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RICHIBUCTO, N. B. MARCH 28, 1901

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

The budget speech of Premier Tweedie has completed the disheartening process which has been taking place in the local opposition since the bridge charges were exploded, leaving them nothing upon which to rest their claim to the people for a change of Administration. The fiscal year in this province ends October 30th, and it was expected that the unexpected demands made upon the provincial exchequer last year had produced a deficit, upon which the opposition confidently boasted they would build a strong case of mal administration and extravagance on the part of the Tweedie administration. The figures produced by Premier and Provincial-Secretary Tweedie showed that the income of the Province last year was \$758,988.66 and the expenditure \$794,476.85. The deficit of \$35,488.19 was as he explained, occasioned by extraordinary expenditures occasioned by several unforeseen causes.

Among these causes was the presence of smallpox in an epidemic form which necessitated an extraordinary expenditure of no less than \$23,480.96 last year. This one item almost accounts for the entire deficit, for without it, and it was not included in the estimates, there would have been almost a balancing of accounts. It would have been exceedingly simple for the provincial secretary to have refused this payment, and so have balanced his books, but what would have been the result. Hundreds and perhaps thousands of lives in these northern counties would have been lost if the money spent in the care of the afflicted, and in the preventing of the fearful epidemic from spreading into unaffected districts, had been withheld in a spirit of false economy. The province as a whole will unite in commending the sensible policy pursued by the local government in respect to the timely measures taken to stamp out the smallpox.

Another item of an unusual character in the expense account was that of \$10,484 expended on Mr. Hazen's bridge investigation. This was a useless expense which must be charged to the opposition leader, who made the sweeping charges that the government was paying two and three prices for its permanent bridges. The result of the investigation was the complete exoneration of the government, and the proof that for political purposes the opposition would stoop to the most unfounded charges of dishonesty. Another item of an unusual nature was the grant of \$5000 to the Contingent fund of the boys who had volunteered to represent this Province in the Boer war. Not even the most caustic critic of the Opposition dare, openly at least, find fault with this item of the expenditure, yet it was one of the expenses of

an extraordinary nature which brought the government in debt for the last year.

Too much credit cannot be given to Premier Tweedie and his administration for their success in obtaining a settlement of the long standing claim of the Province in connection with the Eastern Extension Ry. The item of \$270,000 obtained in this claim from the federal government will appear in the Provincial accounts for the current year. This will swell the finances, and the estimated revenue this year is \$1,030,000, while the anticipated expenditure is \$880,424.07, showing an expected balance of \$150,067.71. A portion of the amount obtained from the Eastern Extension award is to be spent in repairing the serious damage to the roads and bridges throughout New Brunswick by the floods of last fall. This will meet the approval of all sections of the Province.

The explanations given by the Provincial Secretary of the various items were explicit and so clear that the light complaints of the opposition speakers who followed him really amounted to a commendation of his able financial management.

CANADIAN BUTTER ABROAD.

The increase of Canada's export trade in butter to Great Britain has been one of the marked features of the "growing time," in fact it is one of the lines in which almost the entire development has been obtained in the past ten years. The figures are sufficiently interesting for reproduction. In 1890 the entire export of Canadian butter to Britain amounted to only 1,029,346 lbs; in 1891, 2,758,855 lbs; in 1892, 4,636,550 lbs; in 1893, 6,076,757 lbs; in 1894, 4,684,537 lbs; in 1897, 10,413,131 lbs; and in 1899, 19,120,034 lbs. A review of these figures seems to establish the fact that there was a steady growth in this important trade which between 1897 and 1899 had however received its most marked development from whatever causes due.

It is equally interesting to learn that during the ten year period of steady development of this Canadian industry, the butter trade of the United States with Britain had experienced very great fluctuations, and on the whole a serious decline. In 1890 the United States shipped to Great Britain 15,448,163 lbs of butter; in 1891 only 4,993,180 lbs; this decreased to 868,815 lbs in 1895; in 1896 it rose to 11,246,611 lbs; attained its highest record in 1897 when it reached 20,022,410 lbs; in 1898 fell to 14,801,641 lbs; and in 1899 again decreased to 10,278,783 lbs.

