

Signal

GOVERNMENT. DEC. 22, 1870.

Canada Economy.

There is nothing, besides the famous shirt collar, on which Sandford Macdonald prides himself, it is his economy; which has resulted in a surplus of Three Million Dollars now at the credit of the administration.

We have received the Public accounts for 12 months to 31st Dec. 1869 and for 10 months to 31st Oct. 1870. The Treasurer does not seem to bring in the latter volume, up to recent date and so soon after the commencement of the session.

Let us examine a few accounts, deducting one-fourth therefrom in 1869, so as to make the comparative fair; and we find that the total receipts for 1870 were \$13,261,793 more than in 1869.

Administration of Justice costs up to 1870 to \$1,070,747 more than in 1869. The maintenance of the Court, Government's residence is 1870 than in 1869.

And so on we might go on indefinitely, in showing that all the ordinary expenses of Government have increased, instead of diminished and that the cry of retrenchment is a fallacy.

How then is the Premier able to boast of a Three Million surplus when all ordinary expenditures have increased and the Government has been about one and a quarter million in the red since the Confederation.

Our Own Lands, Woods and Forests an interest on investments have realized half a million more. Instead therefore of costing the Government anything with ordinary returns, by means of economy and retrenchment, the expenditure has been one million more than in 1869.

The people do not want the Government to be a spender of money; and if the surplus is so judiciously expended in aiding the material improvement of the country, such a scheme will be met with greater approval in the future, than investments in Government stock at 6 per cent, or on special deposit receipts at 4 per cent.

London & Huron Railway.

MASTERS OF GUANO RAILWAYS. \$50,000 BONUS.

Manitoba Matters.

The Government is preparing to issue writs for the elections on such as the enumerators find that which they have been doing very slowly. It is not expected that the total inhabitants in the Province will be over 10,000.

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The Independence of Parliament.

We shall with such satisfaction the Bill introduced by Mr. Edward Blake to further secure the independence of Parliament, it is a laudable intention, which are as follows:

1. Except as hereinafter specially provided, no person occupying or holding any office, commission or employment at the nomination of the Crown in Ontario or in Canada, from which any salary or any fee, allowance, emolument or profit, whether from the Government or otherwise may be derived, shall be eligible as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario; nor shall he or she in the same manner be eligible to hold any office, commission, or employment.

2. Nothing in the first clause shall render ineligible as aforesaid any person being a Member of the Executive Council and holding any of the following offices, that is to say:—Attorney General, Secretary and Registrar of the Province, Treasurer of the Province, Commissioner of Crown Lands, or Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works; Provided, that he or she shall not receive any salary, or other emolument, during the session.

3. Nothing in the first clause shall render ineligible as aforesaid any Officer of Her Majesty's Army or Navy or any Officer in the Militia or Militiaman, (except Officers on the Staff of the Militia) holding any office, commission, or employment, unless he or she is otherwise disqualified.

4. All the provisions of the Act entitling an Act to secure the Independence of the Legislative Assembly passed in the thirty-second year of the reign of Her Majesty, and chapter four, shall apply to the cases of disqualification enacted by this Act as if the same were hereby re-enacted.

5. This Act shall come into force on the first day of the first Session of the Legislature of Ontario.

These provisions strike at the root of a good deal of the corruption in high places by which the Sandford Macdonald administration has rendered so many of its supporters.

If the Ministry do not still desire to unduly sway the opinions of the more numerous and more honest of the people's representatives, the furtherance of this measure will be left altogether to the members of the opposition. We shall see.

London & Huron Railway.

MASTERS OF GUANO RAILWAYS. \$50,000 BONUS.

In compliance with a resolution, signed by over 100 of the leading citizens of Goderich, Robert Gibson Esq., Esq., in the absence of the Mayor, called a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers, for Friday evening the 16th inst. at 7:30 o'clock.

At the time appointed, several hundred of our principal business men congregated in Crabb's Hall. The Mayor took the chair and Mr. W. M. Strang was requested to act as Secretary.

The Mayor said the object of the meeting was to elicit the views of the ratepayers, as to whether any inducements could be held out to the promoters of the London Railway, which would lead them to make Goderich the terminus of the line.

The London people seem to be keeping fast to an old opinion, that Goderich is not the place for the terminus of the line. He, however, could hold out good inducements, they might come here; but no doubt a considerable bonus would be required to make them come at all.

They could certainly secure a very large carrying-trade here—particularly fish and salt, in which Goderich was far in advance of any neighboring place at present. After hearing opinions, he hoped the meeting would be able to arrive at a decision.

If a bonus were thought expedient it would have to go to the people. What would they do with it? They would have to carry it out of Goderich, and it would be a very large sum of money.

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At 12 noon, the Returning Officer in the various Wards were at their posts to register nominations of Candidates, with the following results:

St. James' Ward—S. H. Dalton, Abraham Smith, John Dalton, Alex Watson, Geo. H. Parsons, Geo. Grant.

St. George's Ward—W. S. Evans, J. S. Simons, W. G. Smith, S. D. Taylor, St. David's Ward—John Dalton, Alex Watson, Geo. H. Parsons, Geo. Grant.

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Legislature of Ontario.

The Legislature of Ontario will meet on Monday, Dec. 23, 1870.

After routine business, in answer to Mr. Blake, who asked at what time the Government intended introducing the proposed amendments to the Public Accounts Act, Mr. Mackenzie said that he would do so on Monday.

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