

THE DAILY MAIL

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MESSAGE TO YOUNG MEN.

"After a long life I shall remind you that already many problems rise before you; problems of race division, problems of creed differences, problems of economic conflict, problems of national duty and national aspiration. Let me tell you that for the solution of these problems you have a safe guide, an unerring light, if you remember that faith is better than doubt, and love is better than hate.

"Banish" doubt and hate from your life. Let your souls be ever open to the strong promptings of faith and the gentle influence of brotherly love. Be adamant against the haughty; be gentle and kind to the weak. Let your aim and your purpose, in good report or in ill, in victory or in defeat, be so to live, so to strive, so to serve as to do your part to raise the standard of life to higher and better spheres."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at London, Ont.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

This week's Royal Gazette contains the annual financial statement of the province for the fiscal year ending October 31st, which, according to law must be given to the public before the end of the calendar year. According to the statement, the receipts for the year were \$1,580,531.26, and the expenditure \$1,568,454.07, leaving a so-called surplus of \$12,077.19. The receipts fell short of those for 1915 by \$53,548.08; the expenditure is put down as \$58,179.79 less, while the modest claim is made that the surplus is \$4,631.71 greater than was claimed in the previous year. The small surplus of 1915 was created by holding over accounts which should have been paid before the close of the fiscal year, and no doubt the same buck was passed by the Provincial Secretary when preparing the statement which has just been given to the public. It is a fairly safe guarantee that B. Frank Smith's election road expenditures incurred in Carleton county during the September by-election were not included in the list of expenditures, and these alone would be more than sufficient to wipe out the so-called surplus.

It would be unfair to the Government perhaps to say that it did not make some effort to practice economy during the year just closed, but it was a sagging revenue rather than any burning desire to protect the public interests that compelled it to apply the pruning knife. Still it managed to get way with practically the entire revenue of \$1,568,563, and in addition spent \$432,563 on capital account, making a total expenditure for the year of \$2,000,000 in round figures.

The largest item of receipts was \$637,976.16 from Dominion subsidies, which of course is the same as last year. The territorial revenue, amounting to \$540,386.06, which is a very good showing, although \$51,519.08 less than in 1915. Succession duties, which under the old government used to be styled "taxing dead men's estates," yielded \$77,952.37, or just about one-half of the revenue from this source during 1915. From the sale of motor vehicle licenses there was derived a revenue of \$38,482, or \$13,366 more than in the previous year. A new item of revenue appears in the list this year for the first time, being the proceeds of the tax on railway companies, which amounted to \$53,690, or \$40,000 more than the small surplus the government claims on the year's operations. It would seem, therefore, that this new tax saved a lot of juggling which otherwise would have been necessary in order to show a surplus.

The government disposed of bonds during the year to the amount of \$715,500. One lot of \$702,000 bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. yielded \$666,900, and the other lot, which was sold to the provincial sinking funds, yielded the par value of \$113,500. The proceeds of the second loan are for the Farm Settlement Board, and bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent. The Government claims to have closed the fiscal year with a cash balance of \$520,837.18, which represents part of the proceeds from the sale of bonds. The Government may have had the surplus on October 31st, but it is safe to say that with an election due in the spring a goodly portion of it will soon take on wings and disappear.

The largest and most important item

on the expense side of the account is that of interest, which is set down at \$351,004.99. This is an increase of \$15,367.50 over 1915, and an increase of \$80,879 over 1914, an average increase of \$48,123 for the two years. If this era of extravagance is not checked it will soon require the entire territorial revenue to pay the interest.

The expenditure on public works during the year is put down at \$346,458.03, a reduction of \$61,195.29 as compared with the previous year. No doubt the new Minister of Public Works, will be given the credit for the decrease, which if the truth were known was really due to skilful juggling of the accounts rather than any desire of the new Minister to practice economy during the two months he held office prior to Oct. 31st.

The Government usually practices economy on the grant for education, but this year, strange to say, it expended for this important service the sum of \$7,050.20 more than the total for 1915. The expenditure on education seldom provokes criticism, as it is pretty well known that politics is kept out of the department and good value is given for the money.

The expenditure on administration of justice last year was \$23,512.92, a goodly proportion of which no doubt went to legal friends of the government for services in connection with criminal prosecutions. In the old days when members of the present administration sat in opposition, they argued that it was the duty of the Attorney General to prosecute in criminal cases, but now that they are in power this argument no longer holds good. The Attorney General farms the work out to lawyer friends of the Government, and gets by with it.

The expenditure on the Provincial Hospital during the year was \$94,385.62, the largest on record. The receipts of the institution, notwithstanding the extra taxation exacted by this Government from the municipalities, still falls \$42,000 short of meeting the expenditure. Another levy on the municipalities will soon be in order.

