

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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1926.

FACED WITH DIRECT TAXATION.

Direct taxation, which every financial critic of a provincial government since Confederation has trotted out as a sort of bugbear with the object of stampeding timid voters, has at last loomed up on the political horizon. Its coming was heralded in the House yesterday by Hon. A. J. Leger, Provincial Secretary Treasurer, in bringing down the budget, and while the announcement did not create any great amount of enthusiasm the members and supporters of the administration appeared to accept it philosophically while members of the opposition seemed to show signs of astonishment. The province has been spending its substance on riotous living during late years and like individuals who do that sort of thing must pay the inevitable penalty. In other words we have been living beyond our means, and the government is convinced that the time has arrived when a halt must be called and the back trail taken to financial sobriety and sanity. Last year the province went behind three quarters of a million dollars, which amount has got to be bonded and interest paid thereon for years to come. This year we already have in sight a deficit of \$666,334, which will mean a further addition to the annual interest charge of some \$30,000. No mercantile house doing a \$4,000,000 business annually could long survive if it were to continue to pile up huge deficits year after year, and if the government is to be conducted on business principles it has got to employ ordinary business methods. The province of New Brunswick in twenty years has increased its population by less than sixty thousand souls but during that period the annual interest charges have practically increased ten fold, and for the current year will reach the staggering total of \$1,490,350. Just think of it, four dollars for every man, woman and child of the population and an amount double the entire revenue of twenty-five years ago to be paid in interest yet financial critics of former days declared over and again that the province was then groaning under the weight of taxation. The whole matter simmers down to a straight business proposition and Premier Baxter and his colleagues are to be commended for their moral courage in taking the bull by the horns and saying to the people in effect: "We have been living beyond our income and piling up huge obligations for posterity to pay and the time has arrived when it must stop. You have got to provide the necessary revenue to enable the government to be carried on, and having been placed in control of affairs it is our duty to suggest ways and means. We have done our part and we expect all patriotic citizens to cooperate with us by doing theirs."

The financial condition of the province is undoubtedly serious. We have a net debt of \$39,000,000 which will be further increased during the year by the bonding of last years deficit, and the capital liabilities now exceed \$37,000,000. It is undoubtedly a serious situation and one calling for drastic measures. The government has come forward with proposals which if approved by the Legislature will be carried out. The duty thrust upon Premier Baxter and his colleagues is a stern and painful one. They might have followed the lines of least resistance and allowed the old condition of affairs to continue, with deficits piling up year after year, but that would not be in keeping with their pre-election pledges and the time has arrived when the people expect governments to live up to their pledges.

It will be eighteen months before the direct tax can become effective, which means that the people will have ample time to think things over. While eighteen months is not a long time in the life of a province a whole lot of things can happen in that period. If the idea of a small direct tax on the property of the people does not meet with public favor it will be up to the gov-

ernment to look about for some other means of raising sufficient revenue to restore the financial equilibrium of the province.

By adopting the Quebec system of government control of liquor traffic it is claimed that the government could easily raise a revenue of \$1,000,000 part of which would be available for the different municipalities. There are well meaning people however who claim that it would be morally wrong to collect revenue by such means and they argue that what is morally wrong cannot be legally right. This may all be true, but all the same the average individual is likely to make a wry face when it comes to digging down into his jeans and paying additional taxes. The proposed new taxes are not calculated to promote sobriety, but may cause a whole lot of sober, second thought.

In selecting Hon. A. J. Leger, for the important portfolio of Provincial Secretary-Treasurer in the provincial cabinet, Premier Baxter selected a man of energy and ability and one not lacking in courage. The budget speech of the Provincial Secretary Treasurer delivered yesterday was one of the ablest and most important which the House has listened to since confederation. Hon. Mr. Leger is an ornament to his race and is destined to play an important part in the affairs of this province.

The proposed provincial tax on real, personal property and income will not become effective until October 1st, 1927. In the meantime the Provincial Secretary will be given authority to employ experts who will take a property revaluation with the object of arriving at a proper basis. The warrant of assessment will be sent to the various Municipalities and they will be required to remit the face amount of it to the provincial treasury.

The province had direct taxation for several years during the great war when several hundred thousand dollars was collected and turned into the provincial treasury. At that time owing to glaring inequalities in the system of valuation Fredericton was called upon to contribute about the same as Moncton a city with a much larger population. Steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence of the difficulty before the new law becomes effective.

"After all," declares The St. Catharines Standard in a burst of civic patriotism, "it is worth 39 mills on the dollar to live in a city like St. Catharines." (If it is worth 39 mills on the dollar to live in St. Catharines it is difficult to see why any citizen of Fredericton should get hot under the collar over a tax rate of 26 1-2 mills.)

It is forecasted that the new direct tax to be imposed by the provincial government is not likely to exceed 25 cents on each one hundred dollars.

* THROUGH OUR SIEVE *

'Sail right, Mr. Groundhog. You may come out now.

As subjects of conversation—first the weather then prohibition.

Clothes do not make the man. He is lucky if they don't break him.

Truth at bat for gallantry: Not all who emerge from beauty parlors are good advertisements for the place.

Suppose they add another month to the calendar, will the oyster interests insist that there be an "R" in it?

Sometimes there is punch in a slang phrase, but for expressing noble thoughts dictionary language is better.

When Temptation's telephone number has been changed it is surprising how soon the man who was going to lead a different life finds it out.

Men don't talk affectionately of the old days because they would have them back. It's because the memory of them is more pleasant than rheumatism.

Alas the time is near when the nature lovers will go into the country places and root up the wild flowers. Just for that hogs have rings put in their noses.

