

The Daily Mail

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at 327-329 Queen Street Fredericton.

THE MAIL PRINTING COMPANY

Subscription Price: \$4 per year by carrier; \$3 per year by mail.

TELEPHONE 67.

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1926.

EX-PREMIER FOSTER'S VIEWS.

Hon. Dr. W. E. Foster, former Premier of the Province, in an interview published in the Telegraph-Journal of Saturday is quoted as saying that the announcement of direct taxation made by the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer in his budget speech will be received with much disapproval in every part of the province. The ex-Premier is further quoted as saying that, "In my opinion there would have been no need of a direct taxation proposal had the government reviewed all the possibilities of revenue." Having been the head of the provincial government for a period of six years Hon. Dr. Foster should be familiar with the financial condition of the province, and undoubtedly he is. The government of which he was a member, when in control of affairs proved themselves to be good collectors as well as good spenders, yet the fact remains that in no one year were they able to make ends meet. During their term of office they for a time enjoyed the maximum rate of \$5 per thousand for stumpage, had large receipts from the Liquor Commission, from export warehouses and also from succession duties, but in no single year were they able to take care of the Valley Railway deficit out of current revenue. This being so Hon. Dr. Foster is scarcely in a position to say that the present administration should do the things which he and his colleagues utterly failed to do. It is a matter of record that Hon. Dr. Foster, while holding the office of Premier, laid it down as a hard and fast rule that the ordinary expenditure must be kept within the revenue, yet he found that while it was one thing to make stipulations and promises it was quite another thing to carry them out. With his experience as a banker and also as head of a large mercantile house he found the task of restoring the financial equilibrium of the province quite beyond his power and three years ago retired from the Premiership in despair. Now he comes forward and tells the Baxter administration that it should look around for new sources of revenue and not impose direct taxation upon the people. The present administration does not want to impose direct taxation upon the people, but it is a case of necessity, and the situation must be faced squarely. The government has looked around for new sources of revenue and has found them; they have been placed in the estimates for the present year, but fall short by \$666,334 of balancing the budget.

More money is required and it is up to the people to provide it. There is one thing that can be said, and that is under the plan proposed by Premier Baxter the people will know exactly how much they are paying, and this cannot be said of taxes indirectly collected.

Banks doing business in the province paid into the provincial treasury last year the sum of \$29,554.83. During the ensuing year they will be expected to pay the sum of \$38,500. Last year fire insurance companies paid the provincial government in taxes the sum of \$46,118.54, and this year they will be expected to come across with the sum of \$69,000. Last year the tax on life insurance companies doing business in New Brunswick was \$59,441.90, and the indications are that the total for the present year will be \$75,900. Men prominent in banking and insurance circles are likely to be among the visitors to Fredericton before the present session of the Legislature is brought to a close.

If a portion of the electric power to be developed at Grand Falls is to be set aside or the use of the people of the province, there does not seem to be any good reason why Fredericton should not get a portion of it. Cheap power is certainly needed here and the citizens have been waiting a long time for it. The City Council and Board of Trade should get busy and see that Fredericton reaps some of the benefits which will be sure to accrue from the development of Grand Falls.

The sum of \$6,858 was paid out of the provincial treasury last year in bounties on wild cats. The amount estimated for the present year is \$7,000.

Where do all the wildcats come from anyway? The public accounts committee of the Legislature should look into this item of expenditure and see if some scheme cannot be devised by which the number of wild cats on which bounties are paid might be reduced. It must be remembered that the people at the late election voted to put an end to financial wild-catting.

The provincial hospital turned into the revenue of the province last year the sum of \$99,626.53. During the ensuing year this institution is expected to yield the tidy sum of \$150,000. It costs a great deal more now to support a patient at the provincial hospital than was the case in pre war days.

The candidates in the Federal by-election in West Middlesex, which is taking place today are Hon. J. C. Elliott, Minister of Labor, and Mr. Thomas Elliott, Conservative. In the general election Hon. Mr. Elliott had a majority close to 2,000 in a three cornered fight.

The amount to be paid out by the provincial government for vocational training is set down in the estimates at \$91,146.00, against \$58,109.92 for last year. The grant to the Fredericton School Board is placed at \$9,850, and the McAdam Board \$3,400.

A federal by-election is taking place in West Middlesex today and while elections are always uncertain it can be predicted with absolute certainty in this case that the winner's name will be Elliott.

Residents of Turin, Italy, who kiss on the door step are liable to arrest, which illustrates one advantage of a vestibule.

A comet due February 15 has not yet appeared in the heavens, or maybe it's there and its tail-light is out.

Some of us would like to hang on for another 50 years if only to hear the third generation's version of Moral Turpitude.

In several of his later photographs Mr. Mussolini suggests the sort of gentleman who packs a horsehoe in his boxing glove.

It seems the Kentucky town which is requiring its teachers to wear longer sleeves and skirts has a separate course in anatomy.

Curious Effect of Prohibition: Examination of the throat of a patient in a New York hospital reveals a pair of rudimentary gills.

Sixty thousand doors were shipped to Florida last week in one consignment. What will Florida want of 60,000 doors in the summer time?

For that matter, many a boy would rejoice to see Caesar's little book declared too naughty for use.

Yours isn't really a hick town unless you feel conspicuous in a new suit.

No man really longs for the good old days; what he longs for is the good old appetite.
