

May 28, 1901

THE CHATHAM DAILY PLANET

## THE SESSION HAS CLOSED

Planet's Ottawa Correspondent  
Carefully reviews Many  
of its Doings

The Tremendous Expenditure Criticised—The Ability of Mr. Borden.

Ottawa, May 28th.  
To-day the House closed. The most eventful week has not been the blaze of cannon and red uniform and gold lace of the closing but the motion of the Leader of the Opposition respecting the enormous expenditure, the total amount voted this session being \$67,426,729.

Mr. Borden, in introducing a motion on expenditure made the best speech he delivered this session, a strong but moderate statement. What used to be "extravagance" in the Tories was "generosity" now. It was no longer the people's money that was being lavishly spent; it belonged to the Government. In the past five years, with an aggregate surplus of \$20,445,194, they had added to the debt \$3,796,373. The total of the consolidated receipts in 1896 was \$36,618,000, and in the past year it was \$50,029,900, and yet the debt went piling up. He concluded with a resolution in which he recited that the total expenditure in 1892 was \$42,272,136; in 1896, \$44,096,585; in 1900, \$52,717,466. The total amounts voted during the present session aggregated \$67,426,729. Moreover, according to the Finance Minister's estimates during the ensuing year, at least a million dollars will be required to pay bounties on iron and steel, so that the sum might be larger. The motion concluded: "That the House desires to place on record its ending the 30th of June, 1901, and the proposed expenditure for the year ending the 30th of June, 1902, are excessive, and extravagant and it regrets that the Government, with an exceptionally large revenue at its command, has not only failed to reduce, but has largely increased the public debt, and has not shown proper appreciation of the extreme difficulty, if not impossibility, of reducing in future years the very high standard of expenditure, which has been fixed during a period of great prosperity. Wherever the Liberal promises of economy!"

**AN INEFFECTIVE REPLY.**  
Mr. Fielding in replying to this fell back on the old excuse that the business of the country was increasing. But the point of Mr. Borden's criticism is that there are lots of useless expenditures. The expenditure for the country relate to the energy of its citizens, its farmers, its manufacturers. They have nothing to do whatever with government administration, and it is certainly a little ridiculous, when Mr. Borden says your expenditure is too high, you have run it up to nearly \$70,000,000, to say but just look at our exports, they are increasing, they have actually run up to \$144,000,000.

**THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.**  
Mr. Barker made a powerful arraignment of the railway department showing how Blair had been charging sums to capital which should have been charged to current expenditure but Blair could not reply.

**A TOLL GATE IN THE WINDSOR.**  
During the discussion Mr. Rufus Pope gave form to whispered rumors in the following manner:

Mr. Pope said that Blair's tollgate at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, was well known. If they did not go in they were given a few doses of Abbey's fruit salts. A glance over the list of the shareholders in Abbey's fruit salts would show those who had profited by business with the government. The way the promises of economy had been fulfilled was by crooked bookkeeping. The shareholders for the St. John elevators were told they must submit to cut estimates, and that the Government would make it up some other way.

Mr. Blair rose and demanded whether it was intended to say that he, the Minister, ever made such a proposal or anyone made it by his authority? (Cries of "Name.")  
Mr. Pope—Did they know that Metcalfe, who was let go to Chicago while they were considering the tenders with a well-known go-between of the Government? (Cries of "Name.") Does the Government know John O'Connor? Mr. Blair (excitedly)—I challenge the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Pope—Don't be in a hurry. "Cries of "Name." "Put him out," "Address the chair."

Mr. Speaker—I hope the hon. gentleman will address the chair.  
Mr. Pope—If O'Connor was not a go-between what was he? He took Metcalfe for a walk, and his name came up, and he said Pope's name would not do. He had not enough "elasticity" for the purpose.

Mr. Blair rose with great indignation, and said that if the honorable gentleman meant any one in this department had proposed any sort of arrangement in connection with a tender such as he had intimated it was without his authority.

The House divided with the result of 101 to 51.

