

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, FEBRUARY 1, 1926.

A SERIOUS SITUATION.

A close examination of the balance sheet for the last fiscal year, as published in the Royal Gazette, shows that the financial position of the province at the present time is scarcely likely to arouse much enthusiasm even among those who are naturally optimistic. The total capital liabilities now amount to the enormous sum of \$37,999,314.94, which is pretty close to \$100 per head for every man, woman and child in the province. It is true that the province possesses capital assets, but apart from \$2,284,162.73 invested in sinking funds, and \$529,299.39 to the credit of the province at Ottawa, there appear to be none which can be created into coin of the realm within a reasonable length of time. Other capital assets include railway investments, which at the present time represent an outlay on the part of the province of \$8,092,432.23; permanent bridges which have cost \$8,147,623.13 and permanent roads which at the close of the fiscal year represented an expenditure on the part of the province of \$7,439,171, and hydro development which has cost to date \$3,730,462.72. The net debt of the province at the close of the fiscal year is set down as \$30,722,459.90, which is admittedly a fairly substantial sum.

An item in the list of capital assets which will be likely to cause some astonishment, is an addition of \$1,403,286.79, which was made last year to the previous heavy investment of \$6,044,884.21 in permanent roads. This expenditure seems to have been made in defiance of authority from the Legislature as only \$550,000 was authorized by that body, which means that practically the allotment for three years was disposed of in one year. The Federal aid to permanent roads having been withdrawn it would seem that the time had about arrived when the province must either cut its garment according to its cloth or else put a stop to permanent road work. In addition to the large expenditure made last year an permanent road the sum of \$248,515.83 was expended on ordinary roads and \$256,961.43 on the patrol service, bringing the total expenditure on the highways up to two million dollars in round figures. There was no justification for this riotous expenditure and the result of the election clearly indicated that it did not have public approval.

The sum of \$8,092,432.23 set down as railway investments, is represented by the St. John and Quebec Railway, which is the result of an outlay by the province of \$6,846,000.46 and \$1,246,431.77 tied up in the New Brunswick Coal and Railways, better known as the Central Railway, and now under lease to the C. P. R. It is pleasing to note that no additional expenditures were made during the year on either road. The amount expended on permanent bridges during the last fiscal year was \$552,522.31, which is about the average of recent years.

The present government besides a deficit of \$487,119.46 on the ordinary transactions of the year, the largest we believe in the history of the province, must provide for a deficit of \$269,470.05 on the operation of the St. John Valley Railway, and in addition face a bank over draft amounting to the tidy sum of \$1,841,470.23, not to mention the large over-expenditure on permanent roads, all of which will have to be bonded. This is may be said, certainly is not a very cheerful outlook for the new administration.

A ludicrous attempt is being made in certain quarters to make it appear that it is quite the fashion for governments going out of office to leave behind large deficits for their successors to pay. Even if that were correct it can be urged in reply that two wrongs do not make a right. The late government passed an audit act, which among other things provides for an independent audit of the accounts of the province at the close of the fiscal year. It is true that there was some juggling of accounts by former governments under the old audit act, but this is now impossible. Under the new act all items of revenue and expenditure are charged up to the year to which they belong, and if there is a deficit it cannot be concealed. This must therefore make it perfectly clear to any man with a head on his shoulders that the huge deficit of last year

would have been exactly the same if there had been no change of government and the issue cannot be camouflaged.

While the financial condition of the province is undoubtedly serious there is no cause of despair. The province possesses extensive although not illimitable resources, and the people can be counted upon to provide the necessary revenue to carry on the administration of affairs, but they have a right to demand economy and efficiency. The old government exercised scrupulous care in the year 1924 and came out with a small credit balance exclusive of the eternal railway deficit, but last year, possibly due to the fact that there was an election, there was a riot of expenditure. This sort of thing must stop and we believe it is the intention of Premier Baxter to put a stop to it. When the Legislature votes a certain sum for a certain service it does not give authority to expend double the amount authorized, and barring fire or flood or some other calamity, it should not be done. If Premier Baxter can maintain the supremacy of the Legislature and shut down on unauthorized expenditures of public money we do not believe after the present year will have to worry much over deficits during his administration of the affairs of the province.

St. John papers persist in the statement that the province had a revenue of \$4,154,730 for the fiscal year ending October 31st last. The statement is incorrect. The figures given represent the total expenditure and to get at the actual revenue a deficit of \$487,119.40, must be deducted, which would leave the ordinary revenue at \$3,667,620. We believe that only in one year since Confederation has the total been exceeded and that was in 1924.

An English club is planning the purchase of a nonrigid airship for picnic parties. here is to be seen here a desperate effect to keep the caterpillar out of the salad.

A New Yorker proposes a day each year in which everyone will return everything he has borrowed, but doesn't say where the Pullman company will put all the towels.

The will of a Philadelphia man bequeaths to his son \$5 and "the world, to make a living in." For a starter, the young man certainly is not handicapped for territory.

