

THE DAILY MAIL

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1916

What I said November 9, I repeat now: "We shall never sheathe the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium—and I will add Serbia—recover in full measure all and more than they have sacrificed; until France is adequately secured against aggression; until the rights of the small nations of Europe are based upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed."—Premier Asquith.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

Hon. Dr. Landry, Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, brought down the budget in the Legislature on Wednesday and spent nearly two hours in a labored effort to prove that the province is in a sound position financially. When the doctor held the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture he posed as a great authority on all matters pertaining to the noble art of husbandry. He only succeeded in making himself ridiculous in the eyes of the farming community, and when Mr. J. Kidd Flemming became Premier he, yielding to public sentiment, lost no time in transferring the Kent county practitioner to another department. As custodian of the provincial exchequer the doctor has even covered himself with less glory than was the case when he was head of the Agricultural Department. Indeed, he has been such a conspicuous failure that a few weeks ago when Premier Clarke decided to hie himself off to Clifton Springs for a well-needed rest from the cares of office, he quietly passed over Dr. Landry, the senior ranking member of the cabinet, and selected Hon. J. A. Murray to guide the helm of the ship of state during his absence. Those who take the trouble to wade through Dr. Landry's so-called exposition of provincial finances, as set forth in the government press today, will have no hesitation in declaring that for once the Premier displayed excellent judgment.

Although there is no debating Opposition in the House, it will be noticed that Dr. Landry, during his address was on the defensive almost from start to finish. First, he attempted to reply to a statement criticizing provincial finances published in January by Hon. C. W. Robinson; next a statement given at the same time by Mr. W. E. Foster of St. John engaged his attention; and finally he had to deal with a reference to the public debt made in the Dominion Parliament by Mr. F. B. Carvell. The member for Carleton had simply pointed out that an attempt made last session by Mr. J. L. Stewart, an independent member of the Legislature, to secure from the Government a statement of the debt and liabilities of the province had been unsuccessful. Dr. Landry in his speech contended that the information asked for had been furnished to the House, but Mr. Stewart was unable to understand the meaning of it. If this is so it does not help out the doctor's case very much. Mr. Stewart is a member of the Legislature and a man of exceptional intelligence, and if he could not understand the doctor's statement of debt and liabilities as submitted to the House, how can the ordinary individual be expected to correctly interpret it?

In regard to the criticism of Messrs. Robinson and Foster, they do not pretend to be an authority on the mode of treatment to be applied in case of small-pox, cholera, night-sweats or torpid liver, but in matters of business and finance they have had as much practical experience and have at least as much knowledge of the subject as the learned practitioner from Kent county. The points which they raised against the Government's financial methods were well taken, and the doctor's heated outburst in the House yesterday will not materially alter the situation. Neither will it reduce the public debt, or the interest charges which are rolling up year by year and must be paid out of the revenue of the province.

From the mass of figures presented to the House by the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, we gather that he estimates a revenue during the coming year of \$1,548,100.15, which is \$78,533.39 greater than the amount actually received last year. The difference is more than offset by the fact that the estimate for succession duties for 1916 is \$50,000, whereas last year \$150,000 was actually collected from this source. Last year the Government expended the sum of \$1,626,633.86 and thousands of dollars which should have gone into the ordinary expenditures were purposely held back until after the fiscal year had closed. There is no reason to believe that the extravagant combination now in control of affairs will economize to the extent of a single dollar during the coming

year. They have been in power now eight years and in every year have succeeded in increasing the expenditure. If by some chance there should be a decrease during 1916 people would be justified in believing that the millennium was near at hand. Dr. Landry's pretence at economy therefore is nothing more than a brazen attempt to deceive and humbug the people whom the Government must soon ask for a new lease of power.

