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A Full Assortment of Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats in all the latest Canadian and American Styles at lowest prices. Special Reductions in Trimmed Hats.

Miss M. E. Flanagan
COULTHARD BUILDING - - CARLETON STREET

LOST ON THE PRAIRIE. CANADA'S PROSPERITY.

An Expedient which Saved the Lives of two Men.

HUMBOLT, Sask., March 18.—(Special)—Adam Prem, a hotel clerk, and another man, while driving across the prairie from Brund to Viscourt, lost their way. Darkness came on and there was no sign of a house or shelter in any direction. The horse became exhausted, and as the night was bitterly cold, the two men were driven to the limit of suffering. Prem and his associate unhitched the horse, set fire to the sleigh, and huddling around the blaze, kept warm until day light, when recovering their bearings they resumed the journey on foot, and eventually reached a friendly abode.

DECLINES POSITION.

Ontario Judge Mabey will not take Railway Commission Chairmanship.

OTTAWA, March 18.—(Special)—Justice Mabey, of the Ontario high court, has decided not to accept the Commission in place of the late Justice Killam. He will remain on the bench. If he did so at the end of ten years to get a retiring allowance five years service on the bench would be necessary with the ten years added for the time on the Railway Commission. Three years would have to forfeit his retiring allowance as a judge after leaving the Railway Commission.

ORANGE GRAND LODGE.

Annual Meeting now in Session at St. John—Extracts from Grand Master's Address.

At the annual session of the L. O. A. of New Brunswick, which opened last night at St. John, Grand Master Rev. Mr. Fulton, of Woodstock, in his address, after referring to the growth of the order during the past year, said in part:

"Many things have impressed upon me the need of our order in this growing country. The rudiments of an empire are plastic yet, and warm, and we need a guiding and constraining force that the principles we represent may not be over-ruled by the passion for power, which is so evident in our land. Representatives of other nations, the cosmopolitan character of whom is impressed upon us, are apt in their greed and lust and passion to overrule and obliterate those fundamental teachings for which our fathers bled and died. Our order must stand and resist this incoming tide. We must hear the clarion call to service and become the leaven in the lump, that this new nation shall stand a defender of the faith and a home for those who love liberty."

The need of the influence which this order disseminates is still evident from the fact that only a few days ago a Roman Catholic bishop in the province of Quebec placed his episcopal rights as superior to that of a judge upon the bench, claiming that as a bishop he was not subject to the courts of the land. Shall the church rule the state? Shall the church dictate to the representatives of justice? Shall the power of Rome be superior to that of the crown of England? We trust not, but from such things it is ours to retain deliverance.

In travelling through our province one thing has impressed me and caused deep regret. In spite of the strength of our order and its vast influence I have found a surprising indifference to the claims of the Protestant religion. Not that the people are not good Protestants, but they are falling far short in the matter of breeding loyalty to the principles of the Protestant religion in their children. That our future is interpreted by the education given our children and the need of information, historical and religious, such as relates to the true principles of the Protestant faith, is evident wherever we go.

Another thing which has impressed me is the catering of the politicians to Roman Catholic influence. We can easily understand this in view of the fact of the unity of the Roman Catholic church. In matters affecting its destiny the adherents of that church stand together and reveal the old truth. "In unity there is strength." We are not desirous of having politicians clinging to the hem of our garments; we are not desirous of having them sit upon our doorsteps, but we desire unity and the strength which comes therefrom.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Neil J. Morrison, grand secretary, then presented his annual report. He said the order is now in a stronger position both financially and numerically than at any time in its history. The returns show 128 primary lodges, of which 18 are in York Co. During the year 477 members were initiated and 159 were reinstated, and seventy joined by certificate; total of 126 were suspended for causes other than the non-payment of dues; two were expelled, and seven died.

lied sharply to 55½. Other features were: Can. Pac. 145½ to 146½; New Pacific 142; Winnipeg Railway Bonds, 99½ to 100; Dominion Coal Pfd., 88; Detroit 32 3-8; MacKay Pfd., 62½; Dom. Steel, 16; Soo Common 105; Montreal Power, 90½.

She—They say that a man becomes like that with which he continually associates.

He—Ridiculous idea! I've been a fishmonger all my life and can't swim a yard yet!

THE STOCK MARKET.

Violent Fluctuation in Nova Scotia Steel Feature of today's Trading.

MONTREAL, March 18.—(Special)—A break in Nova Scotia Steel was the feature in the stocks today, the balance of list being strong. Nova Scotia fluctuated violently under bear pressure. After declining from 59 to 56 yesterday price opened at 56 today and went off under heavy selling to 53½, but later it rallied sharply to 55½.

Other features were: Can. Pac. 145½ to 146½; New Pacific 142; Winnipeg Railway Bonds, 99½ to 100; Dominion Coal Pfd., 88; Detroit 32 3-8; MacKay Pfd., 62½; Dom. Steel, 16; Soo Common 105; Montreal Power, 90½.

He—Ridiculous idea! I've been a fishmonger all my life and can't swim a yard yet!

Mr. Fielding in His Budget Speech Draws inspiring picture of the Country's Affairs.

Surplus of \$19,000,000 a Record Breaker—Trade Returns Show a Wonderful Development—No Tariff Changes.

OTTAWA, March 18.—The Finance Minister of Canada delivered the budget of the year yesterday afternoon. It was the shortest budget speech in the history of the country, occupying only an hour and a half.

He announced a surplus of nineteen millions for last year and the expectation of a handsome surplus for the current year.

He left the tariff unchanged, expressing the opinion that in the present tariff the business interests of the country had a good instrument to work under.

