

THE DAILY MAIL

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PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

If further proof were wanting of the wisdom displayed by the people of this province in voting for a change of rulers on February 24th, it is furnished by information supplied to the Legislature yesterday by Hon. Mr. Robinson in the course of his budget speech. Hon. Mr. Robinson's exposition of provincial finances was undoubtedly the most masterly that the Legislature has listened to in a score of years. He is a man of keen business acumen who has long been identified with provincial politics. He knows more of the intricacies of provincial finance than any other man who sits in the Legislature, and his words will carry great weight with the people of this province, more particularly with thoughtful business men. The statements which he made in regard to the debt and liability based on an interim report of one of the most reliable firms of chartered accountants in Canada, show conclusively that the government kicked out of office on the 24th February was not only extravagant and incompetent, but that it studiously practiced gross deception upon the people.

It will be remembered that during the late election opponents of the then government frequently made the statement that the liabilities of the province were not less than \$17,000,000. The office holders and others who made it their duty to defend the administration, strongly denied that this was the case, and accused the opposition of attempting to deceive the people. Now we have the report of the independent auditors which places the capital and current debt of the province at \$17,102,960.86, and the total liabilities at the enormous sum of \$20,665,960.80.

In the light of this startling information the people might well ask themselves who it was that practiced deception upon them during the recent election. The total liability, it might be explained, does not include the cost of building the Valley Railway from Centreville to Andover, a contract for which has already been let.

With the old government it seems to have been a case of dash away and spend the people's money. They had a revenue much larger than that ever enjoyed by any previous administration, yet they starved the public service and squandered the people's money in the most reckless fashion. Rascally contractors and middlemen were permitted to plunder the public treasury and a subservient majority in the Legislature said amen to the nefarious work.

The present financial condition of the province is undoubtedly serious, but as Hon. Mr. Robinson pointed out, is not altogether hopeless. The province has a great asset in the Crown Lands, which if properly conserved ought to make it unnecessary for the government to impose direct taxation. The time has arrived, however, when additional taxation must be imposed, and the Crown Lands of the province will have to bear a generous share of it. Sufficient income must be provided from some source to meet the ordinary expenditure of the province. It is most fortunate that we have at the head of the government at this trying time a man of great business ability in the person of Hon. Walter E. Foster. He has surrounded himself with able colleagues whom we believe will strive honestly and fearlessly to restore the affairs of the province to a sound business basis. In its efforts to correct the costly mistakes of the past and bring about a better condition of affairs, the Foster government is deserving of the hearty support of the patriotic citizens of New Brunswick, regardless of party.

The political mix-up at Ottawa is undoubtedly the worst that Canada has seen since Confederation. Negotiations for a coalition government having fallen through, it is now said that Sir Robert Borden will at once go ahead with his bill to provide for compulsory military service. Premier Borden will reorganize his cabinet and it is said that he will hold out the olive branch to several prominent Liberals who are known to favor conscription, including Hon. G. P. Graham, F. B. Carvell and A. K. McLean. The problem which faces the political parties

at Ottawa is a very serious one, and if it is not settled and settled right, there is danger that the dial-plate of the history of Canada may be turned back half a century.

Mr. Baxter has been chosen as financial critic by the opposition in the Legislature, and will reply to the budget speech of Hon. C. W. Robinson. Mr. Baxter is a shrewd and well informed lawyer, but he has never been regarded as a weighty authority on provincial finances. It will tax his craftiness and ingenuity to the utmost to break the force of the damning indictment of the methods of the old government made by Hon. Mr. Robinson in his budget speech.

The provincial elections in Alberta yesterday resulted in the triumphant return to power of the Liberal government so ably led by Hon. Arthur Sifton. All members of the government were re-elected and the Liberals were able to elect their men in the Tory stronghold of Calgary, represented in Parliament by Mr. R. B. Bennett. The verdict of Alberta shows that Liberalism and democracy still retain a firm hold in western Canada.

Through Our Sieve

The gentle rain—the (garden) plot thickens.

Garden hint—even the widows want to get rid of the weeds.

The fashionable costume at garden parties this year is a suit of overalls.

You will soon encounter the submarine of the garden—the cutworm.

When you capture a submarine, give no quarter, take no prisoners.

It is the woman with the latest gown who is generally latest at church.

With more or less doubt the backyard gardener receives the news that there is a shortage of tin cans.

If a man wants to know how much he is appreciated, he should pose as defendant in a breach of promise suit.

England is to give up starched clothes to conserve the starch for foodstuffs. Do you like your collars soft boiled?

U-boats are the keystone to Germany's arch of military strength, that arch being upside down, like the entire institution of autocracy.

The philosopher begins to get things in their proper perspective when he quits looking for pearls in his oysters and is extremely gratified to get the oysters.

When you see a little 8-by-10 shed going up in a neighbor's yard, don't decide too quickly that he's going in for greater production of chickens—he may only be going to get an auto.

POLITICAL PROBLEMS

(Continued from page 1.) If Sir Robert Borden, regardless of the consequences which might come from precipitate enforcement of conscription, forces through the bill in the house and appeals to the country on the issue, political and national considerations may compel the Liberal party seriously to consider Sir Wilfrid's offer.

