

THE DAILY MAIL
Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at 327-329 Queen Street, Fredericton, by THE MAIL PRINTING COMPANY.
Subscription price, \$4 per year (by carrier); \$2 per year by mail.
Telephone 67.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1918

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

It cannot be denied that the government which was removed from office in this province last April was the most extravagant which New Brunswick has had since Confederation. It went into power pledged to economy. It succeeded in rolling up an enormous public debt and trebled the annual interest charges. In 1907, the year preceding the advent to power of the Hazen government, the province paid in interest on the public debt the sum of \$197,000, while this year the charge upon the revenue for this service will be no less than \$648,000, an increase in ten years of \$451,000. This will give a fair idea of the manner in which the politicians lately ousted by the people bedeviled the financial resources of the province.

It will be remembered that ex-Premier Fleming, who was at the helm when the old government was in heyday of its power, pledged himself and his party to keep the ordinary expenditure within the annual income. This pledge may have been made in good faith, but no serious attempt was made to live up to it. Year after year accounts were juggled and carried over in order that the government of the day might be able to show a small paper surplus at the close of the fiscal year. The financial statement issued by Auditor General Loudon a few days ago showed that in the year 1916 the ordinary expenditure ran ahead of the ordinary income to the extent of \$178,000, and the new government had to pay the bills out of the revenue properly belonging to the year 1917. Had the Murray government remained in power it would have juggled part of the 1917 expenditure over into 1918, and the people would have been kept in the dark as to the real state of affairs. The Foster government pursued an altogether different course. It has given the people a true statement of the financial condition of the province, prepared under the direction of a firm of the most experienced chartered accountants in the Dominion. The statement discloses a deficit on the year's financial operations of \$172,832, exclusive of the Valley Railway interest, or a total deficit of \$415,449.50, including interest on Valley Railway bonds. When the sum of \$178,000 which belonged to the year 1916, but was paid out in 1917, is added, it brings the province over \$600,000 behind the game. It is certainly not a very encouraging state of affairs but it must be squarely faced. Sufficient revenue must be provided to carry on the public services, and it is the duty of the people to provide it. It will be the duty of the Government to devise new methods of taxation, not a congenial task, to be sure, but we believe it will be faced with courage and determination. The people must pay for the extravagance, maladministration and costly blunders of the late rulers. There does not seem to be any other way out of it.

ACTIVITY ON WESTERN FRONT.

There is no doubt that the Germans are getting ready for a big drive against the Allied troops on the western front, with the hope that they may be able to strike a decisive blow and hasten peace negotiations before the United States gets well into the war. For weeks they have been moving troops from the eastern to the western front, hoping thereby to re-establish superiority over the Allied forces. Just when the blow will fall is of course only a matter for conjecture, but it will likely be in the course of a few weeks. Although winter weather makes transportation conditions very difficult, the Germans are said to be keeping up a steady flow of troops from the east to the west.

Discussing the matter in his weekly talk with the Associated Press, Major General Maurice, chief director of military preparations for the British government, makes the following interesting comment:

"The Germans are still a long way from having superior numbers on this front, but the relative strength of the forces is already so altered that it is

OVERSEAS TRADE TO BE GIVEN MORE ATTENTION

Lard Stanley Outlines the Program to be Followed by the British Board of Trade --New Methods to be Adopted.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Sir Albert Stanley, president of the Board of Trade, in a foreword to the current issue of the Board of Trade Journal, outlines the programme of the board's extended activity toward overseas commerce, including the dissemination of up to date information from all parts of the world. The Journal states a new department of overseas trade will control the trade commissioners' service within the Empire, and the foreign offices' commercial attaché service within the Empire. It intended to extend the trade commissioner service to India and some the principal crown colonies, and to greatly increase its commercial services.

Sir Albert Stanley describes a new method of distribution of information under the pledge of secrecy to traders and to manufacturers regarding possible exporters in certain foreign countries of British manufactured goods. The idea is the outcome of the trading with the enemy act. Ten thousand traders have already availed themselves of its use. All whose bona fides are doubtful are checked, with the assistance of land commercial organizations. Even more confidential and more secret is the confidential register which provides for wider information regarding trade openings abroad, reports on foreign competitors and various overseas industries.

doubtful whether the Allied commanders would feel justified in undertaking offensive operations on a large scale. The enemy's constantly improving numerical position will, on the other hand, lead inevitably to offensive operations by the Germans, but I see no reason to believe that he will be able to inflict anything like such losses on us as we inflicted on him during the past year.

