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PREMIER ARSENAULT GIVES HIS FIRST BUDGET SPEECH

An Able Review of the Administration During the Past Year and all Expenditures Justified. Increased Cost of Falconwood and Education Fully and Satisfactorily Explained as was also the Financial Betterment for the Year.

THE PREMIER SAID: I move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to His Majesty; and in making that motion, I think it might be well, before asking for supply, to give a short account of the financial transactions of the Government during the past year, and also to intimate to the House the objects for which supply is to be granted for the incoming year.

I think, Mr. Speaker, I can congratulate this House upon the fact that so far during the present session there has been no useless debate, that the members have felt that the events that were transpiring in Europe were of so grave a character as to cause them to remember that they were here to transact the business of the country and not to play at politics. We are today faced with a situation such as the British Empire has never been faced with before; a situation so grave as to make us realize that the fate of the British Empire and the fate of Canada are at the present moment hanging in the balance; and in view of that terrible struggle, and of the fact that perhaps many of our boys today are shedding their blood on the plains of France and Flanders in the great strife that is taking place there, we are here—and I think we realize it—to do the business of the country and not to spend our time in useless debate. Bearing these things in mind I do not propose to go very lengthily into financial matters but to sum them up very briefly; and in so doing, it is not my intention to go into ancient history. It is not my intention to go back and rake over the ashes of the dead past; to rake up the bones of that celebrated \$200,000, or even to come down later in history and tell you what the debt of the province was in 1911, or the fact that the present Government may have obtained certain concessions that have improved the financial situation in this province. These things are in the past and we will leave them there. We are living for the present and for the future. The mistakes and the good that have transpired in the past are all over. We cannot remedy them, but we are going to glory over them in the present. We must do what we can for our country and do it in the best way we are able. (Applause.)

The events that have taken place, the transactions gone into by former governments—all those matters have been passed upon by the people both in general elections and in bye-elections; and after all, the people are the final arbiters. They are the final accountants. They have passed on these accounts and have approved of them and so far as we are concerned, it is not necessary to go over them again. The Public Accounts have been placed before you, Mr. Speaker, and before this House. They show that during the past year the province had a deficit of \$22,000 or a little over. For this deficit I have no excuses to make, and I do not think that any are necessary. The greater part of this deficit is not an actual expenditure, but is caused by transferring a sum of money to the sinking fund, which is a transfer of money from one pocket and transferring it to another. The Outside Auditor's Report shows that during the past year, this province has not gone behind; that, notwithstanding the shrinkage in revenue, notwithstanding that this province was face to face with largely increased expenditure through no fault of the Government, this province has not gone behind but has held its own. I think it is a matter that the Government can be congratulated upon, the fact that the debt of the province has not increased during the past year. It may be said that in times of war we should economize. Now, that is only relative. There are certain public services in this province that have to be carried on. War or no war you have to carry them on, and I will take three of them, because these three involve the largest expenditures which we have to make:

ic Works office we have barely the number of hands that are necessary to carry on the work, and therefore any charge of excessive expenditure comes down to the roadmasters. Let us see: Under the old system there were a certain number of inspectors. Those inspectors got a salary. They got extra allowances and commissions, and then we had a large number of overseers, fully as many as, if not more than we have now. What did that cost the country and how did they do their work? The cost of these different services was over \$5,000, and on an average they collected taxes on 19,000 horses and a little over 10,000 persons. That was their record. It is true that the roadmasters cost something more than that, but what their record? They do their work so much better that, on an average, they have collected Commutation money, etc., on 26,799 horses and 14,443 persons, showing that they collected taxes on 7,600 more horses and over 4,000 more persons. Therefore if you take all these things into consideration, the province is on an average \$300 a year better off than under the old system. I think, Mr. Speaker, that if my friends of the Opposition, in preparing their criticism, would recognize these things they would not accuse us of extravagance.