Tomorrow there will be a Liberal caucus, and doubtless the whole situation will be thoroughly threshed out.

CONCERT IN WEST END.

Fredericton Brass Band Played Excellent Programme Last Night.

The Fredericton Brass Band played at the West End band stand last night. The programme, which was on excellent one, was as follows:
O Canada—Lavallee
March, University of Pennsylvania—Liszt
Waltz, Immortellen—Gungl
Lento, Humoresque—Dvorak
March, Trafalgar—Engle
Descriptive fantasia, A Klaki Camp—Bidgood
Serenade, A Night in June—King
March, The Glory of the Trumpets—Losey
God Save the King.
G. H. OFFEN, Bandmaster.

REV. T. MARSHALL

(Continued from page 8.) paid for. The district has a growing church membership of 1,850, of which 273 men have have enlisted in the service of our King and Country. Sunday schools were responsible for \$1,300 of the receipts. Almost \$1,700 was received for the Missionary Fund, while the Women's Missionary Society raised another thousand dollars. Trustee Boards fathered nearly five thousand dollars for local property needs, and \$8,000 was contributed for salaries. For all purposes the district raised \$21,500.
The next annual meeting is held at Oromocto, June 1918.

DOG NUISANCE TO BE DISCUSSED

Committee on Agriculture to Hear Secretary Reek on the Matter Next Week.

The Committee on Agriculture met at the Parliament buildings this morning. Mr. Mersereau, the chairman, introduced Mr. R. P. Steeves of Sussex, director of elementary agricultural training in the schools of the province. Mr. Steeves addressed the committee at some length, describing what was being done in the public schools in this important branch. Mr. J. A. Murray of Kings, also spoke along the same line.

The chairman addressed the committee, pointing out a number of subjects which could well be touched upon. The dog nuisance and its relation to the industry of sheep raising was one of these. The province was in great need of a law which would remedy this evil and at the next meeting of the committee Secretary Reek would speak on this subject.

The committee will meet next week at the call of the chair.

Public Accounts.

The Public Accounts committee met this morning for a short time and passed the agricultural accounts.

W. M. S. CLOSED ANNUAL SESSION

The annual session of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist church of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island closed last evening. The election of officers was completed. Mrs. W. H. Barker of St. John, was elected delegate, Mrs. J. B. Gough of Jacksonville, first alternate, Mrs. C. L. Peters of Fredericton, second alternate.

Memorials were then submitted and with one exception were passed. Resolutions were also passed, one expressing thanks for the courtesy extended by the people of Fredericton and one expressing regret on account of the departure of Miss Stewart of Sackville, from the N. B. & P. E. I. district to Saskatchewan.

After short prayers the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Injured on Drive.

Mr. Howard Dunbar, of Marysville, who has been engaged in driving operations, returned home yesterday, suffering from a painful injury. Medical attendance was summoned and his condition is quite favorable.

OF SOCIAL INTEREST.

Mrs. A. P. Crocket of St. John, is visiting Mrs. A. M. Gibson, Waterloo Row.

Mrs. J. J. Taylor is here, the guest of her daughter, Mrs. C. P. Holden.

Mrs. Oswald Crocket is entertaining today at a luncheon for the members' wives.

Mrs. W. J. Osborne is spending the week-end at Sand Point.

Prof. W. T. Osborne of Manitoba University, Winnipeg, is touring the Maritime Provinces. He is being entertained in Fredericton.

Miss Radcliffe of New York is visiting her aunt, Mrs. John Black.

Mrs. John P. Burchill is visiting her brother, Rev. W. J. Wilkinson, at Springhill.

The Onagwakade Chapter, I. O. D. E., held a bridge of thirteen tables in the K. of P. hall yesterday afternoon. Many dropped in at the tea hour. The prize winners were: Miss Ethel Mullin 1st, Mrs. C. P. Holden 2nd, Miss Mattie McLaughlan 3rd, and Mrs. F. L. Cooper, consolation.

STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK	
Beet Sugar.....	96
C. P. R.....	160
Crucible steel.....	81½
Erie.....	25½
Erie 1st pfd.....	39 1-2
Marine Pfd.....	40½
Union Pac.....	136½
U. S. Steel.....	131½
Air Brake.....	179
Kenn.....	50
Marine Com.....	29
Reading.....	93
Rubber.....	56½
Studebaker.....	81½
Bethlehem.....	141
Wool.....	47½
MONTREAL	
Civic.....	76
Detroit.....	109
Quebec.....	20
Toronto.....	78½
Braz.....	40½
Cem.....	60½
Iro.....	63
Steel Co.....	60
Spanish.....	13½
Shaw.....	122
Can. Cottons.....	52 1-2
La. Pulp.....	185
Sugar.....	96

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"Niagara Maid" Short Silk Gloves, "Niagara Maid" Long Silk Gloves
"Niagara Maid" Ladies' Silk Hose Crown Brand Silk Hose
White Kid Gloves Heavy Black Stitching
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