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DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1903.

PUBLIC PRINTING.

With the fact before him that the public printing of the province last year cost very slightly, if any in excess of what the service on an average has cost for the past twenty years, Mr. Hazen moved that the proposed grant for the service be reduced from \$11,000 to \$8,000. Mr. Hazen knew the service could not be had for any such amount, and his motion was only a piece of political clap-trap.

Mr. Hazen pretended to quote figures from the Sun and Globe offices declaring that they would have printed the recently issued handbook cheaper than it had been done by an office friendly to the government, and was neatly caught by the attorney general. The Sun's figures were \$1500 and the Globe's \$2,000 and Mr. Hazen innocently declared that at its figure the Sun office said it could make \$400 profit on the job. If that is true the Globe wanted a profit of \$900 on the same job, for its figures were \$2,000. Dr. Parsley suggested that the difference in the two offers showed that the Sun and Globe were only guessing.

Mr. Hazen proceeded to declare that public printing is costing too much, but submitted no evidence in support of his contention. The opposition leader knows absolutely nothing about what constitutes a fair price for printing, and his criticism is therefore valueless. As a matter of fact, the margin of profit on government work is no greater if as large as on ordinary commercial work, and Hon. Mr. Sweeney was able to remind Mr. Hazen that a newspaper office, the Moncton Transcript, actually refused to print the agricultural report because the figures offered were not considered profitable.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie explained to the House that the government had invited and received tenders from the printing offices friendly to the government, and produced the various tenders which showed that the administration had succeeded in keeping the cost of the service down to an amount that affords the printers only a reasonable profit on the work. He was also able to show that there is no fairness in comparing the cost of printing at the present time with what it was twenty-five years ago. The government is compelled to have a great deal more work done now than formerly, no board of health report, for instance, was issued until a few years ago, and instead of publishing 2000 copies of the agricultural report as in former years, 5000 copies are now issued, nearly doubling the cost, but meeting the demands of the farmers for information.

Mr. Hazen or any other man who has the idea that newspaper offices grow rich from government printing, is harboring an entirely fallacious and illusive idea. Did his own organ, the Sun, grow rich when it had an average of some \$12,000 a year for eighteen years for Dominion government printing?

The fact of the matter is, the offices that are doing the local government printing are given a fair living profit, and no more. The prices are regulated by a scale which no printer would consider generous. Mr. Hazen may feel assured that the printing service is conducted with full regard for economy, and the government gets full value for every dollar it expends in that direction.

DISTINGUISHED CORRESPONDENT.

Mr. Hazen professes to be sufficiently astute to know what takes place in the government caucus, and he was able yesterday to send a telegram to the Globe informing that newspaper of what he

alleged occurred at a secret meeting of government supporters. The Globe perhaps may feel satisfaction at being able to command the services of so distinguished a correspondent, and it is certainly an evidence of the approaching millenium when the opposition leader takes the trouble of keeping the Globe informed on political questions. The relations between Mr. Hazen and the Globe were not always so cordial. Indeed the Globe in former times was accustomed to sneer at Mr. Hazen's political pretensions, referring on one occasion to his speeches as "boiled sawdust," an appellation with which we did not agree. However politics often makes strange political bed-fellows, and the spectacle of Mr. Hazen and the Globe lying down together in a sweet and loving embrace, is one of the political wonders of the time.

A LIVE QUESTION.

The Grand Trunk Pacific railway scheme up to the present makes no mention of constructing its road further east than Quebec, and the resolution of the St. John Board of Trade, urging the legislature to petition the Dominion Parliament to refuse a charter to the company until it is stipulated that the line shall be extended to the winter ports of the maritime provinces, is timely and should bear fruit. The St. John Board also takes the view that the line through New Brunswick should follow the valley of the St. John river, a view that has already been voiced in the legislature by both the attorney general and Mr. Hazen. The Grand Trunk people should be given to understand definitely that they need expect no public grants unless they are prepared to carry the produce of the west to Canadian ports, and not to Portland.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.