The only change in the fiscal arrangement was in the excise rates. The "green stamp" is to be abolished and all Canadian made tobacco goods will carry the color stamp. Mr. Fielding said the change was one of practice and not one of charges, which will remain practically as they are at the present time.

Mr. Fielding was able to make a most hopeful review of the financial situation of the country for the future and a most satisfactory statement of the present condition of affairs with the government and the business conditions of the country.

He announced the intention of the government to hurry to completion the National Transcontinental railway.

He made the first statement which had been given of the manner in which the government aided the banks in financing the movement of the last crop and stated that the banks had availed themselves of the aid of the government to the extent of over five millions. He foreshadowed a change in the bank act, which will enable the banks to meet extraordinary demands upon them in future without recourse to the government for aid. He made it clear that it is the intention of the government to immediately carry out the erection of the Quebec bridge as a national undertaking, and intimated that the work would probably be taken out of the hands of the Quebec Bridge company.

Owing to the expenditure of the National Transcontinental there is an addition to the public debt of some twelve million dollars.

THE SPEECH.

In moving House into committee of ways and means, Mr. Fielding said among other things—

"The outcome of the financial period of March, 1907, proved somewhat more favorable than the anticipations which I ventured to present to the House in the Budget speech of the previous November. I had estimated a revenue of \$65,000,000, but the actual revenue for the nine months was \$67,969,328, an excess over the estimate of \$2,969,328."

"I estimated an expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund of \$52,000,000, the expenditure proved to be \$51,542,161, which was less than the estimate to the extent of \$457,838."

THE BIG SURPLUS.

"I had estimated a surplus of \$13,000,000. The actual surplus for the nine months was larger than the surplus of any fiscal year since confederation."

Proceeding, Mr. Fielding remarked that the revenue during the nine months proved very buoyant, showing a large proportion of increase over that of 1905-06. The same could be said of excise. The post office revenue continues to increase and that service may now be regarded as being established on a paying basis.

The receipts for this period from this source were \$5,061,728, and the expenditures \$3,979,557, leaving a surplus of \$1,082,171.

Mr. Fielding then quoted the statement of the post office revenue and expenditure from 1896 to 1907, showing that in the former year there had been a deficit of \$700,997 as contrasted with the surplus of nearly \$2,000,000 mentioned above.

It was to be remembered, he said, that this great change was coincident with a very material reduction in the postal rates of the country. We have not only had a more prosperous revenue, a lower rate of postal taxation, but a continued expansion in the service. He quoted figures to show that in the last nine months 236 post offices and 92 savings banks had been added to the service in addition to the large increase in the mileage of mail service as compared with previous years.

I. C. R.'S SPLENDID SHOWING.

Turning to another branch of revenue and expenditure Mr. Fielding drew attention to the fact that for the nine months the I. C. R. has a revenue of \$6,248,251, while the working expenses were \$6,030,171, showing an excess of revenue over working expenses of \$218,079. The Prince Edward Island Railway on the other hand showed an excess of expense over revenue of \$67,713.

For the nine months the decrease of net debt was \$3,371,117.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Referring to the reduction of the public debt Mr. Fielding reminded the house that on every occasion when he had to speak of the subject he had taken the precaution to warn the house and the country that it would not be reasonable to expect in a country like Canada that we should have frequent reductions of the public debt. Since confederation there have been only six years during which there have been reductions in the d.b.t. One of these reductions stands to the credit of Sir Francis Hincks away back in 1871. Another is to the credit of Sir Leonard Tilley in 1892. The remaining four can be claimed by the present administration.

A CREDITABLE RECORD.

"Moderate increase in the public debt from time to time," continued Mr. Fielding, "is to be expected and would be quite defensible. I think it would be a cause of surprise to many persons to know that after the lapse of ten and three-quarter years of the present administration there has been such a very small addition to the public debt. During that period we have carried on large operations. We have provided generously for the public service, although my honorable friends opposite me would use a stronger word, they would say lavishly. We have provided for our capital and special conditions. We have expended \$127,000,000, which forms what is called the capital and special account, and notwithstanding all these liberal allowances for all the public services, notwithstanding the liberality with which all branches of the public services have been maintained, notwithstanding the energy carried into the development of our public works, we find ourselves at the end of this ten and three-quarter year period with an addition to the public debt amounting to only \$5,174,427. If it were not for the special item of the N. T. Railway, which is of an exceptional character we should find that during the ten and three-quarter years we have had no increase of the public debt whatever, but a very considerable surplus over expenditure of every kind."

If we look into the question of the debt in its relation to the population of the country we find reason for believing that Canada is very modest in the matter of incurring public debts.

As the country increases its population we of course increase in ability to bear the burden. If the increase of the public debt should simply keep pace with the increase of population and the development of our resources there will be nothing to complain of but when we are able to show that from the point of view of the debt per head there has been no increase, but in reality an actual decrease of the public debt per head, I think it will be admitted that we are making a very gratifying statement. Beginning at the year 1901 and taking the figures of the population as furnished by the census department, we find that the net debt per head of the population is as follows: Was in 1891 \$49.09; 1896, \$50.92 and in 1907, \$42.81.

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1908, Mr. Fielding estimated that the revenue would amount to \$86,500,000 and the amount chargeable to consolidated fund to \$77,500,000. If these expectations were realized the year would close with a surplus of \$19,000,000, a larger surplus than in any previous year. (Cheers.)

BIG EXPENDITURES NECESSARY.

Dealing with the capital and special expenditures he stated that this

(Continued on fourth page.)