

## The Daily Mail

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at No. 613 Queen Street. HERALD PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., Proprietors.

Fredericton, N. B., April 15, 1910.

### THE COLLECTION OF STUMPAGE

The Standard is exercised because no one seems willing to accept the statement made in its editorial columns last Monday, that the increase in territorial revenue of the province is entirely due to what it terms an honest collection of the stumpage on lumber cut on crown lands. On Thursday this valued organ of public opinion hinted vaguely at an inquiry into the collection of stumpage by the old government implying that dishonest methods had been suggested by the government to its officials for the benefit of the lumbermen of the province. The present government has been strong on enquiries. They had the Central Railway enquiry for instance and what did it develop—a mere partisan report upon which even the Hazen administration has not had the courage to act and which has never been mentioned in the house ever since it was laid on the table. Everyone knows the purpose of this enquiry and the reason for the silence on the part of the government since it was made public. It was hoped that the evidence would so besmirch the characters of half a dozen persons that at least two of them would be forced out of public life. The report was so scandalously partisan, so confused in its statements that none but the bitterest opponent of those who had to do with the Central railway could find justification for it. It was unfair and dishonest in almost every paragraph, so lacking in quotations from the evidence, that it reflected rather on the men who framed it than on those charged with maladministration of the railway.

An inquiry into the collection of stumpage for the past twelve or fifteen years would be a good thing for the old government and a bad thing for the friends of the Standard. It would set at rest once and for all the many falsehoods which have been so glibly passed around for three years regarding the collection of the territorial revenue—particularly that part of it derived from stumpage. It would be gratifying to believe that those who now pose as being so much more honest than their predecessors and so thoroughly alive to the necessity of preserving the forests were really sincere in their pretensions. There is nothing which rolls off the tongues of these governmental pledgins so glibly as the charge that the old government was owned body and soul by the lumbermen. Years ago when the lumber business was in a greatly depressed condition the old government reduced the stumpage. When conditions improved the government decided that it was in the best interests of the province to lease the remaining timber land. This action was vigorously opposed by the lumbermen. At the last moment—very day before the auction was to take place, the principal lumbermen of the province met at Fredericton and made a unanimous demand that the sale be stopped. The government, which was owned by the lumbermen, so the opposition said at the time and since—the government which it was asserted owed place and power to the lumbermen, refused to be coerced and the sale took place as advertised. Then again, when conditions were further improved—when lumber lands were increasing in value, the lumbermen's government doubled the mileage rate on crown land leases and raised the stumpage. There was attempts made in many ways to prevent this being done. If anyone thinks this is not so, let him read the correspondence published in the crown land report and he will be convinced that the government which withstood the memorial of the lumbermen at that time was a strong government and convinced that it was right stood by its policy and put the increases into force.

The position of the Hazen administration is in strong contrast with that of the old government. One day an announcement that the stumpage on certain kinds of lumber would be in a fit of Dutch courage it published increased. Then the Dominion elections were called on and all the courage of the government evaporated through its distended pores. The announcement was withdrawn and no one in authority has ever spoken of increasing the stumpage since. But this was not all. A supporter who

had resigned to enter the Dominion fight and had gone down to defeat, left a vacancy open in Northumberland—a great lumber county. What happened? The size of the log that could be cut was immediately reduced. A distinct bid for support in that county—and for the support of the lumbermen in the rest of the province besides. No extra mileage was charged for this concession. It was a free gift to the lumbermen, the importance of which cannot be denied or gainsaid. An attempt has been made to show that this was only changing a custom to a regulation. This statement is not true and if any corroboration of the untruth of the statement were necessary it is to be found in the paper of Mr. W. H. Berry, chief of the scalers of the province read at the Forestry Convention. In this paper Mr. Berry, who is worthy of being quoted, said:

"We have two distinct kinds of spruce timber in our forests, namely the black spruce, which are found in the south western part of this province, and the white spruce which you will find is the principal tree on the Restigouche river and Upsalquitch and their tributaries. The black spruce which is found on the Miramichi and St. John rivers and branches, is a tree of fairly rapid growth, and on confining ourselves to a reasonable size log, the majority of the territory covered by the black spruce can be cut over about every fifteen years. This, of course, is regulated entirely by the size which this lumber is cut. Originally nearly all the timber cut in the province of New Brunswick was shipped to European ports and principally to the British Isles and owing to the quantity of large size deals that was required in the specifications sold fifteen years ago, no tree that would not make an 18 foot 11 inch log was considered a merchantable one.