With a bonded indebtedness of over ten million dollars, additional liabilities in the form of land guarantees to railways to the extent of five million dollars, an annual expenditure of over \$1,600,000, the financial situation of the province is not such as to cause any great amount of enthusiasm among thoughtful people. The extravagance and waste in evidence on every side must be stopped, and the most rigid economy exercised if the province is to be saved from bankruptcy.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Fredericton Board of Trade threw to the winds last night in five minutes a reputation for honesty and liberty of speech which it has taken thirty-five years to attain. Last night, for the first time in the history of the Board, the lid was put on free speech when a matter of public interest was to be considered. The function of a Board of Trade is to treat all public matters without fear or favor, so far as any political party is concerned. In this connection the Fredericton Board was twice as effective when the membership was one-quarter as large as it is today, because it handled all public questions in this manner. Within the past two years, however, a feeling has got into the Board that political matters, no matter how vital they may be to the interests of the community, must be tabooed, and this feeling culminated last night in a blank refusal to discuss the proposed change of plans with respect to the St. John Valley Railway. A Board of Trade exists for the purpose of dealing with matters affecting the business life of the community, and if it fails to exercise this function, of what use is it? The Fredericton Board of Trade took the lead in the agitation for the construction of the Valley Railway, and went on record as favoring the east side route to St. John. It will be remembered that the residents of the counties of Kings and Queens, before they would co-operate in the matter, asked the Fredericton Board to co-operate with them in having the road traverse their section of the country. The Fredericton Board gave the pledge asked for. Had this not been done and the co-operation of down river residents secured, the whole project might have fallen through. Now, what do the members of the Fredericton Board of Trade propose to do with respect to that pledge? Can they treat it as the German Kaiser did his pledge to the Belgians, or will they attempt to live up to it? If they disregard it the finger of scorn will be pointed at them by the people of every county in New Brunswick.

There are just two things which the Board of Trade must do if its usefulness is to remain unimpaired, and it must act quickly. The first is to keep the pledge made to residents of the down river parishes, and the second is to stand firmly for free speech on every public question without fear or favor to any political party. The Daily Mail has stood by the Board of Trade in season and out of season, and it regrets that it is necessary to offer criticism on this occasion, but we feel that it is travelling, or rather being led, along the wrong road, and we wish to head it in the right direction.

The inaction of the Board of Trade last evening, in failing to give an expression of opinion on the Government's proposal to change the route of the Valley Railway, was a cause of great joy to the St. John Standard. Not satisfied with the report of the meeting sent by its correspondent, it elaborates on the same under scare headlines and makes the false statement that the meeting endorsed the west side route. The meeting did nothing of the kind. There was not a word spoken in favor of either route. The exuberance of the Standard shows the eagerness of the organs of a moribund Government these days to grasp at straws.

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DECLINE SUBSTITUTES

JOHN E. MCAULEY WAS IN THIS DEAL Answers to Query About Farm Settlement Board Purchase in Kings.

Hon. Mr. Murray, in reply to Mr. Dugal's inquiry in the House on Tuesday, said:

1. Did the Farm Settlement Board purchase a farm from Charles Cain, of West Scotch Settlement, Kings county, either directly or through John E. McAuley?

Answer—Yes.
2. Was the Department of Agriculture or the Farm Settlement Board aware of the fact that the said John E. McAuley, of Millstream, was to get the lumber from the farm (which was estimated at 1,000,000 feet and valued at \$2.00 per 1,000 standing) if the farm was sold to Farm Settlement Board, also that the said McAuley was to pay \$700.00 and the Board \$1,300.00, making a total of \$2,000.00 that Cain was to receive?

Answer—The Department of Agriculture had no knowledge of the transaction whatever, as the farm referred to was purchased before the Farm Settlement Board was made a division of the Agricultural Department. The Farm Settlement Board did not know of any arrangements with regard to John E. McAuley paying \$700 to the seller of the farm, the board getting a deed from Charles Cain for the property in return for a payment of \$1,300. There was an understanding by the Board that this did not include the standing lumber on the farm.

3. Was the farm deeded to the board by McAuley or by Cain, and did McAuley reserve a part of the original farm, which part is now occupied by Thomas Cain?

Answer—The farm was deeded to the Board by Charles Cain and contains 200 acres. The Board had no knowledge of any reservation now alleged to be occupied by Thomas Cain.

4. Is the Department aware that for this reserved portion of the Charles Cain farm, now occupied by Thomas Cain, McAuley received \$200, and another farm from Thomas Cain, which had 200,000 feet of lumber on it?

Answered by Number 3.
5. Is it a fact that the original Charles Cain farm, a part of which is now the property of the Farm Settlement Board, was a farm of 200 acres, cutting thirty tons of hay and with good houses and barns on it?