"Owing to our work of the past year we are in an excellent defensive position, holding practically all the high ground. On the other hand, we are everywhere on new ground where we must prepare new defensive systems. We must be prepared to lose ground, and if the enemy makes a determined attack with the usual artillery preparation, followed by energetic infantry assaults, for our own experience has taught us that it is practically always possible to move a certain distance under these conditions of attack."

Hamilton Times: The London Free Press expresses the opinion that the Unionist party has come to stay. If it has come to stay, it will be the Conservative party under another name. The Liberal party is not extinguished. The Liberal Unionists are Liberals still, and will always remain so, with few exceptions. When the war is over there will be a realignment. Principles never die.

London Times: Soldiers and statesmen at home and abroad made up their minds long ago that we have a long war before us. Recent events have but confirmed their judgment. The only wise optimism is a firm conviction that we shall win the war in the end. The optimism which represents the end as near is foolish and pernicious.

Through Our Sieve

Be watchful, be cheerful and carry on!

How times change! It is now hades to be rich.

The poultry show is over. The hens will please begin business as usual.

Mrs. O'Hevens says that someone should supply the snowplow men with a good alarm clock.

It's remarkable how few are the people who know whether Zero invented the thermometer or the cold weather.

Thank goodness the zero weather found us prepared—we had just laid in a new twin-six thermometer.

The scientists who have been for years predicting a dearth of coal had no idea it would happen so soon.

Aha! The cold weather revealed again the interesting fact that a person has two ears in an exposed salient.

What Russia seems to need just now is some brave man to help the downtrodden aristocrat.

Hazel Knutt suggests a clearing house for knitted socks where those that look like afflictions can be mated. She says she has knitted ten socks and hasn't got a pair yet.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

(Continued from page 1.)

Home and the parishes had nothing.

Coun. Allen stated that the object of the resolution was to place the County of York in a position to establish a Municipal Home whenever it should be deemed advisable.

Coun. Pond was strongly in favor of a Municipal Home for the county. Coun. Pat Graham's suggestion that each parish have its own Municipal Home was not workable. He was not in favor of pressing the matter at this time.

Warden Brewer made a brief explanation stating that there was no intention to act at once.

Coun. Pat Graham was opposed to Southampton going into such an undertaking. Let the towns and parishes that wanted to, take up the matter.

Coun. T. W. Brewer said that Coun. Pat Graham was unjust to the County and the City of Fredericton in his statement that the city had gobbled up the Municipal Home established by a number of parishes. Coun. Brewer said he was in favor of establishing such an institution.

Coun. Hugh Smith, Coun. Grant and Coun. Manuel were opposed to the proposition of the county as a whole being incorporated to maintain a Municipal Home.

Coun. White favored a Municipal Home but at the present time McAdam could not support the proposition for a Home.

Coun. Stairs said he would favor the resolution except that too hasty action might follow, should the resolution be adopted. The matter could rest until after the war.

Coun. Everett said he represented one of the five parishes which went in with the city of Fredericton to establish a Home in the city. Some had made light of Coun. Pat Graham's statement but it was pretty nearly right. The City of Fredericton had the Home and the parishes had nothing to show they had a claim, although the county still owned the land.

Coun. Cowperthwaite and Coun. Nason both expressed themselves as opposed to the resolution. Coun. Fox was like minded.

The resolution was lost by a big majority the vote being as follows.

Yea—Allen, T. W. Brewer, D. E. Pickard, Christie, Inch, Dougan, Thompson, Seymour, H. H. Pickard—9.

Nay—King, Robt. Graham, Everett, Fox, Manuel, Stairs, P. Graham, Grant, Hugh Smith, Dineen, Wetmore, Cowperthwaite, B. D. Clarkson, Nason, Frank Smith, Anderson, White, Douglass Clarkson, Pond, Jones, Hallett—21.

Matter of Assessment.

Coun. Inch inquired for information concerning the assessment of Victory Loan Bonds.

Warden Brewer replied that he understood the bonds were assessable for municipal purposes.

County Solicitor Feeney gave an opinion that the bonds were assessable for municipal purposes.

Several councillors differed from this opinion.

Coun. Inch stated that he brought up the matter in order to have a rule established for the assessors of all parishes.

Coun. Seymour was afraid that an injustice would be worked on the purchasers of the bonds unless the same rule was adopted all over the county.

Coun. Smith said it would be unfair to assess these bonds.