AN UNTRUTH REFUTED

Another favorite criticism launched upon us is our spending large sums of money without competition that thousands upon thousands of dollars are wasted in that way. I want to say right here that any statement of that kind, that money is wasted on public works or on roads through want of competition, is not founded on fact. The law provides that any work of over \$10,000 has to be done by public competition, and I claim that in every instance where it is possible to do so, the Public Works Department follows this system. They advertise and call for contracts and then consider the bids. We have experienced men in that Department who know almost to a dollar what certain work should cost, and if they find that tender for the work under consideration is excessive, then they undertake to do it by day's work, and in every instance their judgment has proved correct and they have had the work done at less expense than the amount of lowest tender. In respect to this, on several occasions in this House, a certain matter has been brought up which affects myself personally; that is, concerning a bridge with my own district. The statement is made that it was built without public competition. That bridge is the largest perhaps in the province, being nearly three-quarters of a mile long. Under a former Government, it was sold to a certain party who took a contract to rebuild it. He accepted the contract at too low a figure, and the consequence was that he not only ruined himself over it but built it in such a way that in a few years' time the tide washed it away. When the Minister of Public Works Department came to rebuild this bridge he was met with this difficulty, that he did not know how much of the bridge was good and how much was bad. It was impossible for him to call for tenders, because he could not specify what would be necessary to be done in order to rebuild that bridge in a proper way, so that the only thing which could be done was to build it by day's work. There was another difficulty. That bridge had to be built on creosote piles and steel rails. No contractor could undertake to supply the piles or the rails; but the Government had on hand both the piles and the rails in stock. That bridge was rebuilt; and it has been pronounced by engineers to be one of the best wooden bridges in Canada. It is of a permanent nature and equal in every respect to a steel bridge.

Now I come to the third large item of expenditure, and that is Falconwood. I know that before the session is over we will probably be treated to considerable oratory concerning this institution. You will be told that this institution cost some \$26,000 more than it did last year, and that this is excessive. Well, I think that before I am through I will convince my friends that whatever the institution costs this year, it has not been excessive. Speaking about deficits, it would have been the easiest thing in the world for us last year to show in the public accounts a surplus instead of a deficit. If we had taken the old system of carrying over seventy-five or ninety thousand dollars at the end of the year instead of paying up our debts before the end of the year, we could easily have produced a surplus. We have not been following that system. We have been paying our debts as far as we were able to do so at the end of the year, and only carrying over those amounts which it was impossible for us to pay. For example, take the teachers' salaries. They are not payable until the first of the month; therefore we cannot pay them on the 31st December. There are other things also, such as unfinished contracts which cannot be settled until the contract is completed. But we do things differently from the way in which they used to be done, that is, we take the people of the

province into our confidence and show them not only what we have received during the year and what we have paid out, but also what we still owe. The outside auditor comes in and prepares a statement, in which he shows the receipts of the province and the expenditures, what has been paid out during the year and what is still due, and takes everything into account, showing exactly to a cent the standing of the province. This is what we do, and what we could never get done before. Before the present Government came into power in 1911 we could never get such a statement. We knew that large sums of money were being carried over and we had proof of it in 1911, when we found that a large sum of \$0 or 90 thousand dollars was being carried over from year to year. In the year 1916 in connection with Falconwood, there were carried over debts to the extent of something over \$13,000. In 1917 there were carried over debts amounting to about \$7,000; or, we paid our accounts better by about \$7,000—to be exact \$6,524 last year. Therefore, if you subtract from the \$88,000 which was the cost of the Asylum during the year 1917, this \$6,524, it leaves you \$81,476. In 1916 the same institution cost \$59,251; but to this you have to add this same \$6,524, making total costs for 1916 of \$65,775. That is, we paid last year what should have been paid the year before; therefore, you must subtract it from last year and put it on the year before. So that the excess cost of 1917 over 1916 is reduced to \$16,138.31. From that you might subtract again the sum of \$1,600 which represents beef and beef cattle bought in 1917 carried over into 1918. That is, we had that on hand—beef in cold storage and cattle on foot valued at the sum.

It may be asked, where did the increase come from. How is it the institution cost that much more in 1917 than in 1916? Well, you may be surprised to know that on one item alone, namely, coal, we paid \$7,000 more than in 1916. In other words, we had to pay forty per cent. more for coal. It is true we got a larger quantity than in 1916, but 1916 was a mild year and we were able to use a great deal more wood than last year. Flour cost \$2,400 more; dry goods and clothing cost \$2,000 additional; wages cost more, because the question of wages confronts you there, the same as in every other place. Then again, oatmeal, etc., \$600. A great deal more insurance fell due last year than in 1916, and we paid \$1,100 more altogether in this direction. These several amounts, with others, will account for about \$18,000; therefore, along these lines, last year oatmeal cost 25 per cent. more than the year before; sugar and molasses cost 20 per cent. more; flour 40 per cent. and coal, as I have stated, 40 per cent. Now, go back to the year 1911, the last year in which the Liberals were in power, and compare the prices of things then with present prices, and you will find the cost of the institution that year and its cost this year. In 1911 the institution cost over \$48,000. The increase in the price of beef in 1917 over what it cost in 1911 was 110 per cent.; butter cost 50 per cent. more last year than in 1911; coal 125 per cent. more; flour cost 100 per cent. more; tea 150 per cent. more; codfish 100 per cent.; rice 110 per cent.; barley 70 per cent.; molasses 125 per cent.; lard 100 per cent.; drugs 200 per cent.; cotton goods 125 per cent.; woolen goods 175 per cent.; hardware 100 per cent., and so on. On 17 items which are most in use, the average cost in 1917 over 1911 was 118 per cent. If the cost of the institution had kept pace with the cost of supplies, the institution last year, instead of costing us some \$75,000 would have cost us \$100,000.

