

# THE DAILY MAIL

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FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1918.

## THE NEW AUDIT ACT.

When the Hazen government came into power in 1908, it passed an Audit Act for which it claimed a great deal of credit. The system of keeping the provincial accounts in vogue since Confederation, had become antiquated and it will be generally admitted that a change was necessary. The Act passed by the Hazen administration was a fairly good measure, although evidence is not lacking that its provisions were not always lived up to as rigidly as they might have been. The Act has been in force for ten years, and seems to have outlived its usefulness. The members of the present government, when in opposition, promised the people that they would institute reforms in connection with the financial affairs of the province, and they are making an honest effort to carry out their promise. One of their first acts was to engage the well known firm of Price, Waterhouse & Co. to make a thorough audit of the provincial accounts. The audit made by this concern showed that the accounts were juggled from year to year by the late administration. Bills which should have been paid before the close of the fiscal year were held over and the true condition of affairs was not disclosed to the people. The auditors, with a view of putting a stop to such deception, recommended certain changes in the methods of keeping provincial accounts and these suggestions have been embodied in the splendid bill which was before the House yesterday and was practically given a unanimous endorsement. The new act provides every safeguard for the people's interests and will compare favorably with the best legislation of the kind to be found in any province of the Dominion.

The act abolishes the office of Auditor General, and provides for the appointment of an official who will be known as the Comptroller General. The statement of the Premier that Mr. W. A. Loudoun, the present Auditor General, will be appointed to the new office of Comptroller General will give every satisfaction to the people of the province. Mr. Loudoun is a conscientious and painstaking official, who during long connection with the Auditor General's Department, has rendered the province splendid service. The new act enlarges his powers and increases his responsibilities, but places him in a position to render an even more efficient service to the province. The very fact that the new Audit Act provoked little or no adverse criticism from the gentlemen who sit on the left of the Speaker, should convince the public that it is a measure carefully thought out and designed for the public good.

Premier Foster and his colleagues are to be congratulated on the determined and business like way in which they have dealt with the various problems of government which present themselves from time to time. The Audit Act is only one of a number of useful measures which will be crystallized into law during the present session.

A Standard headline declares that the province had a deficit last year of \$594,091. There certainly was a large deficit last year, but the government which was kicked out of office in April last was responsible for it, as the Standard well knows. Had the old government remained in office it is dollars to doughnuts that the deficit would have been much larger, but the real state of affairs would have been concealed from the public.

It must not be forgotten that the sum of \$100,000 which Mr. A. R. Gould paid over to Mr. J. Kidd Flemming in exchange for the Valley Railway contract, was borrowed from funds belonging to the province in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company, of Montreal. The note which he gave as security for the amount remains unpaid to this day. The election of 1912, which resulted in a sweep for the Flemmingites, was therefore financed by money belonging to the people.

Some of the more reckless of the opposition organs are seeking to place the blame for the expenditures of last year upon the present administration. The fact of the matter is the fiscal year ended on Oct. 31st. The present government had then been in office seven months. It had to provide for large sums carried over from the previous year, and when it assumed the reigns of power it found that the year's appropriations in many cases were exhausted. The people are now paying for the extravagance and maladministration of the old regime.

Mr. A. R. Gould's claim against the province on account of the Valley Railway amounted to the tidy sum of \$45,000. Had the government not changed a year ago, the chances are that he would have been allowed the major portion of his claim.

Through Our Sieve  
 Spring hasn't really begun to dig-in yet.

The rhubarb pie will shortly take over a section of the food line.

What we object to is paying 1918 prices for 1908 eggs.

War or no war, the rhubarb pie must have sugar to maintain its place in the line.

It is easy to see that most people who tell you your faults for your own good are telling them for their own.

Lots of seasoning in military life. A man is mustered in, often peppered with shot and comes out the salt of the earth.

The present drive on the west front may be considered as the Kaiser's final effort to eat dinner in Paris on Christmas, 1914.

Our idea of the prize pest of the universe is the neighbor who buys a new auto every spring and takes you and your wife out riding and makes your old one seem like a traction engine.

After a young man's fancy has experienced a few light springtime turnings to thoughts of love, it learns discretion and thereafter turns with considerable satisfaction to fishing.

No we ain't dead certain that the river ice is safe for democracy.

## Audit Act

(Continued from page 5.)

ment of accounts owed by the province, wanted to know if it would apply to the ministers in charge of departments.

### Will Not Accept Drafts.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that all accounts owing by the province would be settled by cheque and the section prohibited any official or employee from making payment by drafts.

MR. TILLEY said that there were some 250 unpaid notes held by the Agricultural Department for seed. He thought the department should be allowed to discount them.

HON. MR. VENOT said it could only be done when authorized by the Governor-in-Council.

MR. BAXTER said a note had been accepted in payment of a \$30 horse sold in Carleton county.

HON. MR. FOSTER said he did not deem it wise to discount notes given to the government in payment for stock or seed. Such notes should be placed in a bank for collection.

### Opposition Leader Approves.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) thought the section under discussion was a very wise one. He did not believe officials should be allowed to give notes or drafts in payment of accounts owed to the province.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE said that if hon. members wanted to discuss horse transactions, they would by going back a few years find a case much worse than the one that had been referred to. He wanted to know who would accept a draft that came to a department, attached to a bill of lading, for seed or stock.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that the bill eliminated the acceptance of a draft by any minister. The method would be to have the auditor general issue a cheque for the amount.

