

GOVERNMENT MADE SAVING ON WILD CAT BOUNTIES

Real Economy Practised in One Branch of the Public Service Last Year---195 Less Cats Taken Than in the Previous Year---Charlotte the Banner Cat County

The Provincial Government actually made a saving in one branch of the public service last year, and The Mail does not hesitate to give it due credit. The Auditor General's report shows that a saving of \$195 was actually made, and in these days of wild cat schemes the showing is one to be proud of. The saving was not made at the expense of the wild cats—in fact it was effected by sparing the lives of exactly 195 more wild cats and saving the provincial exchequer exactly that number of dollars in coin of the realm. The money was, of course, expended for another purpose, and as an offset we still have the wild cats.

In the year 1914 the sum of \$530 was paid out by the government in wild cat bounties, while last year the total payments in bounties amounted to only \$335. Had a proportionate saving been made in other departments the government would have shown a tidy surplus at the end of the year, instead of a deficit.

What Makes It Wild?

The question is often asked: What makes the wild cat wild? Because it is looked upon as a common enemy and every man's hand is against it.

The species is also hunted for its fur, and incidentally for the bounty of \$1 which the government has placed on its head—or rather on its snout.

Under the circumstances, who can blame the wild cat for being wild?

Charlotte continues to be the banner wildcat county of the province. This is because it is a border county and reciprocity in wild cat snouts with the state of Maine has been in vogue for a number of years. In 1914 Charlotte county produced for bounty purposes the snouts of 99 cats, but last year the number fell off to 75. The marked reduction in the death rate should, and will no doubt, mean a better showing next year.

The county of Queens produced 65 cats for bounty purposes in 1914, while last year the number fell off to 33.

York's Poor Showing.

York county used to be some wild cat county, but since its representatives took to fighting among themselves the cats are inclined to keep in the background. However, last year 35 cats bit the dust in this noble county, against 76 in 1914, a falling off of over one hundred per cent.

The little county of Sunbury, which tied York for second place in 1914, could only scare up 19 cats last year. If a better showing is not made this year it will be up to Mr. Perley, M. P. P., to agitate for the restoration of the bear bounty.

Scarce in Northumberland.

The county of Northumberland, with its enormous territory, produced 3 cats in 1914 and only 2 last year. If something is not done soon the wild cat will become extinct in Northumberland. A few specimens from Charlotte or Queens should be imported in order to even up the account. The Chief Commissioner should see to it that his county gets justice from the wild cat fund.

The county of Victoria did not produce a single cat in 1913, while last year it accounted for three—an in-

crease of 300 per cent.

The county of Kent just held its own with 28 cats, while Kings showed a 100 per cent. decrease. Albert county produced 35, a decrease of 19, and there was a falling off in St. John county of 11.

It is rather singular that the county of Madawaska—the only county represented in the Legislature by Opposition members—is also the only county which does not produce wild cats. The indications are that after the next election other counties will follow the lead of Madawaska and rid themselves of wild cats and wildcat politicians.

BRONZE TORPEDO SUNK THE TUBANTIA

London, March 27.—A statement issued by the British Admiralty yesterday says that the description of the pieces of metal found in the Tubantia's lifeboats indicates they were part of the air chamber of a bronze torpedo.

During the present war six German bronze torpedoes, complete, have been picked up in the North Sea and the Channel. The statement also says:

"There is no portion of any French or British torpedo or mine consisting of metal of this size, thickness and strength. So far as our knowledge goes, in every case except one in which a ship has been torpedoed by Germans, a bronze torpedo has been used."

Ed Geers is training around thirty head this spring.

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50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

CREDITORS' MEETING.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr. W. H. O'Keefe, St. John, Friday afternoon in the office of Mr. S. H. Taylor, the appointment of Mr. Richard Sullivan as assignee was made. Mr. Taylor and Mr. W. L. Williams were appointed inspectors with instructions to make the best arrangements possible. It is understood the assets are small and the matter of continuing the business was left to the consideration of the inspectors.

WORTH KNOWING.

Discolored spots on carpets can be frequently restored by rubbing with a sponge dipped in ammonia diluted with water.

Smoked ceilings that have been blackened by a kerosene lamp may be restored with soda water.

Copa de Oro, 2:01, will be exported having been sold to a New Zealand breeder.

Opposition Platform

The following platform was adopted at the Opposition Convention held in St. John recently:

In the event of the Opposition being returned to power, we pledge ourselves:—

NO PARTIZAN CONTROL OF CROWN LANDS.

