

THE DAILY HERALD

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Manager. Editor

DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1904.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

The government and its friends cannot reasonably complain of the temper of opposition speeches so far in the budget debate, and it is hoped that the good feeling evinced may continue to the close. Men may differ on political questions, the opposition may vigorously attack and the government as vigorously defend, but it can all be done in a gentlemanly, parliamentary way, and be much more effective without leaving a sting behind.

Perhaps the strongest criticism that can be made of the opposition attack is to deprecate the importance its speakers attach to well worn comparisons of present day expenditures and that of ten or fifteen years ago. The members who perform the functions of opposition are well aware that conditions have largely changed in the last few years, that greater demands are made on the public treasury, demands which the people desire to be met. The cost of living too, has increased and necessarily there has been some increase to salaries, but the opposition have not been able to lay their hands on any item of expenditure of an improper nature. The money has been expended in the various public services, and good value has been secured in all departments.

Take the opposition criticism for printing as an example. Are the critics of the government aware that the price of labor and materials in this industry has very largely advanced within the past few years? Do they not know that in the case of the agricultural report whereas only some two thousand copies were formerly printed, the number is now four times that number, and the increased expenditure under this head is entirely justifiable, for the farmers have a right to the important information included in the report.

The opposition attack with vehemence the accounts for criminal prosecutions, and their comparisons in this respect are unfair. The amount necessary for this service must vary from year to year. A couple of expensive murder trials will send it up one year, and the necessity of expenditure in that line may be entirely absent in another year. It is certainly unfair to compare a year in which were paid the bills of the Doherty and Marsten murder trials for instance, with a year when there were no such accounts to be met.

The Attorney General was able to conscientiously declare that since he has been Attorney General there has been no mismanagement of justice; the work of administering the criminal law has been carried on with fidelity under his direction, and while the opposition have added and multiplied figures for criminal persecutions, they have been unable to show that money has been improperly paid for the service. We might follow the opposition speech through to the end and show the unreasonableness of their criticisms but this will no doubt be well done by speakers on the government side before the close of the present debate.

A CLEAR INDICATOR.

An evidence of the friendly feeling of the federal government towards the provincial claims for increased subsidies is seen in the speech of Hon. Mr. Lemieux, solicitor general. Yesterday in the debate in parliament, Mr. Lemieux expressed strong sympathy with the justice of the claims, and it is not likely he would have so spoken had he not been sure that Sir Wilfrid and other members of the government are favorable to the provincial contention. Mr. Lemieux's observations will not afford much comfort to the New Brunswick local opposition who attempt to discount the statement put

forward by the Premier and Attorney General, that there is every reason to believe that the claims for increased subsidies will ultimately be met by the federal authorities.

COME AND SEE US.

Mrs. Carrie Nation, the eminent saloon smasher is in St. John and says she is coming to Fredericton to address the legislature, if the politicians will let her. Come along Carrie dear, everybody will be delighted to see you, and the time is most opportune. The budget debate is on and you could give the other old ladies of the opposition a lift in criticizing the finances. They need the motherly care of such as you. They are a lot of political orphans looking for a home on the treasury benches, and perhaps with your little hatchet, Carrie, you could point the way.

But listen, Carrie. Don't come up here with any saloon smashing programme. We have the Scott Act in Fredericton, the greatest saloon smasher in the world.

Another Fredericton Conservative lawyer, who is said to be seeking recognition as a party leader in this constituency, is off to Ottawa, the second alleged claimant to visit the federal capital since parliament opened. It is now up to number three to make a pilgrimage into the immediate presence of the Tory leader.

In the Legislature yesterday, Hon. Dr. Pugsley introduced a bill to amend the provincial elections act, including provision for a secret ballot.

Answer to Messrs. Frasers' Circular.

The Baker Brook property is owned by the Van Buren Lumber Company, Limited, and not by the Van Buren Lumber Co., which is a separate and distinct company.

Two thirds of the stock of the Van Buren Lumber Company, Limited, (and, I might add, of the Van Buren Lumber Company too,) is held by British subjects residing in Edmundston, New Brunswick.

The Van Buren Lumber Company, Limited, does not own any mill or mill site on the American side, and apart from Baker Brook Mill site is not aware that it owns any mill site on the Canadian side.

The Van Buren Lumber Company utilizes all the mill sites owned by it that are situated on the American side and it would be absolutely impossible for it to do business without them. It is not interested in any mill site on the Canadian side.

The mill site in litigation on the American side, that is spoken of in the Messrs. Fraser's circular, is owned by the St. John Lumber Company, who acquired the same from the Van Buren Lumber Company about one year after the same was acquired by the Van Buren Lumber Company, and was conveyed to the St. John Lumber Company upon the supposition that it was to be utilized by said company in the erection of a mill. That a mill has not yet been erected is not the fault of the Van Buren Lumber Company.

I am not aware that the Messrs. Fraser ever made us an offer of any definite sum for our Baker Brook rights, and they are in error in stating that we paid only \$750 for the property. As a matter of fact we paid very much more.

Negotiations for the piece of land on the upper side of Baker Brook, conveyed to our company in March last, had been going on for about one year, and the purchase was completed in March last to protect our rights on the lower side.

If the Messrs. Fraser are correct in stating that this site has not been utilized for over seventeen years we beg respectfully to state that up to the time when we acquired this property they had the same opportunity to acquire it as we had; and as a matter of fact this mill site was for sale long after the Messrs. Fraser acquired their timber limits and long before our company bought the mill site.

As before stated we have no mill site on the American side and have only the Baker Brook site on the Canadian side, and we have already expressed a willing-

ness to part with our rights on Baker Brook to the Messrs. Fraser at a very reasonable price.

The piece on the lower side, the title to which is not disputed, is the piece that we offered to sell the Messrs. Fraser for the sum of \$4,000.00 some time ago, which price we consider very reasonable, and especially so to the Messrs. Fraser, who claim that this is the only water power suitable to saw upwards of 100 million feet of their lumber—and we have since included in that offer to insure the speedy erection of a large mill, and for the reasons heretofore given) all our interest on the upper side of the Brook recently acquired by our Company, the title to which we believe to be in said Company. If the Messrs. Fraser are unwilling to accept our very liberal offer, I do not think they should be given expropriating powers so far at least as affects our property.

Yours respectfully
JOHN M. STEVENS,
Secy. genl.

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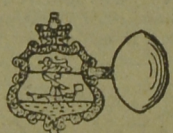
Graduate of Harvard Dental School and Oral and Dental Hospital. Late Assistant of Oral Surgery at Boston City Hospital. Licensed Dental Surgeon by State of Massachusetts. Dentistry in all its modern branches. Special attention given to care of Children's Teeth and the insertion of Artificial Teeth. Local and General Anesthetic applied for painless extraction.

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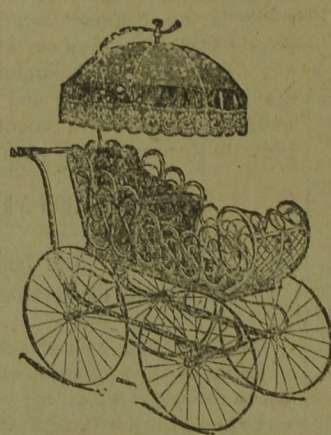
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