

The Review.

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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., MAY 9, 1895.

THE BUDGET.

On Friday last Mr. Foster made his annual budget speech. He frankly admits a large deficit in the revenue for the current year, and proposes to meet it partly by a reduction in the expenditure and partly by the imposition of new duties. Both sides of the House will agree as to the curtailing of expenditure, in fact that has been a main feature of the opposition contention as to what should be done. The new duties are a partial restoration of the taxes on sugar, removed some time ago, and an increase in the whiskey tax. Sugar which has been very cheap for some time has slightly advanced in price, and must cost the consumer a little more in future. Probably the retail price of whiskey may not be materially affected, but both taxes will be fruitful of revenue. With a revival of trade there is good reason to hope that the temporary deficit will pass away and the Dominion strong box at Ottawa be full to overflowing as before.

The budget debate is yet going on. It is usually the crucial point of the session. The opposition promises to be quite spirited, but there will be no diminution of the large ministerial majority should the house be divided. The hopes of the opposition do not extend so far as seriously embarrassing the ministry in the present house. They look to the country and the coming election. In that regard the ministerial party is none the less hopeful, and Mr. Foster is proving himself a strong and capable leader of the house. He has brought down his budget at an unusually early date, and is pressing forward the public business with energy. That is as it should be. It remains to be seen how far doubtful enterprises like the Hudson's Bay Railway, and other schemes involving large costs can be so handled as not to weaken the administration or impair the public credit. Prudence in financial matters should be the watchword of the hour.

SNOW AND RAIN.

Perhaps few persons are aware that in this province of New Brunswick the clouds tumble down upon the earth some eight and a half feet of snow and some two feet nine inches deep of rain every year on an average, over the surface of the province. If the snow were melted and added to the rain it would make about three feet seven inches of water annually precipitated on the earth. Of course the total amount of rain and snowfall differs in various parts of the province, the rain being relatively more plentiful in the southern and the snow in the northern portions of our territory, and the average varies from year to year.

British Columbia is the one Canadian province having the heaviest rainfall, its average being nearly 43 inches, while at some points on the coast this is increased to over 56 inches, but as there is less snow the total precipitation is not much greater in British Columbia than in our own province.

Manitoba is the driest province, the annual fall of rain being but 16 inches and of snow 46 inches—in both cases being less than half of the New Brunswick average. The northwest territories generally have rather less snow and rain than Manitoba.

Quebec is the province of deepest snows, the average annual fall being about 115 inches, but with less rain than the maritime provinces. The climate of Ontario is also drier than ours, the annual rainfall being about 24 inches and that of snow 84 inches.

On the whole our dominion suffers less from drought, on the one hand, and from floods on the other than most countries. The northwestern states of the great republic often suffer sadly from want of rain during the growing season. It is no uncommon thing for a Dakota or Kansas farmer to lose an entire season's work and much of his live stock as well from want of rain. Such losses on account of excessive drought are almost unknown in Canada, although there are occasional seasons in which portions of Ontario and the northwest territories would be the latter for a more copious rainfall.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

After Japan had by victorious arms on sea and land forced China to sue for peace, Russia intervenes to deprive the victor of the fair fruits of successful war. This is an ungracious and arbitrary intervention and has set many tongues wagging against the great northern despotism. There seems no better reason for refusing Japan a war indemnity with a slice of territory thrown in than there would have been in making a like refusal when Germany dictated such hard terms to France at the close of the war of 1870. But on the other hand it is not always that a great power is allowed to exact the full measure of its will of a conquered foe. Russia has more than once been checked in this way, notably in regard to her victories over Turkey. A conference of great powers prevented her holding Constantinople after it had been occupied by Russian troops in the last Russo-Turkish war, for instance.

And Russia has some grounds for her interference in the far east. As a great Asiatic power she is next neighbor to China and Japan. She has extensive fisheries and commerce in those waters where Japan proposes to take up new and commanding positions. China is not likely to become aggressive or dangerous against either Britain, Russia or France, all of whom have neighboring possessions to her. Perhaps as much can hardly be said of Japan. The new sea power of the east, flushed with victory and conscious of her strong position, might become both aggressive and troublesome. It is universally felt that Japan will have to be reckoned with in the future disposal of eastern Asiatic affairs, and it may be quite as well for all concerned that just now, before she becomes too arrogant, some limitation should be imposed upon her demands.