1. We pledge ourselves to completely reorganize the Crown Lands Department, so that its administration shall be entirely severed from politics and administered on sound business principles under systematic plans by a non-partizan commission specially appointed for that purpose, responsible to the Legislature and working in co-operation with the Dominion Commission of Conservation.

TAKE THE HIGHWAYS OUT OF POLITICS.

2. We pledge ourselves to take the highways out of politics, giving the expenditure of the money collected from the people and the control of the labor, together with the Government appropriations, into the hands of supervisors, chosen by the people of each parish, to whom a detailed and audited account must be rendered every year at the annual meeting, and a duplicate thereof forwarded to the Department of Public Works, the work of the supervisors to be under the inspection of a competent provincial engineer.

We also pledge ourselves to set aside the money collected from the licenses upon automobiles and other motor vehicles, together with an equal appropriation from the revenues of the Province each year, to pay the interest upon the bonds to provide for permanent roads, which shall be constructed as rapidly as possible.

PROHIBITION PROVINCE WIDE.

3. We pledge ourselves at the first session of the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Province to the fullest extent allowed by the Constitution, and within three months after the passage of said Act to submit the same by referendum to the electors of the Province, and should the majority of votes cast be in favor of the said law, then to bring the same into force by proclamation within one year thereafter.

ELECTION LAW.

4. (a) To amend the electoral law so as to make it impossible for members of the Legislature to traffic with the Government and still retain their seats.

(b) To make it possible for young men, when they reach the age of 21 years, to register their names and be placed forthwith upon the voters' lists, instead of waiting for the tedious machinery of revision as it now exists.

(c) To divide the counties into electoral districts which shall each be represented by one member.

(d) We will also consider amendments to the election law to make bribery in municipal as well as provincial elections impossible.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

5. To obtain at once a correct statement of the financial condition of the Province in order that the people may have definite knowledge of the vastly increased public debt and the enormous obligations of guaranteed bonds they will be called upon to pay; and to so reduce the cost of the administration of affairs and the number of useless officials as to avoid the necessity for direct taxation now confronting us.

AGRICULTURE.

6. To give the farmers all the practical assistance that the resources of the Province will permit, to improve agricultural methods and the quality and quantity of the stock upon the farm; to reduce the enormous salary list in the department, and to spend the educational grant received from the Federal Government without regard for political patronage.

VALLEY RAILWAY.

7. To complete the Valley Railway from a point on the Transcontinental Railway at or near Grand Falls, to St. John, and insist upon the Dominion Government carrying out the terms of the original legislation and allow the Province forty per cent. of the gross earnings thereof.

EDUCATION.

8. To always maintain and improve the educational service of the Province and to co-operate with the Federal Government in carrying out the recommendations of the commission upon technical education.

IMMIGRATION.

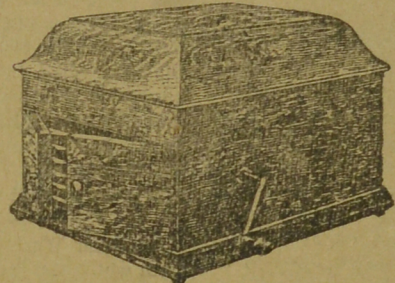
9. The inauguration of a vigorous immigration policy to properly place before intending immigrants, whose number will be large after termination of the war, the advantages of the agricultural possibilities of New Brunswick.

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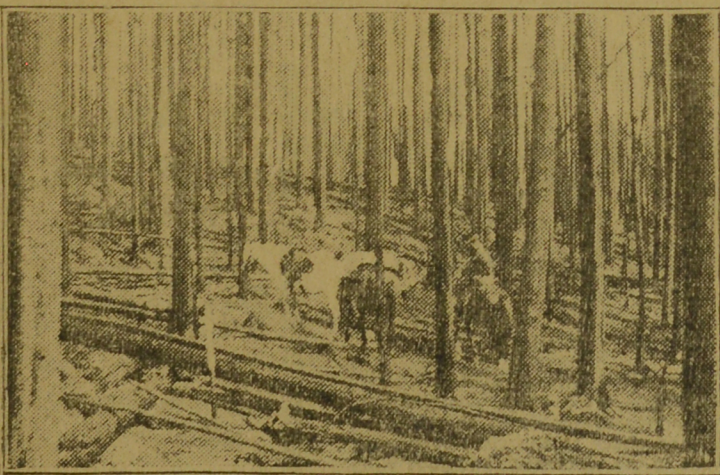
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