

The Daily Mail

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SOAKING THE MUNICIPALITIES

"Within ten years of his administration we find the government unloading the legitimate expenses of the government upon the municipalities, and by their gross corruption and reckless extravagance have brought the country face to face with direct taxation, which should have been unnecessary for long years to come had fair economy been practised."

Would you believe it? The above is an extract from a speech delivered in the Legislature during the session of 1893 by one James K. Pinder, who as before stated in these columns is supposed to have been a remote ancestor of the grouchy old gentleman who sits in the present House as one of the representatives of the County of York. At that time the late lamented Hon. A. G. Blair was premier of New Brunswick. The expenditure was then less than one half what it is today, yet in the opinion of Mr. Pinder the government was "unloading burdens on the municipalities" and the province was face to face with direct taxation. It was in the opinion of Mr. Pinder a terrible state of affairs and his indignation knew no bounds.

But the Mr. Pinder who represented York in the Legislature of 1892, was evidently made of sterner stuff than the Mr. Pinder who is now recognized as the senior member for York. The modern Mr. Pinder is a thick and thin supporter of a government which expended last year \$1,400,000 or more than double that spent by the Blair government in 1892, when the province was face to face with direct taxation. This same government, which Mr. Pinder so meekly supports, has just put an act through the House, the object of which is to unload upon the Municipalities \$17,000 in additional taxation which is to go towards the support of the Provincial Hospital. Did Mr. Pinder oppose this measure? Not on your life! He sat in his seat as dumb as an oyster and allowed the bill to go through. It will become law on January 1st, 1914, and in that year the already over-burdened taxpayers of the County of York will be compelled by the Flemming government to dig down into their pockets and hand on \$1,000 in taxes in excess of the amount they will be called upon to pay this year. As hidebound supporters of a reckless and extravagant government the members for York must take their share of the responsibility for this latest act of injustice against the municipalities of the province.

Toronto Globe:—Assuming that Mr. Borden's change of heart is not due to the Nationalist pressure upon him, but that he has reasoned the matter out and come to the conclusion that Canada can neither build nor man warships, and cannot hope for a quarter of a century to organize an efficient naval service, the Premier cannot hope to buy a junior partnership in the British navy for thirty-five million dollars. The naval estimates for the coming year were published yesterday. Britain will spend on the building and maintenance of her fleet during the next twelve months \$231,546,000. The "contribution" that looms so large in our eyes, and that Mr. Borden says will secure us the protection of the British navy, would keep the navy going for barely seven weeks.

Regina Leader:—Eastern papers are devoting more or less attention to the recent speech of Richard Bedford Bennett, of Calgary, on the Naval question. Here in the west where R. B. is known his flow of meaningless language has passed unnoticed. The people of the West took Bennett's measure long ago. Regina residents used to flock to the old Territorial Assembly in bygone days when it was known that Bennett was to speak in order that they might listen to his flood of impassioned oratory. But they knew it was all words and sound, and the next day no one who had listened to Bennett could for the life of him tell what the man of many words had said.

A sample of the manner in which the Tory press is trying to mislead the people on the naval question is shown by the way in which the last memorandum from Winston Churchill was published. Mr. Churchill's whole argument was that it would be practically impossible for Canada to build "battleships" at the present time or for years to come. "Battleships" are what are known as capital ships, of the first class, running from 26,000 tons up. The Tory papers translate this into "war ships" which might mean anything from 1,500 ton destroyers to the largest battle ships. This was done with an unanimity which would indicate that it was not in mere ignorance or inadvertency but a calculated plan to deceive.

A rule was adopted by the Flemming Government some time ago, prohibiting officials from drawing pay for extra services. Mr. H. M. Blair, secretary of the Public Works Department was able to get around this rule and draw \$150 for alleged extra services in connection with the Birmingham investigation. Mr. Pinder very adroitly brought the matter to the notice of the public in the accounts committee this morning and he also secured from the auditor general the statement that the money did not pass through his hands. The transaction has a fishy look and should be explained.

The late Hon. John Haggart was the oldest member of the Canadian parliament, having represented the constituency of South Lanark continuously since 1872. He was one of the seven bolters who resigned from Sir Mackenzie Bowell's cabinet in 1896. The list was composed of Hon. George E. Foster, Hon. John Haggart, Hon. C. H. Tupper, Hon. A. R. Dickey, Hon. W. B. Ives, Hon. John F. Wood and Hon. Dr. Montague. Only three of the above, Messrs. Foster, Tupper and Montague are now living.

What will the members of the York County Council say concerning the act passed by the Legislature this session calling upon the people they represent to raise \$1354 by direct taxation for the support of the provincial hospital? If they do not at the July session protest against this iniquitous legislation they might as well put their houses in order.

Chatham News:—Let the good fight go on. The Liberal party has never stood for a nobler or a better cause; and the present indications are that the fight will be one worthy of true Canadians and one to which Canadians a century hence will be able to point back as a milestone in the national existence.

Talk about Star Chamber proceedings. The supporters of the Flemming Government in the Legislature now do all their wrangling behind closed doors. As Dr. Michael Clark would say "this is the new imperialism."

Halifax Chronicle:—Don't let anybody think that Mr. Borden and his crew are making their present unseemly stand from any patriotic considerations. They are simply trying to hold on to their job.

Dr. Michael Clark, the talented member for Red Deer, was "named" by speaker Sproule in the naval debate at Ottawa on Saturday. The fellings of Red Michael must have been terribly hurt.

It looks as if the naval bill would have to go over at Ottawa until after Easter. The government finds itself running short of cash and will endeavor to put through some items of supply.

A few comments by the secretary-treasurer of York on the new Highway Act, addressed to Mr. Pinder, M.P.P., will soon be in order. His views regarding the old act are on record.

The Tory St. John Standard has made the discovery that Hon. Dr. Pugsley has disgraced St. John at Ottawa. Wouldn't that jar you!

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What Jas. Ferguson Says of Dodd's Kidney Pills

Quebec Man Cured of Backache, Rheumatism and Headache Voices General Sentiment in Regard to Greatest of Canadian Remedies

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The present local government promised to place the control of the highways in the hands of the Municipal Councils. Now they have arrived at the conclusion that the councillors are not fit for the job and it is proposed in future to have the roads looked after by appointees of the government.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley certainly held the fort for the Liberals at Ottawa on Saturday. The Tories tried to shut off discussion on the naval bill but alas, they reckoned without their host. When it comes to parliamentary tactics the ex-minister of public works can give them all cards and spades.

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