The remaining sections of the bill, one of which repeals the audit act of 1908, and abolishes the office of auditor general were adopted without amendments.

The committee reported progress.

MR. BAXTER gave notice of inquiry for Monday next as to the amount of money belonging to the province, now in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company and the payments made by said company during the year.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that the New Brunswick Guides Association had extended an invitation to hon. members to be present at an exhibition of moving pictures at the Gaiety Theatre this evening. A special performance would be put on at 10.30 o'clock when pictures showing salmon fishing on Cain's River, stream driving scenes and moose in their native wilds would be exhibited.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE introduced a bill to authorize Andover Water Commissioners to issue debentures.

The House adjourned at 5.55 P. M.

Dr. Alfred Gaudet of St. Joseph's, N. B., is among the visitors to the city.

## Premier Foster

(Continued from page 8.)

simply to take the opportunity to congratulate you upon your success as an administrator and the province of New Brunswick upon its good fortune in having a premier whose sole object is how he can best advance the interests of this province and its people.

(Sgd) "FRED MAGEE.  
 "J. E. HETHERINGTON.  
 "F. J. SWEENEY."

### The Premier's Reply.

Premier Foster in reply expressed in the heartiest way his appreciation of the congratulatory remarks which had been addressed to him and for the support which had been given him since he entered office. When he accepted the premiership he said, he did so with some appreciation of the responsibilities of the office but this sense of responsibility had increased with acquaintance with the duties and as he found that war conditions are decreasing the revenues while increasing the expenditures of the province. This must lead to placing a heavier burden on the people of the province and he experienced the deepest personal regret that this should be the case.

In meeting these conditions arising from the war he knew that he had the earnest support of the members and he was convinced that each of them had at heart the interests of the province and was actuated by the desire to serve the people to the fullest extent of their opportunities.

The premier expressed the hope that when the time for the next election arrives there will be no dearth of candidates and that the young men of the province actively engaged in business and professional pursuits will appreciate the opportunities for service afforded by membership in the legislature and their responsibilities as citizens and will volunteer to become candidates for both parties in order that the high standard maintained by the legislature may be continued and that the province may have the benefit of the assistance of the brightest and most active of her citizens in carrying on the affairs of the government.

Mr. A. J. LeBlanc of College Bridge, is in the city.

## SOCIETY NEWS.

Mrs. A. J. Gregory entertained at a luncheon of fourteen covers yesterday in honor of Mrs. Pugsley. Lady Ashburnham is entertaining at the tea hour today.

## CASTORIA

For Infants and Children  
 In Use For Over 30 Years  
 Always bears the  
 Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

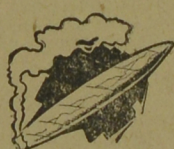
NOTICE is hereby given that on TUESDAY, the Sixteenth Day of April instant, I will hold a poll for election of a Mayor and Eight Councillors for the Town of DEVON.

The places of said polling shall be at No. 1 Hose Station (South Devon) for electors of Wards No. I and No. II, and at No. 2 Hose Station (North Devon) for electors of Wards No. III and No. IV, and the polling will open at ten o'clock in the morning and close at four p.m.

NOMINATIONS for Mayor and Aldermen will be received by me up to Friday, the Twelfth Day of April instant, at five o'clock p.m. No person who is not regularly nominated as the law directs shall be a candidate.

Polling will only take place in the event of more than one candidate being duly nominated for Mayor or more than eight candidates for Alderman.

WM. JAFFREY,  
 Returning Officer.  
 Devon, N. B., April 4th, 1918.



## CIGARS

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The contented smoker buys his cigars here, because there is certainly contentment in every smoke we sell. That's due to quality, which in turn is guaranteed by the standard brands we sell. Cigars for home smokers and to send to the "boys."

## STAPLES' PHARMACY

ALONZO STAPLES, Prop.  
 Agency for Miller Standard Rubber Goods.

Discretion is now the better part of buying Hosiery.  
 We have just received our stock of

# Holeproof Hosiery

For Women and Children, in Cotton, Lisle and Silk

Lisle, 6 pairs in a box, guaranteed for six months, \$4.00 box.

Silk, 3 pairs in box, guaranteed for three months, \$4.50 box.

Luxete and Adanac Hose in all colors, 50 to \$1.35 pair.

The best stocking for children is "Holey Tearer." See them at the Hosiery counter.

# John J. Weddall & Son

Just to Hand—Pure Linen Emb. Handkerchiefs, All White and All Colors. These are hand-worked and extra good value.

# Smoky City Cleaner

Thoroughly cleans Wall Paper, Calcimine, Flat Paints and all interior decorations, leaving the surface fresh and bright thereby saving much expense for re-decorating.

Price 25 cents per can. Try a can.

# R. Chestnut & Sons

PLUMBERS AND HEATERS

THE HARDWARE PEOPLE

WHOLESALE

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Give us a trial order and be convinced.

We have a new office and up-to-date machinery, all run by electric power, and can turn out work promptly and efficiently. If you have a job of printing call up No. 67 and we will do the rest.

# The Mail Printing Co

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