Coun. Everett was of the opinion have a bad effect on the next loan.

Coun. Pond wanted to know if there was any manner in which an assessor could obtain information from a

John J. Weddall & Son

ARE CEARING OUT THE BALANCE OF

FURS

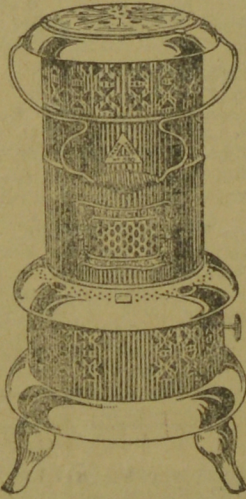
AT EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES.

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1 Black Wolf Stole, Reg. Price, \$18.00, Sale Price	\$12.00
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2 Black Wolf Stoles, Reg. Price, \$25.00, Sale Price	\$15.00
1 Black Wolf Muff, Reg. Price, \$35.00 Sale Price	\$29.00
2 Mink Stoles, Reg. Price \$35.00, Sale Price	\$19.00
1 Child's Grey Opossum Sett, Reg. Price, \$20.50 Sale Price	\$15.00
1 Natural Wolf Stole, Regular Price, \$16.00 Sale Price	\$10.00
1 Plucked Beaver Coat, Size 38 Reg. Price \$350.00 Sale Price	\$275.00
1 Hudson Seal Coat, Size 38, Reg. Price, \$225.00 Sale Price	\$195.00
1 Hudson Seal Coat, Size 40, Reg. 275.00 Sale Price	\$225.00

These Hudson Seal Coats are Chappel Dye and the best Coa ts of their kind on the market.

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When it comes to supplying warmth for cold corners, a Perfection Smokeless Oil Heater, provides the most inexpensive heat you can use.

It is portable, take it anywhere you need heat.

Ten hours of comfort on a gallon of kerosene.

Be sure and get the genuine article The Perfection

Prices from \$5.50 to \$8.25.

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PLUMBERS AND HEATERS

THE HARDWARE PEOPLE

WHOLESALE

RETAIL

VALLEY RAILWAY

(Continued from page 5.)

with it

Cash Cannot Be Traced.

A.—Half was in my office, and half in a strong box in the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Q.—What was your object in getting so much cash?

Mr. Jones—Cash cannot be traced?

A.—It is not wise to let all your business be known.

In 1908, I put through a private transaction and got a commission of \$12,000. This was in the Bank of Nova Scotia in a private box several months. I would have taken the whole \$100,000 in cash if I could have got it.

The \$40,000 was largely invested in U. S. Steel, Southern Pacific and a St. John laundry.

Q.—About the date of the partnership contract between you and the N. S. Construction Co.?

A.—A draft was prepared weeks before and was in my office. The copy may have been made up the day the contract was signed.

[Hon. W. P. Jones then requested that George B. Jones be asked to appear. It was not thought necessary to issue a subpoena.

Mr. I. R. Todd said he resigned because the road was to be built without the construction of the bridges having been definitely settled, and by reason of his health. His resignation was tendered before the tenders were asked for, and he intended to resign before the tenders were opened. He had other small reasons for resigning. They referred to railway business.

TENDERS FOR GRAVEL.

Sealed tenders addressed to G. R. Perkins, City Clerk, will be received up till the Eleventh Day of January, 1918, for delivery during the summer season at several different points in the city, of gravel suitable for city streets.

R. W. McLELLAN, 7 Ins Chairman Street Committee.



COTTON

Absolutely pure and clean and perfectly absorbent Cotton. Every size package from one-half ounce to a pound. Fresh Cotton, surgically perfect.

STAPLES' PHARMACY

ALONZO STAPLES, Prop.

Agency for Miller Standard Rubber Goods.

WANTED FOR

WORK IN HALIFAX

One hundred carpenters, wages 40 cents per hour; 50 carpenter helpers at 35 cents per hour. Board, \$4 per week in company camp. Fare paid both ways if stay three months.

COOK CONSTRUCTION CO. & WHEATON,

131 Barrington Street, - - Halifax.

Education Pays

Young man, young woman, get all the education you can. The Night Schools will help you. What you learn there means money in your pocket. A little less time given to pleasure this winter, a little more time given to the training of brain and hand, will mean larger wages for you every Saturday night for the rest of your life.

For information concerning the **FREE EVENING CLASSES** which begin January 15th, apply to C. A. SAMPSON, Secretary of the Schol Trustees, at his office at the York Street School Building.