

The Daily Mail

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at No. 613 Queen Street, Fredericton, by THE MAIL PRINTING COMPANY.
Telephone No. 67

Fredericton, N. B., December 27, 1912

PROVINCIAL FINANCES

The financial statement of the provincial government for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31st which according to law must be published before Dec. 31st, appears in this week's Royal Gazette. It is a most remarkable statement and will certainly be "viewed with alarm" by those who have the best interests of the Province of New Brunswick at heart. It shows a record breaking revenue of \$1,417,722.17 and a record breaking expenditure of \$1,409,049.68 leaving an apparent surplus of \$8,672. This is the exhibit of a government which went into power in 1908 pledged to exercise the strictest economy in the administration of public service. This is the exhibit of a government the members of which held up their hands in holy horror because the old regime in 1907 expended the sum of \$960,000 in administering the affairs of the province. It is the exhibit of a government, the members of which when in opposition five years ago al- planation have these men to make today in justification of an expenditure on interest account not of \$160,000 not of \$200,000 but of the enormous sum of \$258,352.97 an increase of a little more than \$13,000 in the short space of one year. Sir John A. Macdonald, the most astute of Conservative statesmen used to say that it was not the public debt that should cause anxiety, but it was the interest charges that kept rolling up month after month, and year after year which should be a matter of the greatest concern. In 1907 when sitting in opposition in the legislature the present premier complained bitterly of an interest charge of \$160,000 per annum and declared that if the then government remained in office another six years the \$300,000 mark would be reached. The present administration has been in power four and a half years and already we have an increase of \$100,000 in the interest charges. If this rate is kept up the end of six years of power will see the \$300,000 mark passed. In 1908 Tory politicians and Tory barnstormers most of whom are now safely stowed away in government offices, went about the most threw a fit because the government of that day was compelled to pay out \$160,000 admittedly a large sum for interest on the debt. What ex- country declaring that the Grits, by their extravagance, had brought the province to the verge of bankruptcy and ruin. If the province was on the verge of ruin in 1908, with a total expenditure of \$960,000 and an annual interest charge of \$160,000, how much worse is the situation today with an interest charge of \$259,000 and an annual expenditure greater by half a million dollars than that which marked the last year of the old government. This is a matter which should have the serious thought of all those who have the best interests of this province at heart. The time has arrived when the brake should be applied; the reckless extravagance under Flemming rule must be checked otherwise the people of this province will before they are many years older, find themselves face to face with direct taxation.

The reptile press supporting the government find cause for joy in the fact that revenue, in other words the amount extracted from the people by various methods of taxation, is the greatest in the history of the province. They also rejoice because the expenditure, as disclosed by the government's statement, exceeds that of 1911 by only \$5,502. They carefully omit mentioning the fact, however, that the expenditure was greater by \$55,337.15 than the estimate submitted to the legislature in March last by the provincial secretary. If there is a surplus of \$8,000 as claimed, it is due more to good luck than to good management for the expenditure exceeded the estimated revenue by \$50,000. When in opposition the members of the present government condemned the old administration for



taxing "dead men's estates" by means of succession duties. It is to this method of taxation that they owe \$4,000 of their increased revenue over last year. Had old mortality not come to the assistance of the government it would have required a great deal more juggling to create the small surplus which it now attempts to foist upon the public.

Practically the only department in which any decreased expenditure is shown is that of public works. The amount expended under this head in 1911 was \$415,761.49, while last year it was kept down to \$376,286.46, a difference of \$39,475.03. We are told by the Tory press, that the large expenditure of 1911, was due to severe freshets which washed away bridges. They would have come much nearer the truth had they stated that the money was expended in an attempt to influence votes in the Federal election of that year. The government, had it been so inclined could easily have expended another fifty thousand dollars on the roads last year, without unduly sacrificing the interests of the province.

The increase of \$4000 in the item of public printing will no doubt create considerable surprise among those who remember the attitude taken by the members of the government in regard to this service when in opposition. They then declared that the money was used as a bribe to the press supporting the government and contended that a great saving could be effected by adopting the tender system. On one occasion, when the government proposed an expenditure of \$12,000 for public printing Hon. Mr. Hazen, as leader of the opposition moved that the amount be reduced to \$8,000, claiming that that sum was ample for the purpose. Last year the economical Flemming government distributed \$17,000 among its newspaper supporters, thus establishing a new high record. Just what proportion of this amount went to newspapers in which members of the government have a financial interest is not disclosed by the statement.