On the other hand while we may suspect Japan of a disposition to undue aggrandizement, Russia is a notorious, historic treaty breaker and robber. It is this fact that has turned British sympathies, which at first ran strongly with China, to the right about. Russian interference, ostensibly in behalf of China, is only that she may in the end despoil the Flowery Kingdom as she has despoiled Poland. The great conflict of the future must be between Russia and Britain with such allies as either of them can bring to aid them in the field. The great struggle may be postponed, but it is felt to be in the end inevitable. When the day of trial comes it may be most desirable that so formidable a naval power as Japan has proved herself to be, shall be the active ally of Britain. We know but little of what is going on in the diplomatic world, but it is quite safe to say that the British foreign officer is on the alert and is quite the equal of either Russian or French diplomacy in making provisions for the future.

Russia must not claim too much; she will not be allowed to wholly dominate the east. But it is quite within the range of possibilities that a struggle may be precipitated in the near future which will make the closing years of the nineteenth century and the opening years of the twentieth as memorable in military annals as were the Napoleonic wars of 100 years ago. And we venture that at its close Britain will be Britain still, with greater power and prestige than ever before in Europe, in Asia, in Africa and in the isles of the sea. "We've got the men, we've got the whip, we've got the money too."

PROHIBITION IN MAINE.

We find some symptoms of dissent from the position taken by THE REVIEW on the prohibition question. This was to be expected. But the real question is not as to the desirableness of curtailing the liquor traffic. If a prohibitory law would rid us of the evils of drink the great majority of our people would hold up both hands in its favor. But the experience of Maine proves that prohibition does not prohibit.

Portland, the chief city of Maine, corresponds closely with St. John, New Brunswick, in population, commercial position and importance. Both are seaports and the termini of great railway systems. Portland has been for over forty years under prohibition, while St. John has for a century been under a license system. Yet day by day down to the present time, year by year and month by month the arrests for drunkenness have been more numerous in Portland than in St. John. Such are the cold facts of the case. These facts must be met and answered before prohibition will commend itself to the judgment of the masses.

The evils of the drink traffic are admitted. A remedy is on all hands desirable. Such a remedy may yet be found along new lines on some of which various countries are now experimenting, though with doubtful success. The Gothenburg system in Sweden has some advantages. The Tilman plan now on trial in South Carolina has interesting features, and other new methods may yet be devised. High license has still its advocates, though they cannot satisfy the temperance people. Till something better is evolved the good work of moral suasion, education and social reform conducted by the churches and many excellent temperance societies must be mainly relied upon.

Baldness is either hereditary or caused by sickness, mental exhaustion, wearing tight-fitting hats, and by over work and trouble. Hall's Renewer will prevent it.

A Shower of Money.

One of the most remarkable scenes witnessed in a New York State court room was enacted at Balston, Saratoga county, Saturday. During the week there had been on trial the case of Catherine and Elizabeth Nolan, two sisters, charged with poisoning their brother. The crime was alleged to have been committed at their humble home in Waterford last June and the motive assigned by the authorities was that the girls, who are 22 and 15 years of age, desired the insurance on his life. For 10 months they had been confined in the jail at Balston.

The trial occupied all last week, and the prosecution vainly endeavored to fix the crime upon them. It failed, however, to prove even that the young man died of poisoning. The case was given to the jury at noon Saturday. They retired and took one ballot, which resulted in 12 votes for acquittal. When they re-entered the crowded courtroom and announced their verdict, a wild scene ensued. Men and women shouted themselves hoarse to show their approval. All rushed forward to meet the girls. Bouquets which the prisoners held in their hands were rudely snatched from them and spread upon the floor for them to walk upon. As the grave judge descended from the bench to congratulate the girls, the foreman of the jury mounted to the seat vacated by him and, calling attention to the fact that the girls' confinement had rendered them homeless and friendless, asked for contributions for their benefit. Spectators, council for both sides, the judge and the jury went down into their pockets and a shower of bank notes and coin rained into the juror's hat. The girls left the court room amid wild cheering.

England no Bully.