**THE INCREASE OF THE INDEMNITY.**

Another vote worthy of incident was the increase of the indemnity. It must be remembered that though Laurier said he was proposing this on reasons of justice, the real reason is because he was held up last session by the French Canadian members, who exacted a promise from him on condition of calling off strike to increase their indemnity to \$500 a year. If Laurier had gone to the country and said he was going to do this it would have been all right, but remember he went to the country and never said a word about



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**PURCHASE OF THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.**  
\$80,000 was voted to purchase the Plains of Abraham. It turns out that the Government's scruples were creditable ones. The fact is \$80,000 is one-fifth higher than the property is worth.

**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN FEE.**  
An extraordinary admission was made this week—Mr. Belcourt acknowledging that he had advocated the interests of his clients before departments of the Government, and again we had the spectacle, never witnessed when Conservatives were in power, of a minister of the Crown denouncing the Auditor-General for putting a check on the rapacity of contractors.

A company called the Gilbert Blasting Company had a claim in connection with the Cornwall canal. The contractors gave a clear receipt to the government. Mr. Clancy protested against paying \$16,480, because, as Mr. Haggart had showed, a settlement had been made in 1894, and because the Auditor-General ruled, backed by Mr. Z. A. Lash, K. C., that no such money was due. Looking at the Auditor-General's report we find him standing out boldly in the interest of the public, and Mr. Belcourt sneering at "interminable objections" and Mr. Blair in the House, who said "The Auditor-General, if he had his way, would make the government of this country absolutely impossible. He has an exaggerated idea of his duty in thus putting his judgment against that of engineers and other competent persons." Mr. Belcourt, in defence of his conduct, said that many distinguished members of the House did not consider it inconsistent with the dignity of the profession, or the honor of parliament to appear in claims against the department. He should have told us who these are. Who are they?

The Hon. Clark Wallace denounced the conduct of Belcourt, and dwelt on the even more serious moral aspect given by the circumstances by the fact that Mr. Belcourt did not think he had been guilty of, to put it mildly, gross indecency of conduct. Re-

ferring to Mr. Belcourt's advocacy of the Bell Telephone Company, Mr. Wallace asked: "Did he get a fee for it?" Mark Belcourt's answer: "It's none of your business," and this is laughed at as a piece of wit by the Liberal members around him. But it is the business of every man in Canada; nor is there a right-thinking man in the community who will not say with Mr. Osler that to have such a matter as that treated with levity on the Government benches was a more serious matter. Parliamentary honor of the future.

Corruption will run riot at Ottawa if once the members of Parliament sacrifice their independence for gain.

**THE SESSION'S WORK.**

The session is remarkable for the fact that the Government has come stronger out for protection than in any time in the past. It has given a bounty on lead as well as a bounty on steel and iron, and it holds out a prospect of giving a bounty on steel shipbuilding. The Opposition has proved itself effective and the leader, Mr. R. L. Borden, has fully justified the choice made. But there are gaps in its ranks which require to be filled up and several times during the session the Opposition members have uttered the wish that Foster and Davin were in its ranks. Some effort should be made, and it is believed will be, to get seats for them. Thus re-enforced the Opposition would be the most powerful that has ever been in Canada.

**DISTRICT DOINGS.**

**DOVER.**

Planting corn is the order of the day in this section.

S. Hind is putting a new roof on his barn.

The picnic at Mitchell's Bay, was a failure, on account of the weather.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at the residence of J. Foy on Tuesday last, a large number of guests being present.

Miss Charlotte Hind is taking a course in the Business College in Chatham.

The Ladies' Aid had a meeting in the church last Wednesday evening to arrange for a picnic on the 13th of June in McFarlane's grove, James Hind being chairman. W. C. Wright is chairman of the program committee.

**DARRELL.**

The rain of the past week has greatly benefited the crop of corn.

Fruit, though not as abundant as last year, will be a fair crop.