On fish, forest and game protection the Government expended \$33,800, an increase of \$2,794.87 over the previous year. Game protection under this administration is a disgraceful farce. Things have got so bad that the Guides' Association at its recent annual meeting decided to ask the Government to place the administration of the game laws into the hands of a commission.

An interesting item which looms up in the list of expenditures is "Commission to Investigate, \$1,957.80." Just what the commission investigated is not stipulated, but the public will have no difficulty in recalling certain grave scandals, the probing of which caused a Premier and two members of the Legislature—all red-hot sticklers for honest government—to resign their seats. The item should have appeared in the accounts last year, but was juggled over, along with exhibition grants and other expenditures incurred during 1915. The total amount expended by this Government on "Commissions to investigate" in a period of three years was \$14,911.80, and three times that amount could have been expended without disclosing all of the graft, the hoodling and the crooked transactions of members of the government and their legislative followers and hangers-on. A more thorough investigation will probably be in order when the province gets a much-needed change of rulers.

It must not be forgotten that the present Government went into office on the strength of high-sounding promises of retrenchment and reform, and it replaced a government which had been described as "criminally extravagant." When this government took office the public debt was \$5,200,000. Mr. J. Kidd Flemming, who was then in his palmy days, declared that it "was a great sum" and, said he, "when people of a province of this size have such a debt it is time for thought and careful attempts to better conditions." Under the wise rule of Flemming and his co-laborers the debt has grown from \$5,200,000 to over \$10,000,000. When Mr. Flemming became the custodian of our finances in 1908, the annual interest charge was \$190,000. Today it is \$351,000, or nearly one-quarter of the entire revenue. When the present Government took office less than nine years ago, the annual expenditure was \$960,000; today it is \$1,560,000, an increase of \$600,000. In other words, the present Government has, since 1908, doubled the public debt, doubled the annual interest charge and added \$600,000 per year to the controllable annual expenditure. This is a pretty stiff price to pay for the brand of "honest and businesslike administration" which New Brunswick has experienced for the past nine years.

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DESPISED CARTOONIST WITH PRICE ON HIS HEAD

He Makes the Whole World Shudder With His Cartoons on the War.

Hidden away in an obscure studio in a London suburb, with a price upon his head (offered by Germany) Louis Raemakers has made the whole world shudder with his cartoons of the great war.

A year and a half ago he was an unknown Dutch landscape artist. Today he is acclaimed the greatest master of pen and pencil of the age; he has been feted by royalty, sought by German spies and charged with endangering Dutch neutrality.

By the usually reserved and frequently sceptical Englishman he is frankly idolized; and all because he has pictured German "kultur" and its dire effects.

His cartoons are now the rage of the hour in New York, where an exhibit of originals is being given for the benefit of the French Red Cross.

Louis Raemakers was born in Holland of a Dutch father and a German mother. When quite young he studied painting and drawing in Holland and Brussels, and before the war began he had established a local reputation as a landscape and portrait painter.

Some years ago he married a Dutch woman, and it is now said by those who know him that he has no interest outside his home, which includes three ruddy children, except to go on with his work. The strong religious tendency which so often characterizes his work has brought forth the question of what church the artist attends.

His reply is that he belongs to none, but was brought up a Catholic and his wife a Protestant, and the differences which in later life severed both from their early teaching, caused them to meet on common ground.

Through Our Sieve

Only three more drinking days before the water-wagon resolution.

Marriage is a short cut from romance to reality.

The man who poses as a model citizen has a hard job.

The owls all hoot so much alike that you can't tell whose who's who.

An affectation of simplicity on the part of a woman keeps a man guessing.

Old man 1916 is looking pretty well today for a fellow who has only a few more days to live.

Shaves 15c! The economical man will now either raise a beard or buy a safety razor.

Love is a voyage of discovery, marriage the goal—and divorce the relief expedition.

Of course men are not vain—but just tell a man of fifty that he doesn't look a day over thirty, and watch the effect.

No matter how little we may love our neighbors, we can see no good reason why they shouldn't have a kindly feeling for us.

Every time a man hears his name mentioned in connection with a political office he imagines that the world is growing better.

A Philadelphia paper insists that red-headed men are in the ascendancy. No wonder. Enough going on to make them that way.

Never judge the kind of mother a man had by the kind of a woman who marries him.

It is easy to believe that you have good taste, but it isn't so easy to convince others.

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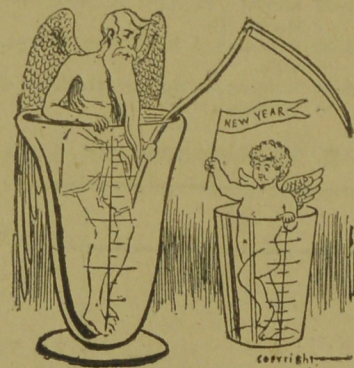
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