The strike at Montreal is probably the most serious that ever occurred in Canada and is especially harassing at this season when the shipping business of the port is re-opening. Fortunately so far there has been no clash between the militia forces guarding property, and the strikers, and it is to be hoped that peace will be continued.

There is a very strong feeling against the American labor agitators who come over the border to create strife between employer and the employed, and there would be little sympathy for this class of gentry, were they summarily ejected from the country.

Probably Gamey wishes now that he hadn't entered into that conspiracy. His evidence against Prov. Sec'y. Stratton is entirely unsupported in the essential points, and the commissioners should find little difficulty in rendering a verdict against Gamey. The great conspiracy that was to have destroyed the Ross government has exploded, leaving the conspirator and his allies in a most onenviable position.

The legislature got into snappy yesterday afternoon and before nine o'clock in the evening had passed all the items of the regular budget. Some supplementaries are yet to be voted, and there are a few bills on the files, but it is expected that all these will be cleared away so that prorogation may take place Friday, certainly not later than Saturday morning.

Hon. Mr. McKeown's Speech.

[CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE]

One member for Northumberland has made an attack on the crown land office of a very serious nature. It seems to me that the honour which accompanies public duties cannot be blown away or lightly held. I was surprised and pained at the remarks made by him, and if he was in his seat I might, in the capacity of adviser, say to him that being in the House for the first time the words he used might have been stronger than he intended. His political life had been stormy but he has upheld the banner of Liberalism and I should be sorry to see him placed in a false position.

I desire to say while speaking of the financial aspect of the situation, that I had to study it fully during the last campaign, and I found in my researches that if there was any one point on which the government could appeal to the people

with absolute certainty of being upheld it was on their financial record. There has never been the slightest suggestion of personal dishonour connected with any member of the government, and their record in this respect cannot be impeached.

We have been told that the leader of the government has lost prestige in his own county and throughout the province by being returned alone. But this is by no means the case. When a man goes to the people on his record and comes back with such a majority as he has in this House it is utterly folly to talk of him having lost prestige.

But we say further on behalf of the Government that we do not object to fair criticism. We feel that we are keeping step with those who are in the advance of the world's progress, and that it will not do for this province to stand still, and this administration will continue to march along these bold and progressive lines of policy, which are necessary to its prosperity. We have now reached the point in the history of the province when it is necessary for us to go ahead or to go back, and I am here to say that we do not intend to go back. This province is one of the gate-ways of the Confederation, and there are in its future possibilities of the utmost moment. But we must not look behind or linger, we must press forward in the race and win the prize. We desire to increase our trade, and to augment our business, and while the Government cannot create trade it can create conditions under which trade can be carried on.

Do you realize what Canada has achieved during the past few years? Commerce is war in disguise. The holding of trade and its expansion has got to be a science. During the last half dozen years a country has come into the commercial race for supremacy which hardly was known before. Six years ago Canada was not a factor in the trade of the world. Today its progress is looked upon with surprise and admiration. The progress of the country is measured by the percentage of its commercial growth, and tried by this test Canada leads the nations. We do twice as much trade per head as the United States. We have passed the arrogant and boastful German and when the record of the world's trade is made up in percentage of increase Canada stands first. Looking at this and knowing these things, can we not, and should we not agree to unite on all those lines of policy that will make our country great? Let us look forward to the time when we shall not be engaged in repelling attacks from those who should support us. Let us emulate each other in carrying out those grand ideas which will make our country great and prosperous in the years that are to come. (Applause).

Fools make feasts and fakirs eat them.

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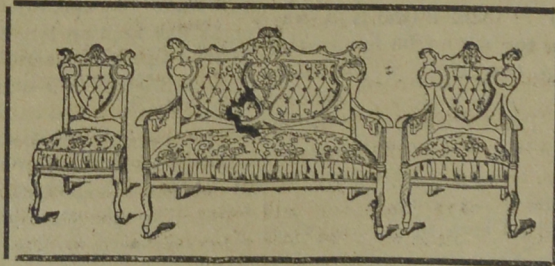
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