The Montreal Gazette referring to these figures remarks: "This is a comparative showing of which we may well be proud. Though our population is not more than one-tenth of that of the United States we exported to Britain in 1891 about twice as much butter as our neighbours did in that year." What is of much more importance to the Canadian people than this incorrect statement is the fact that our exports of butter increased to such an extent that they were tenfold more in 1899 than they were in 1891. The decrease in our neighbors trade with Britain in butter or any other product is only interesting to us in so far as we obtain what they lose.

The reasons for this satisfactory development of this important trade are threefold. (1) The production of a better and more uniform article by the creamery system of butter making, superseding the haphazard want of system of individual farm dairies. (2) The introduction of modern cold storage facilities during the transpor-

tation of the butter from the creamery to the British breakfast table. (3) The intelligent advertising of Canadian product as a superior article and the abolition of the old time confusion in the British mind, which included in the term American the first-class dairy products of Canada with the inferior article from the United States.

The butter business is an apt illustration of the old proverb that honesty is the best policy. If Canadian exporters of butter had persisted, as their Yankee competitors did, in attempting to palm off on the British purchasers the worked over country and store packed butter so familiar both in the United States and Canada, our trade would have suffered a similarly unsatisfactory experience. Our shippers had sufficient shrewdness to know that it does not pay to ship three thousand miles an article which is unfit for sale in the home market. Fortunately for the future of the Canadian butter trade, every year the quality of our dairy products are improving, and the farmers of the country are accepting the modern methods of the combined production of high class, uniform creamery butter as more satisfactory than the antiquated system which formerly prevailed. Nor should our people forget the intelligent zeal displayed by the Dominion and various Provincial governments of Canada in promoting and improving in various ways the important export trade not only in butter but in all farm and dairy products.

THE CANADIAN CENSUS.

(St. John Telegraph.)

Preparations are being hurriedly completed for the numbering of the people of Canada, which commences on Monday, April 1st. The schedules for this present census are more numerous and comprehensive than those of any previous one, and it is proposed to gather much valuable information outside of the population statistics for the benefit of the people. We publish, in another column, an interesting interview with Mr. George Haddow, the chief census commissioner for New Brunswick, explaining many of the details required from the various householders. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the necessity of the thorough co-operation of all classes of our citizens with the enumerators in the various districts, in order to make the census as accurate and complete as possible. There is a natural disinclination on the part of the ordinary citizen to be interviewed in detail on his private and family affairs, as every newspaper man knows to his sorrow, and this is accentuated when the questions turn to valuation of the properties of the party interviewed. The ordinary individual has a thorough dread of giving particulars of his properties, and more especially of values, from the fear that such information will have the effect of raising his taxes. No such fear need be entertained in respect of the answers given the census enumerators. They are sworn to secrecy, and all the information they gather is to be kept absolutely private by the department, merely the grand aggregate values of each district being published. Such information as the census enumerators ask for, is required for the guidance of the nation's future, and every person should thoroughly realize the importance of prompt and accurate replies. The people of St. John and of every other district in New Brunswick will, we are sure, realize the importance of this, and aid by their courtesy the patriotic work of enrolling the population, and industries of the Canadian nation.

BY THE WAY.

The opposition at Fredericton seems to have lost its depth since the bridge charges disappeared.

The St. John Gazette decides that Commodore Stewart of Chatham, is a disgrace to the newspaper world. We rather agree with the decision, and are certain the World is a disgrace as a newspaper.

Mr. J. D. Hazen is surprised to learn of the large fees demanded by his predecessor, Dr. Stockton, for defending him in the bridge investigation. It was evident to all that Mr. Hazen required a very able counsel in that enquiry, and he should have known that opposition pleas for economy are only a species of "playing to the gallery."

However, it is not too late for Mr. Hazen to pay his own counsel. The Province of New Brunswick will gladly accept from him the \$900 in counsel fees paid to Dr. Stockton. That payment would be an evidence of the sincerity of Mr. Hazen's economy.

Dr. Borden, the new conservative leader at Ottawa, must wonder if he is the keeper of a political managerie, when he hears the differences in policy laid down by his various lieutenants.

Our esteemed townsman George V. McInerney, ex-M. P., must extend his chest a little now-a-days, and ponder over how much better he could have led the opposition in the House of Commons, if the people of Kent had only taken him at his own valuation.