These trees in a great many cases were not run up in the tops and it is only in recent years that the tops of our larger trees have been taken out. This left a very large percentage of lumber in the woods, but which the saw-mill had no market for, making all the laths, that they could seem to find sale for, out of the slats. A tree of this size you see, had it been run up into the top, say even to 8 inches, would give a tree at least 36 ft. long 8 in. at the top end, and where cuttings of this nature formerly took place we have been known to go over the same ground in eight or ten years and get nearly the same quantity of lumber and of about the same size originally. At that time specifications which were sold in the British market would not take more than 30 per cent. of 7 in. deals, the balance 70 per cent. required to be nines, evelens and up. You can readily see by this that the markets control the size of the lumber that was formerly cut in our woods, and to a very large extent conserved our forests for the present time.

Another point that we might mention is the fact that the pine on all the rivers emptying into the Bay of Chaleur at that time was not considered very valuable except for lumber, and for that reason very little of it has been cut heretofore. This you will see has preserved our pine on the Jacquet, Lowison and other rivers, of recent years.

The American market has been a very large factor in the exportation of manufactured lumber from the province of New Brunswick, as a general thing the mills have operated principally on granted or soil right lands, but at the same time it has been a market for our large mills, and the operator has been able to get sale for a larger output of laths which would work up small tops of trees and give him an opening for scantling.

Again, of recent years, the English market have reduced their specifications, in buying to 50 per cent. of nines, evelens and up, allowing 50 per cent. of sevens, outside of battens which they are taking 2½ by 4, and our operators are now shipping a large percentage to the English market in scantlings, deal ends, etc.

This also makes a market for the tops of our trees and in the past ten years, I do not think that there are very many lumbermen in the province of New Brunswick who have not been running up their trees to 8 in. at the top end. But, although this has been of considerable benefit to the province in making a market for the tops of trees, it has also had a tendency to make a sale for the small size trees or butt logs, and has had a tendency to reduce the size of lumber cut in the woods, and in fact, for a number of years past, logs have been cut down as low as 16 ft. 9 in. and of recent years even our saw mills men have asked for permits from the government to be allowed to cut lumber even much smaller than this, down as low as 12 in. at the butt.

Could any better reason be given for the increase of the territorial revenue than supplied by Mr. Barry. In the first place, the small log was not cut because there was no market for it. Again, not so much of the larger trees were taken from the woods because there was no market for small lumber. As the specifications for lumber were altered, more of the lumber from trees of all sizes be-

came merchantable until now practically the whole tree is used for some purpose. Because of this change in the conditions the lumberman makes a larger profit on every tree cut and the government gets more stumpage because a larger percentage of the tree cut is marketed. This would have been the case had no more trees been felled than formerly. By decreasing the size of the log more trees are now cut than formerly and the stumpage returns accordingly increased. But the forests are being depleted. Mr. Grimmer is impairing the capital of the province as no surveyor general of the past thirty years has dreamed of doing. He is decreasing the revenue of today but his methods spell ruin for the future. It is idle to say that the lumber exports are not increasing. The returns official and unofficial, show that they are. So is the home consumption. The policy of the government is indispensable from any viewpoint and the sooner more stringent regulations for the protection of the forests are adopted the better for the province.

It has been officially announced by the Hazen government that there will be no survey of the proposed Valley Railway route between Fredericton and Woodstock as the data of former surveys of this section is available and will be utilized. This practically means that the scores of young men who have been vigorously pushing their claims with the members for York for jobs on this survey have been handed a large sized lemon. They should now lose no time in withdrawing their applications and turning the same over to Mr. A. R. Slipp, M. P. P., who is apparently the only local politician who has any influence with the government.

