The Daily Herald.

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THE HERALD WISHES ALL ITS READERS, PATRONS AND FRIENDS A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

INTERESTING ADDRESS

Bishop Richardson made a very interesting speech at the Y. M. C. A. last evening, occasion being a committeemen's tea. Among other things he alluded ta the movement for union among the various religious bodies, and expressed the hope that such a union was not far distant. "It is to you laymen" said the Bishop, that we must look for the carrying out of this great union project. We clergymen are bound up and hampered by our ecclesiasticism. Laymen approaching the matter from a business standpoint, will ride roughshod through all these minor obstacles."

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We are allowing 10 per cent Discount off all cash purchases made from us during the balance of the Holidays.

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FAMINE AND PESTILENCE

Added to the Horrors of the Situation in Italian Provinces.

ROME, Dec. 31—(Special)—To the terrifying spectacle of death caused by Monday's earthquake has now been added the horror of starvation and the fear of a spread of pestilence.

In the ruins of Messina, Reggio and various towns in Sicily and Calabria, lie the bodies of the dead which it has been impossible to extricate while everywhere thousands of hungry and homeless persons throng the thoroughfares.

Words are inadequate to express the horror of the ruin and desolation that has overwhlemed Calabria and Scilly, where the earth tremblings and fire and water have combined to change the smiling, verdant country into deserts.

Messina exists no longer, and at least thirty years will be necessary to repair the ruins that nature's violences have wrought there.

As yet it has been impossible to obtain any news whatever of the fate of the little villages along the coast many, of which it is believed have been entirely wiped out.

In many cases entire buildings have been swept out to sea and no trace of them remain. It is no exaggeration to say that flourishing and industrious villages have been wiped off the map. In some of the towns such as Palmi, near Montelone, the suddenness and completeness of the catastrophe was overwhelming. Of the 100,000 people living in Palmi only a few score are alive today. Yesterday 2,200 corpses were buried there. The survivors and doctors are performing prodigies of valor. Many of them have been overcome by the scenes they are witnessing.

MESSINA, Dec. 31.—A frightful scene occurred here today amid the ruins of the custom house. Bands of famished individuals were groping among the debris in the hope of discovering food. The first of the searchers were successful and others attracted by their cries of joy fell upon them with revolver and knife. The lucky ones defended each morsel literally with their lives. The struggle was of the most inhuman description. The famished men threw themselves upon each other like wolves, and several fell disembowled in defending a handful of dry beans or a few ounces of flour. One of the unfortunates was pinned to a plank by the knife, while clinging to his hand was his little child, for whom he had sought food.

The waters of the strait of Messina are covered with the floating bodies of men and animals, and all kinds of refuse. The shores of the strait have been completely transformed in appearance. The light houses on the acadlands have disappeared.

PARIS, Dec. 31—A special despatch received here from Rome says that 96 guests, including Americans, English and French travellers, were staying at the Hotel Trinacria, at Messina, when the city was destroyed. They all perished.

THE HIGHWAY ACT.

Government takes Alarm and Will not Proclaim it at Present.

The local government has shown the white feather in regard to the new highway act, and will not proclaim it on January 1st, as was the original intention. This announcement was made by Premier Hazen this morning, and he gave as an excuse that the government had not yet been able to secure the views of the various county councils in regard to the measure. The Premier added that when he introduced the act in the House last session he had stated that he wanted the county councils to discuss the measure fully and present their views upon it for the benefit of the government. It is understood that the act will be amended at the coming session of the legislature, by dropping some of its most objectionable features.

TRIED TO ROB HIM

Fredericton man in St. John makes a Serious Charge and at His Own Request was locked up.

St. John Telegraph: Between 11 and 11 o'clock last night Policemen Cavanaugh and Olive arrested George Duffey on suspicion of attempting to rob John Phillips. Phillips, who is a Fredericton man, was also locked up at his own request on a charge of drunkenness. The policemen first saw Phillips in company with Duffey [illegible] in Charlotte [illegible] o'clock, and [illegible] Charlo[illegible] other two went to Germain towards Union. Duffey still had Phillips by the arm and they went into a dark alleyway a few minutes before the police came up.

Just as Cavanaugh and Olive reached the end of the alleyway Duffey came running up and said he wanted to give Phillips in charge. Scarcely had he the words out of his mouth when Phillips, his coat and vest unbuttoned, and carrying his pocketbook in his hand, came out and accused Duffey of trying to rob him. The police decided that they would lock up both men as Phillips signified his willingness.

On the way to the central station they say that Duffey took two bottles of gin out of his pocket and broke them on the sidewalk, exclaiming that they wouldn't be evidence against him anyway.

The police say that both men had evidently been drinking freely. Phillips said he came from Fredericton and he had $30 in his possession. He had, he added, been in Duffey's company for an hour and a quarter. All the money that was found in his pockets was $15.32.

GRUESOME FIND.