LONDON, May 3.—The Globe this afternoon, commenting upon the trouble between Nicaragua and Great Britain says: "The sharp little lesson which we had the painful duty to inflict upon Nicaragua cannot fail to be productive of good there. An other and more powerful state has also been taught a useful lesson. The American republic assumes the post of arbiter in all disputes between the smaller states and Europe and, what is more important, it shows a disposition to interfere in those disputes, which is as objectionable as it is unasked for. The tone of the American press ever since the present difficulty arose has reflected, very clearly, the usual tone of their country in these matters, though perhaps, their bluster and braggadocio upon this occasion was rendered louder because they felt there was little chance of being listened to. We do not wish to heap indignity upon any state, however small and insignificant. England has never played the part of a bully and never will; but she must be careful to see that her good nature is not to much presumed upon."

The St. James Gazette, referring to the same subject, remarks, "The Nicaraguan bill is backed by Salvador. It would be rude to inquire too closely into the value of the guarantee. The average user is satisfied with a second name, and if Zelaya has played us false, we will not only occupy but will wipe Corinto out of the map and other places with it. If any of the great powers had behaved as Nicaragua has we should have been at war with it within a week."

Awful Carnage.

Civilized warfare rarely witnessed such scenes of horror as those which attended the close of the recent revolution in Peru. For three days the most obstinate and bloody fighting continued in and around the capital, Lima, the revolutionists being led by Gen. Nicolas Pierola and the government forces by the then President of the republic, Gen. Caeceres. Although the revolutionists were inferior in numbers, being only 2,500 men to the government's 4,000, and besides were poorly armed they effected prodigies of valor and after the first day's fighting drove the government forces into Lima. Entering the capital the revolutionists fought the government's troops on every street and square. Though without cannon they cut their way to the mouth of Gatling guns which they captured after two days' fighting in the streets, the government forces weakened and foreign diplomats effected first a truce and then a peace to the advantage of the revolutionists.

The after scenes were horrible. The dead and dying were everywhere and the streets were literally running with blood. Hundreds of dead horses were piled about and many of them, which had been killed on the first day had begun to decompose and emitted a terrible stench, which added to the horrors of the situation.

The cries of agonized men who wept over the bodies of their dear ones were heartrending. Destruction was everywhere. During the fight the Caeceres' troops had plundered the houses and shops while the cannonading had made wrecks of many of the finest mansions and edifices in Peru. All told 1,853 people perished during the three days' fighting.

A special from Tokio says China has asked for an extension of ten days for the ratification of the treaty of peace. Japan has sternly refused to grant the request. The Mikado has called out the entire mass of reserves and the garrisons of Hokkaido has been heavily reinforced.

Buctouche Notes.

MAY 6.—Miss Eugénie LeBlanc, who has been in Moncton during the winter, is home on a visit to her father, J. J. LeBlanc, Collector of Customs.

R. A. Irving was in Moncton during the past week.

H. H. James visited Richibucto on Tuesday on professional business.

M. Wheten is receiving congratulations, it is a girl.

The Queen Hotel has been considerably altered in the interior, and the genial proprietor, always alive to his own interests, has purchased a first class pool table which the boys seem to enjoy very much. John P. Leger is also the proud possessor of one of the fastest horses on the north shore. Lady Wallace will probably be heard from before the year passes.

The Dueplay Brothers Comedy Company played on Friday night to a fair house in Barnes's Hall.

The young folk are now preparing for placing the "Peep of Day" on the boards during the latter part of June.

J. H. Abbott, of Moncton, spent Sunday with J. C. Ross, Esq.

Dr. D. V. Landry and Rev. Father Michaud left Sunday morning for Memramook to attend the funeral of Dr. Landry's grandmother.

Miss Beatrice Sutton, teacher of St. Mary's, spent Sunday with her parents.

Sch. "Ranger" of Shediac, goes on Irving's slip this morning for repairs.

C. J. Sayre, of Richibucto, was in town on Saturday last on professional business.

J. A. Irving went to Moncton this morning.

Messrs. Wilbur of Shediac, spent Sunday in Buctouche.