St. John Times:—Premier Hazen announces that the St. John Valley Railway route will be at once surveyed from Woodstock to Andover and from Fredericton to Welsford. This does not suggest a line from St. John to Grand Falls. The people of the valley should keep an eye on Mr. Hazen and his railway scheme.

### FREDERICTON CRICKET CLUB REORGANIZED

Mr. Geo. N. Babbitt, President—Resolution Passed on Departure of Mr. Norton-Taylor from City.

The Fredericton Cricket Club last night re-organized for the season. The meeting was held at the Queen Hotel through the kindness of Mr. J. J. McJaffrey, proprietor. Officers elected were as follows: Geo. N. Babbitt, president; C. W. Hall, vice-president; Mr. Turner, secretary-treasurer; Capt. the Hon. Thos. Ashburnham, field captain.

The Fredericton Club expects to play matches with St. John and other clubs. No arrangements have been made yet, however. The personnel of the first eleven will be considerably different from that of last year as several players have left the city. Mr. W. H. Norton-Taylor will be much missed. The club last night passed a resolution expressing regret on account of his departure from the city. The club was reported to be in good financial standing.

Steps will be taken as soon as possible to obtain suitable grounds. As in former years, the soldiers of the military depot will play as members of the Fredericton club. Practice games between soldiers and civilians will be played. Owing to the large number of players who will not be available this year, it is impossible to make a forecast of the composition of the first eleven. It is expected, however, that the local club will be able to give a very good account of itself.

### NATIVES ARE RIOTING

Hankow, April 15.—The situation at Changaha, the capital of Hunan, is most grave. The rioting began by the natives in revenge for the action of Chinese officials in cornering and controlling the export of rice continues.

The Governor's Yamen in which the missionaries had sought refuge, was set on fire by the rioters and destroyed.

Hankow, April 15.—The missionaries and other foreigners fled and were taken aboard a merchant steamer in the harbor. The British consulate and custom office have been abandoned.

Two more British gunboats are hurrying to the scene. No fatalities are reported. The properties known to have been destroyed are the buildings of the Wesleyan China inland mission, of the Methodist China inland mission and of the Norwegian mission.

April 4 1910

# John J. Weddall & Son

CURTAINS

LINOLEUMS

Try us for any of your House-Cleaning needs such as

## Curtains, Curtain Materials, Blinds, Oilcloths and Linoleums

Our CURTAIN DEPARTMENT is overflowing with anything you may need to make your windows attractive, at very lowest prices.

Lace Curtains from 45c. to \$12 per pair.

Blinds for your Home, Store or Office, in plain or COMBINATION COLORS. SPECIAL ORDERS taken and lowest estimates furnished for BLINDS and CURTAINS.

OILCLOTHS and LINOLEUMS from 1-2 to 4 yards wide in Wood Patterns, Floral Designs, Tile Patterns and Plain, also INLAID LINOLEUMS. Use LINO SHINE for them, Price 50c. for pint size; \$1.00 quart.

Also Couch Cover Portiers, Door Panels, COCOA MATS, Carpet Paper, Whips, Stair Pads and Plates, Brass and Wood Curtain Poles and Fixtures and a Magnificent Range of FURNITURE COVERINGS.

BLINDS

OILCLOTHS

# JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

## Fishing Nets

:: and ::

## Netting Twine

BEST GOODS

: AT :

LOWEST PRICES.

Tweeddale & Co.

The Up-to-Date Cash Hardware Store

## Protect Your Property

WITH A GOOD FENCE

WE CAN FURNISH

"American" Field Fences  
"Ellwood" Lawn and Cemetery Fences

GATES FOR SAME

Best  
Quality  
Galvanized

Barbed Wire  
Plain Twist Wire  
Straight Wire  
Coiled Spring Wire

R. Chestnut & Sons