Body of an Infant Discovered on St. John Dumping Ground.

ST. JOHN, Dec. 31.—(Special)—The body of a baby boy was found on a public dumping ground this morning near Courtney Bay. [illegible] authorities are not satisfied if [illegible] was murdered, but it was [illegible] after birth and wrapped in a [illegible] shirt and a woman's apron. [illegible] was thrown over the dump [illegible] the rubbish, a rag picker [illegible] he remains [illegible] in a search [illegible] [illegible] carpet [illegible]

RECKLESS FINANCING.

Hazen Government with largely increased Revenue has a Big Deficit and added largely to Bonded Debt.

RESULTS OF ONE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE FRENZIED FINANCIERS.

After examining the statement of provincial finances made by the Hazen government, Hon. C. W. Robinson leader of the opposition made the following criticism.

"The Hazen government's first financial statement shows nothing remarkable, unless the exhibition of utter helplessness and inability to carry out their promises of economy can be so characterized.

"After eliminating everything that could by any plausible argument be claimed to belong to the previous year they admit an ordinary expenditure of $1,042,196.40, which is over $80,000 larger than shown in any previous year by the auditor general. It remains to be seen whether everything has been included in this amount.

"The large expenditure on roads just previous to the recent Dominion elections was properly chargeable to the year ending Oct. 31 last. Without access to the books and accounts I could not positively state that a very large part of this expenditure has been held back to be charged to the year 1909, but circumstances point that way and a declaration from the provincial secretary on the subject would be interesting.

HAD BENEFIT OF INCREASED SUBSIDY

"The Dominion subsidies were increased as a result of the work of the former government, by the annual amount of $130,000. The past year was the first one to receive the full benefit of that increased subsidy. Without that increase in subsidy their statement would have exhibited a deficit of about $86,000 on the year's transactions, instead of an apparent surplus of $44,000.

"Included in that alleged surplus also there is an item of $10,000 from the probate court for a fund which is an accumulation of years, since the enactment of the present probate court act. This fund was held to pay the salaries of the judges and registrars of the probate courts, and the amount does not in any way belong to the year just elapsed. No part of it was collected in that year. It was simply a transfer from the fund to the current revenue by a sort of high finance method of bookkeeping

"The chief attempt at economy appears to be in the reduction of the amount paid out for agriculture—$36,534 in 1907 to $21,987 in 1908—but, of course, the celebrated Kentucky mares were not purchased in time to swell that amount to a larger figure.

BROKEN PROMISES

"The promise to build permanent bridges out of current revenue has so far not materialized, as will be shown by the fact that an addition to the permanent debt of $[illegible],591 has been caused in the construction of such bridges during the year [illegible] amount which is about [illegible] cess of the [illegible]

"There [illegible] ritorial [illegible] which a [illegible] the year [illegible] [illegible] not quite equal to the average of the last three years.

"I have seen it stated by members of the government that they have made a better collection of the stumpage than the previous government and they have excused the insignificance of the iusrease in this item by the statement that the past year was not up to the average in lumber production. A well informed person will not accept that statement. The cut on the Restigouche last year was just about the same as the previous year; on the Miramichi the cut of the Miramichi Lumber Company was abnormally large, and a canvass of the situation carefully will not bear out the statement that there was any material reduction in output, if in deed there was not an increase.

"In view of all these facts it is about time for the president of the council, Hon. Mr. Maxwell, to more clearly define the grounds for the charge made by him in Carleton county that the province has suffered an annual loss of $200,000 in stumpage.

"Another plum which helped out the financial showing of the year was the increase of succession duties from $14,000 to $32,489. This is a very large amount, due to the fact that some large estates came in during the year and it's not likely to be repeated.

BIG DEFICIT INSTEAD OF SURPLUS

"The real expenditure of the year appears about as follows:

"Total amount ordinary expenditure per statement, $1,042,196; amount paid out of loan from Bank of Montreal, $215,781; board of works for permanent bridges, $172,591; total, $1,430,568. From this amount we should deduct the overdraft of the board of works at Oct. 31, 1907, of $78,993, leaving a total expenditure for the year of $1,351,575.

"As the revenue was $1,086,738, it is not difficult to see that the province went behind in its ordinary business to the extent of $264,837, and the apparent surplus of $44,000 vanishes into thin air.

"The increase of the debt, however, was even greater as during the year we paid in addition the following extraordinary amounts not included in the ordinary expenditure: International Railway subsidy, $25,000; N. B. Coal & Railway, repairs, etc., $28,189; wharves and grain elevators St. John, $2,500; total, $55,680."

TWO YEAR'S PRISON.

GAGETOWN, N. B., Dec. [illegible] Francesco Donati, the Italia[illegible] has been on trial here before [illegible] for stabbing Benee[illegible] fellow workman [illegible] P. shed's [illegible] ber last, was [illegible] fenced to t[illegible] [illegible]