It looks now as though the New Brunswick House of Assembly would prorogue within the next week. The Dominion parliament will sit until after Easter in all probability.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Pittsburgh millionaire, who as a boy emigrated from Scotland to America, has retired from active business and is amusing himself giving away his millions in the shape of free public libraries to numerous towns. He recently offered 65 libraries to New York city alone at a cost exceeding \$5,000,000.

It really seems exasperating to hear this talk of the Marine and Fisheries portfolio soon becoming vacant by the promotion of Sir Louis Davies to the Supreme Court Bench, and realize that but for an accident or two our own George V. would have been on hand to take the job.

The threatened conflict between Great Britain and Russia over the latter's occupation of the Chinese province of Manchuria has for the time being been averted. An agreement has been reached by which both nations withdraw their troops from Tien Tsin and the dispute is to be submitted to arbitration. We will bet a next fall apple that Russia will quietly continue to occupy Manchuria all the same.

We felt quite rich when we heard the offer of W. F. McLean M. P., of Toronto, to buy out the C. P. R. and G. T. R. for \$1.00 each. We had the price, and were about wiring the magnates of these two corporations offering

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50 cents more for each road when we read Sir William Van Horne had declined to sell at the price. It was a close call.

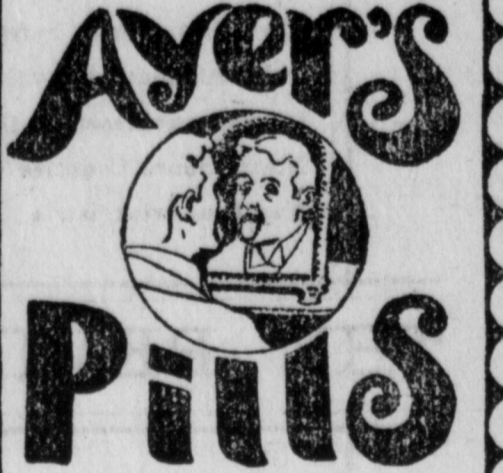
Judges Barker and Hanington said some sharp things to each other yesterday before the legislative committee which had under consideration the Madras School bill from Shediac, waxing to a degree of heat that is seldom equalled even in the legislature. They were present, of course, as individuals and not in their judicial capacity. Anyhow the spectators seemed to enjoy the tilts between the two learned gentlemen, and in the clash Judge Barker had the support of the Bishop of Fredericton, who also came in for some sharp consideration at the hands of Judge Hanington.—Fredericton Herald.

When Mr. Humphrey discovered that Dr. Stockton drew about the same fees and expenses in the bridge investigation as did Hon. Dr. Pugsley, the former's interest in exposing Dr. Pugsley's alleged "extortion" suddenly waned. Mr. Humphrey frequently puts his foot in it.—Moncton Transcript.

The work of census-taking will be begun in a few days. This week the census commissioners are at Fredericton, receiving instructions from the chief commissioner, Mr. Haddow. When the required knowledge has been imparted to them, the county commissioners will in turn impart it to the enumerators in their respective districts. One fact in connection with the census should be borne in mind, viz., that the figures given will be known only to the officers who receive them and those who compile them at Ottawa. These officers are sworn

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Women's Fine Boots, \$2.00 now \$1.40.
Women's Coarse Boots, \$1.35 now \$1.10.
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Men's Sateen Shirts, \$1.00 now 50cts.
Men's Woolen Shirts, \$1.50 now \$1.10.
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Factory Cotton, 3 1/2 cents per yard.
Bleached Cotton from 5 to 7 cents per yard.
Plaid, 6 cts. per yard and upwards.
Print, 5 and 9 cts. per yard.
Horse Rugs, \$1.60 now \$1.15.
Men's Pants, \$1.75 now \$1.25.
Men's Suits, \$8.00 now \$5.00.
Sleigh Robes, \$1.75 now \$1.25.
Women's sacks, \$1.75 and upwards.
Men's Gloves, 90cts. now 65cts per pair.
Caps, 60cts. now 35cts.
Good Family Flour, \$4.25 now \$3.50 per bbl.
Gran. Sugar, 20 lbs. for \$1.00.
Brown Sugar, 22 lbs. for \$1.00.
Barley, 10 lbs. for 25cts.
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Baking Soda, 10 lbs. for 25cts
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