

The Daily Mail

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MR. GRIMMER'S DREAMS

Mr. Grimmer is optimistic. He said in the House yesterday that someone told him at the Forestry Convention that if the present conditions of the lumber cut continued the supply of lumber in New Brunswick was inexhaustible. Some months ago Mr. Grimmer made the assertion that some lumbermen told him that the cut of 1909 was only 60 per cent. of the average cut in this province. Mr. Grimmer seems to be always hearing fairy tales. The lumber exports from New Brunswick which in 1909 were greater than those of 1908, entirely disproving the contention of Mr. Grimmer that he had collected more revenue from a smaller cut than any previous surveyor-general. It is not well for a man to let his vanity run away with his senses. Mr. Grimmer was responsible for many absurd and ridiculous statements before the last general election and he is trying to furnish a justification for his recklessness by misrepresenting the administration of his office. This he cannot possibly do when only facts are used, therefore these dreams of the Surveyor-General—these vague statements of what some people, names never given, have told him. Mr. Grimmer forgets that he is still a mere novice in the lumber business, without the slightest practical knowledge concerning it, and apparently with very little reliable information. His education has already been very costly to the province and the full tuition fees are not yet paid. If Mr. Grimmer really wants to live up to his promise to get every dollar of revenue coming to the province the lumber cut on crown lands let him carefully compare the exports with the stumpage collection and then get busy. If he does this thoroughly and carefully he will discover that he is still far from being the ideal collector of stumpage he has proclaimed himself to be, and realize the truth of what he has been told from the opposition benches that the province never has received full pay for stumpage and is not now getting it.

Respecting the lumber cut of New Brunswick the Surveyor General has been told by everybody who knows that the lumber of this province is being largely overcut, that the annual loss from the lumberman's axe and fire is greater than the growth. Instead of conserving the forest resources of the province as a wise and prudent man would do, Mr. Grimmer, to meet political exigencies, has reduced the size of the log. As a justification for his course Mr. Grimmer has said that he only made a regulation that was a custom previously. We have only Mr. Grimmer's word for this. Even admitting that the statement is correct, Mr. Grimmer must know that two wrongs do not make a right and that his answer to the charge of wasting the resources of the province, made, not by the politicians, but by men who have an interest in forest preservation remain unanswered by any practical move to conserve the forest wealth of New Brunswick.

MR. MURRAY'S MISSTATEMENTS

Mr. Murray of Kings speaking in the budget debate last evening made some references to public printing. If Mr. Murray's statements regarding other matters were no nearer being correct than those which he made regarding printing it is quite evident that he was either very badly deceived himself or was trying to deceive the legislature and the country. In endeavouring to show what an economical administration the present was he said that the old government spent \$13,697 in 1907 for public printing, while this government got more work for \$11,633. Then he went on to say that this additional work was the printing of the report of the Agricultural Commission, a large number of copies of the highway act, the game act and a new book on Hunting and Fishing in the province.

Had Mr. Murray taken the precaution to examine the auditor general's report before making this statement his reputation for veracity would not have suffered as it must suffer now. Only two of the items he mentioned appears in the account, for

public printing. One is the Game Act which cost \$95, and is so carelessly produced that not even the title page is correct. Mr. Grimmer was so anxious to hand over his little job printing to his political friend who owns the St. Croix Courier that he never read the title page, adopting the one on the old book which reads "Game Act and Amendments." Everybody knows that a new game act was passed last season and there have been no amendments to it since. The Highway Act cost \$91.20. Every other item mentioned by Mr. Murray appears in a separate account and is not included in public printing. The printing for the Agricultural Commission cost \$1,958.89 of which the Fredericton Gleaner was paid \$1,869.85. Mr. Murray will find the items on page 31 of the auditor general's report. On page 46 of the same report he will find that \$835.00 was paid for the pamphlet Hunting and Fishing. Then on page 51 he will find that the Moncton Times was paid \$256 for printing the report of the N. B. Coal and Railway investigation. These items total up \$14,683 or \$1,650 more than Mr. Murray says it was and \$1,000 more than the old government spent in 1907. This was not all that was paid for printing.

The statement made by Mr. Murray bears a striking resemblance to a similar utterance of the provincial secretary in his budget speech, but Mr. Murray who has had a wide experience in the world should not have been deceived by any such utterance from that source, and it is highly improbable that he will be again. It is up to Mr. Murray to explain what he meant by uttering such a misleading statement.