MR. BOURASSA
HITS AT THE
LOCARNO PACT

Ottawa, March 25—The Locarno pact is a plaster on a wooden leg, in the opinion of Henri Bourassa, who addressed the members of the University Club at luncheon today. Mr. Bourassa argued that the treaty provided for situations which may not be vital, but does not deal with the real cause of trouble in Europe. He said the treaty and Canada's relation to it are much disputed subjects and he urged that serious consideration be given to the matter before a definite stand of committal or non-committal to the treaty is taken by Parliament.

ELECTIONS AT U. N. B.

Revote Necessary to Choose Secretary of Union and Council—Officers For 1926-27.

The annual elections to fill the offices of the various undergraduate organizations of the University of New Brunswick took place this morning. There was one tied vote which will necessitate a revote at a subsequent time.

The officers who are to officiate in 1926-27 are as follows:—

Students Union and Council.
President, W. W. Donohue, St. John.
Vice-president, C. H. Blair, Ottawa.
Treasurer, B. F. Macaulay, Grand Manan.

Secretary, revote between Jack Babbitt, Fredericton, and Deane H. Smith, Moncton.

Dramatic Society.
President, C. H. Blair, Ottawa.
Vice-president, Miss Claire Broderick, Saint John.
Secretary, W. W. Foster, St. John.
Literary and Debating Society.
President, R. H. Henderson, St. Stephen.

Vice-president, E. A. Stuart, Fredericton Junction.

Secretary, R. W. Brundage, Saint John.

Amateur Athletic Assc.
President, C. E. Woods, Fredericton.
Vice-president, J. N. McCaffrey, Fredericton.

Secretary, Jack Babbitt, Fredericton.

The Brunswickan.
Editor-in-Chief, R. H. Henderson, St. Stephen.

Business Manager, B. S. Kierstead, Fredericton.

Track Team.
Capt. W. W. Donohue, Saint John.
Manager, C. E. Woods, Fredericton.

Hockey.
Manager, C. E. Woods, Fredericton.

Football.
Manager, J. B. Carr, Woodstock.

Basketball.
Manager, B. F. Macaulay, Grand Manan.

DIED

COOPER—At Saint John on the 25th inst. Edith beloved wife of F. L. Cooper. Funeral Saturday afternoon at 2.30 from the home of Cedric Cooper, 203 Northumberland street. Service by Rev. G. C. Warren. Interment in Rural Cemetery.

Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next Session of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick by the City of Fredericton for the passing of an Act authorizing the said City to issue Debentures in a sum not exceeding the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00), for the purpose of constructing permanent streets in the said City.
Dated at Fredericton this 3rd day of March, 1926.
C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Clerk.

LOST—Dog between Fredericton and Fredericton Jct. Airdale and Collie. Name "Dago". Notify 299 Campbell Street, Fredericton. (Reward.)

HEADQUARTERS FOR
Roses, Carnations,
ETC.

Flowers telegraphed to any country. Spring Flowers in pots or cut. Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Easter Lillies, Azeleas, Ferns, Palms, etc. Smilax.

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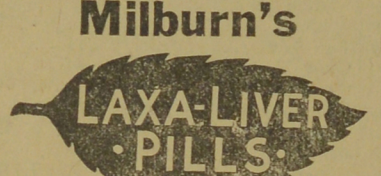
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New Goods In Our Ready-to-Wear Department
Dresses in Georgette, Flat Crepe, Figured Crepe and Satin Faced Canton.
Coats in Charmene and Tweeds in all the new styles.
Suits in Poiret Twill, Fancy Charmene and Tweeds.
Silk Knit Underwear in all the new colors in Slips, Vests and Bloomers.
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John J. Weddall & Son
AGENTS FOR PICTORIAL PATTERNS

A retired Chicago bootlegger had gold doorknobs put on his house. That was too much for society. He was arrested for disorderly conduct.

If faith can move a mountain there ought to be no reason why it can't remove a wart.

Her Liver Was Bad
And She Felt
Tired and Depressed
Mrs. M. Siefert, Grosswerder, Sask., writes:—"I was greatly disturbed with pains in my liver, and felt tired and depressed most of the time. One day I read about



and the next time I went to town I bought four vials of them. I have used them regularly, and after two months' use I feel like an entirely different woman. Now, I always recommend them to any of my friends who are troubled as I was." There's only one "Laxa-Liver Pill", and that's the one put up, for the past 32 years, by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.



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Cucumbers, Ripe Tomatoes, Fresh Spinach, Lettuce, Celery.
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HAMS — Sugar cured and just received fresh from the smoke house. They are delicious.

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GAIETY
TODAY and SATURDAY
"The American Venus"
— WITH —
ESTHER RALSTON, FORD STERLING, LAWRENCE GRAY and MISS AMERICA and the Atlantic City Bathing Beauties
A Galaxy of Glorious Girls!
A Display of the Latest Styles!
A Sparkling Comedy-romance!
EXTRA! TODAY!
ALBERTA VAUGHN
AND HER GANG IN
"The ADVENTURES of MAZIE"
MONDAY—"IRISH LUCK"—TUESDAY
Thomas Meighan

CAPITOL
Friday Saturday
HARRY CAREY
— IN —
The Flaming Forties
A stirring Picture of the Great West in the days of '49
CHAPTER FOUR "WILD WEST"
COMEDY "OVER THERE-A-BOUTS"
SECOND REEL OF THE MOVIE CONTEST
IMPORTANT! Beginning Next Week
There Will Be THREE Changes of Programme Weekly.
Monday RAMON NAVARRO Tuesday
in "THE MIDSHIPMAN"

Mail Ads Always Pay