This is certainly a world of surprises, and we have the surprising statement that the territorial revenues of the province last year showed a falling off of \$6,000. Ye gods and little fishes! Time and again we have been told by the heaven born statesmen of the Flemming government and the press supporting it that the increased territorial revenue was not due to an increased lumber cut, but to an "honest collection of the stumpage." Now we have the poisoned press of the party telling the people that the falling off in receipts this year is due to a decreased lumber cut. The two statements utterly fail to jibe and an explanation from Premier Flemming would seem to be in order. Did the honest collection of stumpage cease when Hon. Mr. Grimmer handed over the Crown Land department to Premier Flemming? If not, why should there be a falling off in the receipts?

The financial statement of the government discloses a deplorable condition of affairs. The grossest mal-administration and extravagance prevails in every department of the public service. The absence of an effective opposition to criticize the acts of the administration on the floors of the House has whetted the appetites of the supporters of the government and they have been most insistent in their demands. The public treasury has been looted and the looting will go on until an outraged people face to face with direct taxation rise in their might and hurl from power the men who have betrayed their confidence and violated in the most flagrant manner the solemn promises made when in opposition.

MONTREAL STAR'S JOKE.

St. John Telegraph:—The Montreal Star, which ordinarily is not given to humor, publishes a picture of Mr. Oswald S. Crockett, M.P. for York, under which is printed these words: "Who is mentioned as a candidate for the chief justiceship of New Brunswick." The office in question is not seeking Mr. Crockett to any alarming extent and, if he is doing the seeking, the office is in no danger of being overtaken.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Dixon of Winnipeg arrived in the city last night. They are at the Queen.

Electric Restorer for Men
Phosphonol restores every nerve in the body to its proper tension; restores vim and vitality. Premature decay and all sexual weakness averted at once. Phosphonol will make you a new man. Price \$3 a box, or two for \$5. Mailed to any address. The Scobell Drug Co., St. Catharines, Ont.

Sold in Fredericton by A. J. RYAN.

Don't Wait

Wise people do their Christmas shopping early, and give more thought to the selection of their gifts. Remember that gifts that combine utility with beauty are the ones most appreciated. That is the kind you will find here among our Toilet Articles, High Grade French Perfumes and Toilet Soaps

HUNT & MACDONALD DRUGGISTS PHONE 65

EVERY BOY OR YOUNG MAN LIKES TO SKATE



THE PLEASURE IS INCREASED WHEN THEY WEAR MCPHERSON HOCKEY SHOES.

MADE IN MEN'S, BOYS AND LADIES SIZES. EXCELLENT GIFTS.

FOR SALE BY

H. S. CAMPBELL SHOEMAN

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

EXTRA VALUES

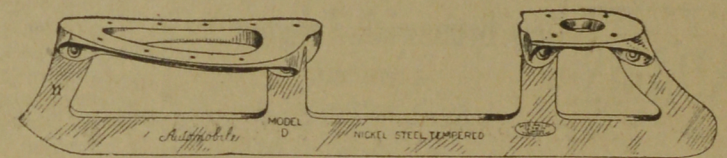
IN

SHAKER BLANKETS WOOL BLANKETS WOOL TACKDOWNS DOWN QUILTS, ETC.

John J. Weddall & Sons

S-K-A-T-E-S

The Skating Season is now open. We have yet a good stock of Skates in different sizes and styles.



Hockey Skates, Acme Skates, Long Reach. Skates
We also have a good stock of Hockey Sticks, Pucks, etc., upon which we will quote special prices to clubs.
We are sole agents for the city for the Celebrated Automobile Skate.

R. CHESTNUT & SON

WHOLESALE The Hardware People RETAIL

SACHET POWDERS

Twenty Different Odors

George Y Dibblee

The **Rexall Store** Druggist Opp. City Hall.

GREAT BARGAINS in Christmas Presents

Library and Hall Lamps, Pictures, Rockers, Chairs and Desks, Silverware, China Cabinets, Music Cabinets, Book Cases, Book Sacks, Hall Trees, Etc., Etc.

HOWARD ROGERS The Furniture Man KING STREET