

The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N.B., December 28, 1911

THE DANGER LINE

Where has the money gone?

This is the question which is forced on the public mind by the astounding financial statement of the fiscal year 1911, published in this week's Royal Gazette by the provincial government. When will New Brunswick reach the limit of increase in expenditure, which has become so noteworthy under the present provincial administration?

This is not a matter of party politics. It is a matter which demands the earnest consideration of every citizen of the province who is desirous of seeing our financial condition sound and healthy and of seeing New Brunswick share in the common prosperity of the Dominion.

In 1907, the last year of the old government, the sum of \$960,000 was expended on consolidated revenue account. In 1908, the first year under the present regime, the million dollar mark was passed. In 1910 the figures were no less than \$1,355,381. For 1911 the expenditure surpassed even the total of 1910 and jumped up to the alarming sum of \$1,403,547.83 and there is an admitted deficit on the year's operations amounting to \$56,469.80. And that is the record of a government which went into power pledged to economy. Why, under their method of conducting public business the sum spent on "ordinary account" alone was nearly \$500,000 greater than the sum similarly spent during the last year of the Robinson ministry. That surely is a terrible record for a small province which has added but twenty thousand people to its population in the last ten years.

New Brunswick is not a large province and there cannot safely be, and there must not be, the dangerous increases in the expenditures which have unfortunately come in the past three years. Each year of the present administration has seen a startling increase in expenditure. If this be the economy which Premier Flemming and his colleagues promised, the people may well pray to be delivered from this burden.

It is easy to understand in the light of this most recent financial statement why Hon. Mr. Hazen took the first opportunity to cut himself adrift from the local administration. When leader of the opposition in the local House, Mr. Hazen and his associates, including the present premier, asserted over and over again that the interest charges were ruinous. The province, they declared, was on the verge of bankruptcy and unless they were paid in power, everything would go to rack and ruin. If that was the case in 1907, how much worse is the situation today?

In 1897 the amount paid out in interest was \$178,080—admittedly a large sum. In 1911, according to the statement of the government itself, it was the astounding sum of \$245,192.32, or about \$67,000 more than was paid under the Robinson government. If the former government was reckless and extravagant in its handling of public accounts, what is to be said of ministers who promised economy and yet last year piled up an interest charge of \$245,000. Certainly the situation is one deserving the close attention of thoughtful men.

The enormous sum of \$115,741.62, an amount greatly in excess of the estimate, was shown to have been expended during the year on public works. An extra tax has been extorted from the people under the government's iniquitous highway act and what value has been given for the money? Has there been any improvement in the condition of the

roads of the province? If there has, who outside the army of officials who have fattened at the public crib will say that it has kept pace with the increased outlay?

The government's statement gives further reason for the feeling that many men have that the government's school book policy must prove another breeder of deficits. Last year there was a deficit of \$5,000 in this department, but in explanation we were told that there was a large supply of books on hand. This year there was a further expenditure of \$18,853.31, while the receipts were \$16,200, leaving a deficit of \$2,653.31.

As usual, the item of "executive" government shows an increase. It was \$34,000 in 1907; it was \$38,808 last year, and this year it ran up to \$40,080. Many people will recall the manner in which Mr. Flemming denounced the previous government on the score that the ministers themselves cost the people too much. Indeed, he even went so far as to declare that they were taking money from the public treasury to which they were not legally entitled. No one would think of throwing out such a mean insinuation against the high and mighty rulers of the present day, but if Mr. Robinson and his colleagues were culpably extravagant in 1907, when the cost of executive government was \$34,000, what shall be said of the men who have increased that cost by over \$6,000? Let the newspaper apologists of Mr. Flemming answer that question.

The cost of stampage collections under the present government has more than doubled, but its partisans in answer to this, will point to the fact that there has been a large increase in the territorial revenue. That is true, but the increase is largely due to the blameworthy policy of the government in decreasing the size of the log which may be cut on crown lands. This policy is resulting in temporary gain to the government, but it is simply killing the goose that lays the golden egg. If persisted in it will mean the wiplog out of our forest wealth, which is today our chief source of revenue.