Answer—It is a fact that the Charles Cain farm, purchased by the Farm Settlement Board, is a farm of 200 acres, cutting about thirty tons of hay, and with good houses and barns on it.
6. Is it also true that the farm has not been sold to any settler, but that for two or more years it has been in charge of John E. McAuley, who quartered his lumber crews in the house and his teams in the barns, and has greatly damaged both house and barns?

Answer—Is it true that the farm has not been sold. It is not true that it has been for two or more years in charge of John E. McAuley. The Board does not know that the house and barns have been greatly damaged.
7. Who has cut the hay on the farm and has the province received any revenue from it or rental for the place?

Answer—John E. McAuley cut the hay on the farm one year and occupied the buildings two winters, for which he paid the Farm Settlement Board \$100. John Ogilvie cut the hay on the halves in 1914 and Geo. Somerville on the halves in 1915.

8. If so, how much, from whom and at what date?

Answer—Half of the hay belonging to the Farm Settlement Board for the summer of 1914 was sold February 19, 1915, for \$92. Up to the present we have sold from our half for 1915 \$30 worth, and there are five tons or more in the mow.

9. What Kings county member or members recommended or brought the Cain farm to the attention of the Farm Settlement Board, and were any recommendations made by any of the members respecting same?

Answer—No Kings county member or members recommended or brought the Cain farm to the attention of the Farm Settlement Board or knew anything whatever of the transaction, which was one conducted entirely by the Farm Settlement Board.

Licenses for Movies.

Hon. Dr. Landry, in reply to Mr. Pelletier's inquiry:

1. Are the licenses of moving picture houses made out to coincide with the fiscal year of the province?

Answer—Yes.
2. If a moving picture license is taken out and has three or six months of the year to run, does the licensee have to pay the full year's license?

Answer—Yes, with the exception of some cases where the license had less than six months to run and in which the inspector recommended for a shorter term.

3. Have there been payments of a full year's license for less than twelve months, and have there been any objections made by licensees to paying the full amount for the shorter term?

Answer—Yes, and no objections have been made by the licensees to paying the full amount for the shorter term.

4. Who have made these objections, and is it the intention of the Provincial Secretary to make the licensees any refund?

Answered by No. 3, and it is not the intention of the Provincial Secretary to make the licensees any refund.

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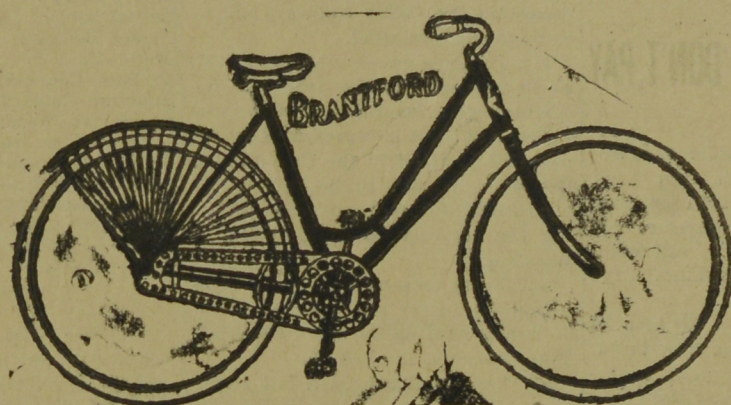
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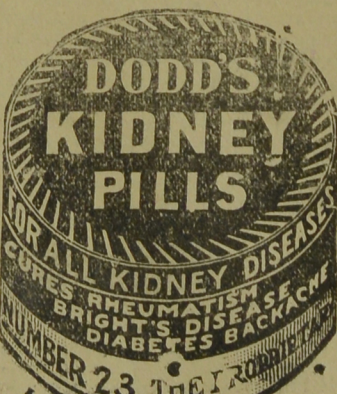
Magistrate and witness were both given a surprise in the Police Court on Monday when a man who is now serving a term in jail as a result of a conviction registered against him by Stipendiary McKenzie for violation of the temperance law was giving evidence. In the course of his examination some reference was made to the fact that the witness is serving a term in jail.

"What," asked Mr. McKenzie, "are you in jail?"

"By dam," said the startled witness, who is not familiar with court etiquette, but distinctly remembered whose decision had sent him to jail, "you ought to know."

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