A SPENDTHRIFT GOVERNMENT.

The end of the debate on the budget was reached last evening. It is very doubtful if the various questions of finance in which the province is interested have ever been so thoroughly discussed before. Certainly no budget ever brought down by a government of New Brunswick has been so roughly handled by the opposition in the House as that which Mr. Flemming laid before the House a week ago. There was a reason why this should be. When in opposition, the present government and their supporters had gone about the country misrepresenting the financial condition of the province, and slandering the members of the then government. There never was before such a campaign of misrepresentation, falsehood and slander in the history of the province as that preceding the general election of 1908. The utterances of the then opposition supporters reported in the newspapers, were bad enough, but as nothing compared with the reckless assertions made in country school houses when no reporters were present. The opposition of that day made many promises of the reform, they would effect it returned to power. It was therefore, fitting, since the people believed their statements, had faith in their promises and returned them to power, they should be carefully examined and enquiry made as how well or how badly they have performed their promises since coming to office.

It was shown during the course of the debate that the revenue received by the government was greater than any previous government had enjoyed. This increase in revenue was in no wise due to any act of the present government. It was the direct result of the efforts of the old government in securing for the province an addition of \$130,000 annually to the Dominion subsidy and for the wise regulations respecting the territorial revenue, which have been productive of an annual increase during the past five or six years. The present government had done nothing to increase the revenue of the province. They have neither passed a law nor made a regulation that would add a single penny to the revenue. It is not as revenue produces that the present administration shines. It is as "spenders"—not wise ones it is true—upon which they hope to make a record. To such a length has this spendthrift government gone that they have been compelled to resort to the most transparent tricks of financial jugglery and crooked book-keeping to show a surplus last year. By transferring one and another item from this account to that they were enabled to show a paper surplus of \$4,400 on the year's work, whereas there had been a deficit of over \$150,000 as shown by Mr. Robinson.

They contended that the audit act

would prevent over-expenditures. It has not done so. The expenditures made after the appropriations were exhausted amount to over \$100,000. This is not good government, and no man who is not a fool would say that it is. Neither would any man say that a government which under everyday conditions, would over-expend to this extent is a safe body of men to govern the country. Where such over-expenditure has taken place, careless management of the affairs of the country is to be expected. And this is just what New Brunswick has had for the past two years. Starting in with a clean sheet and an increased revenue of \$200,000, the present administration has spent it all and when it is spent there is nothing to show for it. The record of the past year is bad, and there is no hope of any improvement in the future under their rule. Every dollar coming in will be spent, and spent in such a way that the province will not get 50 cents value for every dollar spent.

HANGED FOR TRIPLE MURDER

Prince Albert, Sask., March 10.—John Mesci walked to the scaffold this morning without a quiver or sign of fear. He murdered his employer and the latter's wife and mother-in-law at Gull Lake. He killed Mrs. George Thorburn with an axe. He then killed George Thorburn, the husband, and Mrs. McNiver, Thorburn's mother-in-law.

WANT MORE SESSIONAL INDEMNITY

Toronto, March 10.—This afternoon half a dozen Conservative members waited upon the provincial treasurer and made a formal request that the sessional indemnity be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. This would involve \$53,000 additional and the provincial treasurer is unwilling to incur the extra expense.

SHOULD APPEAL TO YORK.

(Moncton Transcript.)

Fredericton has a new daily newspaper, The Mail, with which is incorporated The Herald. A copy of the new publication which has come to hand presents an attractive appearance. The new journal, in its editorial announcement, points out in effect that its principle object will be to give the news; that it will support all measures calculated to advance the best interests of Fredericton, striving to bring about a wise and economical administration of civic affairs; that it will give independent support to the present Federal administration, and that in provincial politics, measures advanced by the Hager government will be considered on their merits, holding the view that the Premier and his colleagues have not carried out the promises made when in opposition. This is a commendable programme. The new journal editorially discusses timely questions in a fair, judicious manner; its news columns are bright; its advertising patronage is extensive, and its make-up and typography are excellent. The Mail should appeal strongly to the people of York county and other sections of the province and especially to supporters of the Liberal party. It is published every afternoon, except Sunday.

Bijou

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March 11th 1910

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