The following comparative statement compiled from the auditor general's report will give a fair idea how the present administration has practiced economy during the past three years:

PUBLIC WORKS.

1898,\$228,133.72
1911, 415,741.49

Increase,\$197,607.77

PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL.

1898,\$ 61,298.38
1911, 83,942.30

Increase,\$ 22,643.92

STUMPAGE COLLECTIONS.

1908,\$11,972.04
1911, 30,855.52

Increase,\$ 18,883.48

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

1898,\$1,042,196.49
1911, 1,402,546.85

Increase,\$ 360,350.36

AGRICULTURE.

1908,\$ 19,770.76
1911, 46,624.04

Increase,\$ 26,853.28

EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT.

1908,\$34,987.89
1911, 40,086.65

Increase,\$ 65,098.66

FOREST AND GAME PROTECTION

1908,\$ 19,450.69
1911, 30,353.61

Increase,\$ 10,902.92

EDUCATION.

1908,\$238,741.70
1911, 270,655.73

Increase,\$ 31,914.03

The government's statement shows a deficit on the year's operations of \$56,469, one of the largest in the history of the province and it is evident that there has been considerable juggling in order to make this miserable showing. Loans were made from banks during the year amounting to over \$800,000 and the government even found it necessary to borrow the money for the St. John Valley Railway survey. It is impossible to say from the information at hand just how serious the condition of provincial affairs really is. It is painfully evident, however, that there has been wasteful expenditure of the people's money, reckless outlays which have brought the total expenditure up to a figure hitherto unthought of in regard to New Brunswick.

FUNERAL OF LATE

R. H. PHILLIPS TODAY

The funeral of the late Richard H. Phillips took place this afternoon from the home of his son Mr. R. L. Phillips, Smythe Street. It was very largely attended. Service was conducted at the house by Rev. Dr. MacDonald. Special music was rendered by a quartette from the choir of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church composed of Mr and Mrs F. B. Smith, Mr. F. L. Cooper and Mrs F. A. Good.

Six deacons of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church acted as pallbearers. The mourners were—

R. L. Phillips, Paul Phillips. Robert Phillips, F. W. Porter, members of the Board of Health.

Interment was made at the Rural Cemetery.

HAS PURCHASED CAR

Dr. B. M. Mullin of St. Mary's, has purchased a Valveless Elmore motor-car through Mr. P. S. Watson, of St. Mary's, provincial agent.

INSPECTORS' MEETING.

The annual conference of the Chief Superintendent of Education and the school inspectors is taking place here today. All the inspectors but one are present at the conference.

MARRIED LAST EVENING.

The marriage of Mr. J. Wm. C. Charters of the Chestnut Canoe Factory, to Miss M. Maude Dawson took place yesterday afternoon at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. W. H. Jonah, Brunswick Street. The bride was given away by her brother Mr. Wellington Dawson of Moncton. The happy couple left by I.C.R. on their wedding trip. They will reside in this city.

wick, and dangerous to the future of the province. Talk about economy, why, the very word is fanciful as applied to the administration of affairs in this province today.

At a representative meeting of Liberals held in St. John, yesterday, the resignation of Hon. C. W. Robinson, as leader of the Provincial Opposition, was accepted, and Mr. A. B. Copp, M. P. P., of Sackville, was unanimously chosen as his successor. Hon. Mr. Robinson has rendered good service to the party, and his retirement will be greatly regretted by Liberals all over the province. All were rejoiced however, that his mantle has fallen upon Mr. Copp's shoulders. A sturdy Liberal of the best type, Mr. Copp has rendered the party great service, and can be counted upon to fill the new position in a most creditable manner.

The fact that there was a Dominion election during the year may have had something to do with the large over expenditure in the provincial department of public works.

Premier Flemming in exchanging the portfolio of Provincial Secretary for that of Surveyor General seems to have handed his successor a lesson in the form of a record breaking deficit.