The trouble, if any, with the newer generation is that it is given a latch-key before it can reach up to the keyhole.

Experts have decided that women can stand more cold than men; but that applies to weather and water and not to words and looks.

Jack Frost may do his worst; we are not wholly disheartened. The robin and the spring hat have already put in an appearance.

With directions on how to dance the old barn dances, won't Mr. Ford kindly include blue prints on how to build the barn?

Courts do not approve using hammer on wife, even though she is a constant knocker.

With anthracite at \$32.50 a ton in New York, it is hard to bank a furnace fire and money.

Who remembers when a woman's hat had to be held with something beside gravity?

The Weather Man is a changeable old cuss, isn't he?

Six Months in Gaol. Charles LeBel of McGivney Junction was convicted in the police court this morning of a second offence against the Intoxicating Liquor Act. He was sentenced to six months in gaol. The accused was arrested at the C. N. R. station Saturday night by Sub-Inspector King and search of his suitcase revealed the presence of two tin containers filled with alcohol. The authorities state that complaints of conditions at McGivney Junction had been made resulting in surveillance of LeBel. The latter when arrested gave his age as seventy years. In spite of that he served overseas as cook with a construction unit in the C. E. F. During the construction of the Transcontinental Railway he frequently was defendant in liquor cases.

DIED.

M'LEAN—At Victoria Hospital, January 31, Annie M. McLean, aged 64 years. Funeral Tuesday afternoon from the residence of her brother, 31 Allen street. Service at 2 p. m. by Rev. G. C. Warren. Interment in the family lot at Lincoln.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Babies cost more than formerly but they're worth it.

Virtue is its own reward but doesn't get much publicity.

Weather has enough off days to make it seem almost human.

There is the somewhat comforting thought that the world isn't going to the devil any faster than usual.

One might wonder if a tuft of hair on the upper lip of a young male animal makes a sheik.

There is a fortune for the inventor of a calendar that won't jump at a man who has a note coming due.

"Beautiful Snow" was probably written after the first snow of the season. After that they're not so thrilling.

Probably a hardened old professional reformer appears at his worst when trying to be humorous. Ohio State Journal.—If ever.

What is needed are more middle-aged folk to say sharply to the harum-scarum young people: You little fools! You haven't any more sense than we used to have!

A cartoon by Westernman represents an efficiency expert gazing into the heavens at night. The caption line reads: "Wonder what he thinks when he looks at te stars?" He thinks, of course, that he would like to have the job of rearranging them.

PUBLIC OPINION

AGAIN THE MODERN GIRL.

Editor, Daily Mail. Sir:—It simply makes me furious the way all the people are criticizing the modern girl. I am 17 and have been going to parties for over a year, and let me tell you that boys do not care for a girl who does not enter all the fun. They may say they fall for all "sweet, old-fashioned girls," but that is only what they say. The quiet girls sit and watch the lively girls have all the fun.

And I know that the boys do not marry that kind, either. They want a good sport, not one who sits in the corner and looks surprised. It is easy enough to act the part of an angel girl. A girl who is outspoken is often of a more honorable type.

Another thing, all the young boys of today do not carry pocket flasks, as the majority of them can have just as much fun without them.

BETTY K. Fredericton, Jan. 30th, 1926.

FOUND HUSBAND OVER THE PHONE SWITCHBOARD

The following editorial which has a local application, is from the last number of MacLean's Magazine: Dorothy Graham, whose article "Give Me Long Distance, Please" appeared in the December 15 issue, has had an interesting communication from C. J. McGillivray, of Antigonish, N. S. Miss Graham in her article said: "In my investigations of telephone work I have not been able to discover any girl who found a husband through the switchboard . . . " Mr. McGillivray writes, in refutation of this impression:

"Some years ago there was an outstanding case of a telephone girl in New Brunswick who met on the wire the man who subsequently became her husband. Ten or fifteen years ago a young Englishman lived in or near a town in the St. John Valley. Using the 'phone one day he found the voice of the operator very pleasing—so pleasing that he determined to make her acquaintance. He got to know her and found the girl even more pleasing than her voice. The attraction was mutual, and in due course they were married. Not very long afterward a tragic event in the Old Country made the younger son and bridegroom the direct heir to his father's estate, and a little later the former telephone girl became the Countess of Ashburnham. "This may sound like a low-the-stairs fiction, but the facts are as stated. The Countess is now a widow, and spends a good deal of time in her former home."

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Mrs. J. Wilson, Port George, N.S., writes:—"I suffered from palpitation of the heart and fainting spells, and, at times, I could not be left alone I was so nervous.

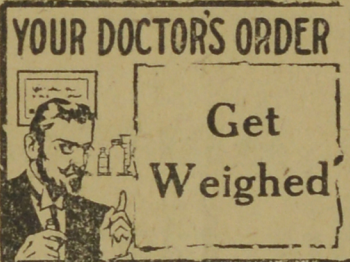
My trouble was caused from overwork and worry, having been left alone with a large family.

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