The farmers are about preparing with corn planting, and some are improving with wire fences, the old rail fences are taken away and cut into stove wood, which is very scarce in this neighborhood.

Our football team played the C. B. C. Saturday, 18th. The game resulted in score of 1 to 1.

The captain, Harry French, Lester Gregory and Edward Jinks, assisted the Kent Bridge team in a game with Dresden on the 17th, which also gave a score of 1 to 1.

On the 24th Kent Bridge and Ridgetown tried their strength.

Miss Violet French and Miss A. Jinks visited Dresden, the 24th and returned Monday, 27th.

Lester Gregory and Edward Jinks assisted in the football game Kent Bridge vs. Ridgetown, Friday and E. Jinks visited relatives in Ridgetown, returning Monday.

Mrs. J. Kennedy intends trying a creaff separator. Those who are the owners of one of these machines are quite satisfied with them.

Mrs. William Agar met with a serious accident Wednesday. Walking across the yard, she fell and broke a bone in her ankle.

Professor Forsythe met a number young people in the church for instruction in vocal music on Thursday evening. This is a grand chance for those wishing help in this study, as they secure high class instruction at small cost. It is to be hoped, the class will be a success.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wicks, and two sons, visited in Marine City on the 24th.

John Fisher and Geo. Bryan paid a visit to Detroit per City of Chatham 24th, had rather a rough experience on account of cold and sickness.

Lawrence French, we are sorry to state, is not any better. We shall all be glad to see him quite strong again.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Brown visited relatives in Wallaceburg on Thursday and Friday.

**BOTHWELL.**

Miss Jean Sangster, of London, is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Wm. Scott.

Mrs. Candy is visiting in Toronto.

A number of our young men spent Victoria Day in Ridgetown viewing the sights.

W. R. Hickey was in Detroit this week.

Walter Pink, of London, spent Friday with his father here.

Dr. Stevenson, of London, spent Victoria Day in town, the guest of John Puddicombe.

**BALDOON.**

A pleasing event transpired on Wednesday afternoon, May 22nd, 1901, when George Reid, of this place, and Miss Hattie Parish, daughter of Wm. Parish, were united in marriage.

The ceremony took place at the residence of the bride's brother, James Parish, Jr., 13th concession, Dover.

Rev. C. F. Clarke, of Dover Methodist Circuit, conducted the service. The bride was prettily attired in cream cashmere. She was supported by Miss Lillie Parish, who wore pale blue cashmere.

The best man was John C. Reid, of Sombr.

The young couple have the best wishes of the large circle of friends.

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## PLANET ADLETS.

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**WANTED.**

GIRL WANTED—To do general housework. Apply to Mrs. Chas. Hadley, No. 1 Riverside Terrace.

WANTED—Board wanted for lady and gentleman, where no other boarders would be taken, address "Boarder," care Planet office.

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**FOR SALE OR TO RENT.**

FOR SALE—Osceola Cottage, Erieau, Apply to C. C. Gresham.

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE—75 Lorne Ave. Apply to W. H. Nichol, King street.

PIANO FOR SALE—New upright; can be purchased at a bargain. Apply at The Planet Office.

\$500 Will buy ode and a half acre on Victoria avenue. \$400 will buy 6 Lots in one block on Maple street. Apply at Planet Office.

TO RENT—House on Victoria Avenue, lately occupied by Rufus Stephenson, Esq. All modern conveniences. Apply to Thomas Scullard, barrister, etc., etc., 26 Victoria Block, Chatham.

LOTS FOR SALE.—One and one-half acres at the head of Victoria Ave., and six lots on Maple St. Apply to MRS. TISSIMAN, 196th Victoria Ave., or The Planet.

SEVEN LOTS FOR SALE—One on Victoria Avenue, and six on Maple street. For full particulars apply to S. STEPHENSON, Planet Office.

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HOUSE TO RENT 1—On corner Elizabeth and Forest streets; eight rooms, in perfect repair; city water, and in desirable location. Possession at once. Mrs. Wm. Emerson, next to property. 10t

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