CUSTOMS OFFICER JAMIESON'S

HEAD FALLS IN BASKET

Mr. Herbert Jamieson, customs officer on the Maine frontier, with headquarters at North Lake, received a Christmas box on Saturday last in the form of a notice of dismissal. It was as follows:

Dear Sir:—
Sir.—I am directed to inform you that your employment in the Customs Service terminates December 31st, 1911.

All books, papers and other Customs property in your charge are to be delivered to the Collector of Customs at McAdam Junction.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.

JOHN McDOUGALL,
Commissioner Customs.

No reason is assigned for Mr. Jamieson's dismissal. He was a most faithful official and no charge had been preferred against him. Many leading Conservatives of the district were anxious that his services be retained but they seem to have been over-ruled by the hungry element of the party. The fact that Mr. Jamieson is a cripple, having only one hand, was, of course, not taken into consideration by the Tory patronage dispensers.

THIS MORNING'S FIRE

The firemen were given an unnecessary run at noon by an alarm from box 26 at the corner of Westmorland and Charlotte streets. There was no damage.

BOWLING SERIES

A series of three matches has been arranged between a picked team and the HardwareMen. The matches will be bowled on the Queen Hotel Alley, the first taking place tonight.

PERSONAL

Mr. J. R. C. Macredie of Outlook, Sask., is in the city revisiting his old home. He will remain here some weeks.

Mr. D. H. Waterbury of St. John Superintendent of Dominion Public buildings is in the city in connection with improvements at the Marysville post office.

Mr. F. P. Carvell, M. P., of Woodstock is at the Queen.

Mr. Edgar S. Fairweather and F. S. Whittaker of St. John are in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Stewart of Northdale are in the city. They are on their way home from a visit to Mr. Stewart's brother Mr. J. L. Stewart of Chatham.

Mr. R. LeB. Stevens of St. John is at the Queen.

Mr. E. E. Church of St. John is in the city.

Messrs. F. M. Tennant and P. J. Gray of Moncton are at the Queen.

Mr. Arthur Culligan of Jacques River arrived in the city by I. C. R. this afternoon.

Mr. Justice Fairley of Boiestown is registered at the Barker House.

Mr. W. S. Tompkins of Meductic, is in the city today. He is rapidly recovering from the injuries received on a driving accident on Saturday.

Mr. C. H. McGee of St. George is at the Barker House.

Mr. M. H. Edson of Whitman, Mass. is in the city.

Sir Thomas Tait arrived in the city at noon today. He is at the Barker House.

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DIED LAST NIGHT

The death of Mrs. Caroline Barker Carman occurred last night at her home, corner of Brunswick and Westmorland streets after a severe illness with pneumonia. The deceased was in the seventy-fourth year of her age. One brother Mr. George Smith and one unmarried sister, both residing in this city survive. Both are seriously ill. A remarkable feature in connection with the family is that the death of two other sisters occurred within a few days of one another in October last. The sole surviving sister is not expected to survive her present illness. The date of the funeral will be announced later.

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Tones and invigorates the whole nervous system, makes new blood in old veins. Cures Nervous Debility, Mental and Brain Worry, Despondency, Sexual Weakness, Emissions, Spermatorrhoea, and Effects of Abuse or Excesses. Price \$1 per box, six for \$5. One will please, six will cure. Sold by all druggists or mailed in plain pkg. on receipt of price. New pamphlet mailed free. The Wood Medicine Co. (formerly Windsor) Toronto, Ont.

RICHESON'S SUCCESSOR A NOVA SCOTIAN

Boston, Mass., Dec. 28.—Rev. Mr. Richeson's successor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Cambridge, Mass., is Rev. Austin T. Kempton, a native of Upper Canada, Cornwallis, N. S. He is a graduate of Acadia College and has held pastorates in Nova Scotia and lectured in Quebec. His salary will be \$2,000.

HERE FROM WEST.

Mr. Albert P. C. Belyea of Edmonton, Alta., is at the Queen. He is on his way to his home at Gagetown, where he will spend a short vacation. Mr. Belyea was graduated in engineering by the U.N.B. in 1906, and since that time has been employed by the Public Works Department of Alberta.

Mr. S. J. Moore of Truro, Dominion Seed Inspector was in the city last night.

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