italian, and is finally settled in Wales, the wife of . Swedish robleman,



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Torcato Express 8 32 a m ..... Express ...... 8 15 a.m. ...... 12 42 p.m. Buffalo, Toronto and North Bay. 5 08 p.m... "Eastern Flyer," for Montreal and Muskoka.

8 50 p.m.... Accommodation 4.23 p.m.

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5-9.52 p. m..... 6-1.32 a. m.)
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