On Friday last the teacher of the Superior Department in the Buctouche school held his semi-annual examination. His reasons for holding the same at this time of year are that now the larger children are still attending school and at the end of June they are home working, and when the roads become dry several of the Catholic children attend the convent to receive instructions in the Catechism, and the school at the end of June is only a remnant, as it were, of the winter school and an examination at that time of year could be little less than a farce on the whole term's work. Several of the parents were present and expressed themselves as well satisfied. The parents of Buctouche, or of any school district, would find it very much to their advantage and find it beneficial to the school if they would visit the school of the community more frequently. Your correspondent takes this opportunity of urging upon the parents and all others interested in school work the advisableness of more frequent visits to the Buctouche Schools, as a duty they owe to their children, as it stimulates those children as probably nothing else could. And the principal takes this opportunity to publicly invite all parents and those interested in school work to attend the schools more frequently, and thus encourage the mental developments of the children. All, without any exception will be made heartily welcome. A partial examination will be held at the end of the term to glance at the work accomplished during the months of May and June. No services are now being held in the Presbyterian church and on Sunday mornings the Christian Endeavour Society meets. It has only been organized about two years but it has taken a firm hold and has a large membership and is well attended by visitors.

The sewing circle is now preparing for a large fancy sale some time during the summer. McKee and Sons are loading schooner Minnow at the government wharf. The men are happy, the women are cleaning house, gardening has commenced, farming is near at hand, spring has returned with the fulness and richness of a resurrection, the bleating of the lamb is heard, the croak of the frog fills the land, the bellowing of the calf reaches our ears, the nurse-maids fill the streets with children's carriages, the roosters' crowing the cawing of the crow, the honk of the wild goose, the quack of the tame duck, the grunt of the pig, the cackle of the hen betoken spring, the small boy is playing horse, the little girl has her little doll, the big girl has her big bear, the big boy is that big bear, and the whispering lovers can be heard on the bridge. All these are the sure tokens of spring in the land Spring has come.

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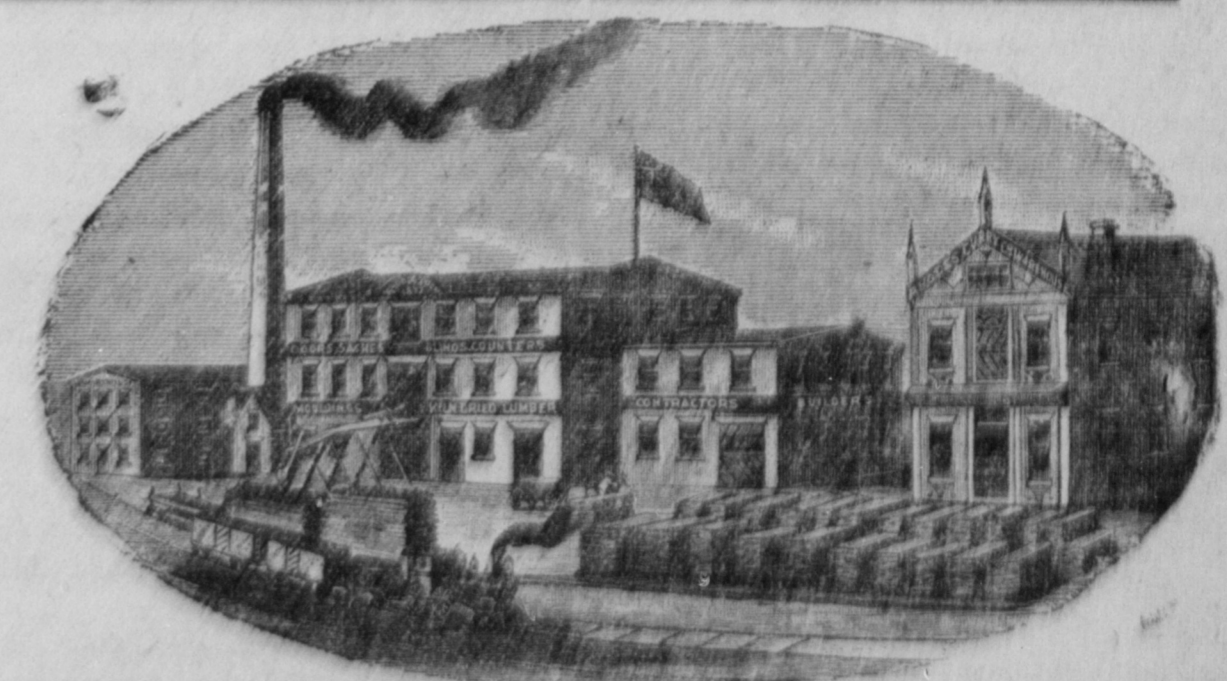
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