Let us see how we compare with other provinces; because, after all, we have to judge of the cost of the institution here by the cost of like institutions in other provinces. I have to compare the cost of Falconwood in 1917 with the cost of other institutions in Canada in 1916, because the figures for the year 1917 are not available. The different institutions in Ontario cost an average of \$183 per patient per year; British Columbia \$223; Saskatchewan \$368; Manitoba \$256; Nova Scotia \$250; New Brunswick, \$156; and Prince Edward Island, the lowest, \$148. (Applause.) In other words, our average cost per capita in 1917 is about 40 cents per day; while the next lowest, New Brunswick, and that was in 1916) was 43 cents per capita.

Add excess carried over in 1916	over 1917
.....	6,524.00
.....	\$65,775.67
Coal unpaid in 1916	.....
Actual excess in 1917 over	.....
1916	.....\$16,138.31
Memo of increased cost of the following articles in 1917 over 1916:	.....
Coal	.....\$7,228.29
Flour	.....2,374.00
Flour	.....2,452.00
Dry goods, clothing	.....2,735.77
Wages	.....1,442.00
Hardware	.....600.00
Tea, sugar and oatmeal, etc.	.....600.00
Insurance falling due (Excess over 1916)	.....1,100.00
Beef and beef cattle on hand at Dec. 31, 1917, and paid for during 1917 to the value of about	.....\$1,600.00
Percentage of increase in prices in 1917 over 1916:	.....
Oatmeal	.....25 per cent.
Sugar and molasses	.....20 per cent.
Tea	.....20 per cent.
Flour	.....40 per cent.
Coal	.....40 per cent.

Per capita cost of maintenance of Insane Hospital

1916	ONTARIO	per day
Brockville	.....	55.56
Hamilton	.....	45.27
Kingston	.....	61.46
London	.....	49.16
Munich	.....	49.37
Penetanguishene	.....	48.65
Toronto	.....	44.32
Average	.....	50 1/3
Per year	.....	\$182.00
BRITISH COLUMBIA	.....	.....
Two hospitals, per day	.....	44.46
Per year	.....	\$223.00
SASKATCHEWAN	.....	.....
1 hospital	.....	\$1.01
Per year	.....	\$368.00
MANITOBA	.....	.....
Brandon	.....	65
Selkirk	.....	86
Portage La Prairie	.....	69
Average	.....	70 1/3
Per year	.....	\$256.00
NOVA SCOTIA	.....	.....
Hospital	.....	68
Per year	.....	\$250.00
NEW BRUNSWICK	.....	.....
1 hospital	.....	43
Per year	.....	\$156.00
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	.....	.....
1 hospital	.....	42
Per year	.....	\$148.00

Note:—In Prince Edward Island there is an item of insurance charged to the maintenance that is not charged in any other province. This amount is equal to \$4.50 per head per year, which would further reduce our annual cost to \$148.50.

Part of the expenditure at Falconwood last year was the laying down of a pipe line from the new well to the institution. That accounts for part of the extra expenditure. There are in that institution several miles of water and steam pipe. Owing to the nature of the water that has for many years been in use in the institution, those pipes have been corroding and that corrosion reached such a stage last year that a great deal of piping had to be replaced, which involved us in a large expenditure on plumbing. In the coming year we have to make further expenditures there. We have now a supply of water that is well suited to boiler use. It is free from alkali and from corroding influences and has been pronounced absolutely pure. One of the three tanks in use is out of commission, and it has become necessary to build a new tank. This we propose doing in the coming year. We propose building a 30,000 gallon tank, which will not only supply the institution with all the water required, but will also be available for fire protection.

1917	Cost of maintenance, Falconwood Hospital, Infirmary, Tuberculosis Home and Farm	.....\$88,437.98
Actual cost of running Institution for 1917	.....	\$81,913.98
1916	Cost of maintenance as per Report, 1916	.....\$75,951.67
Medical Superintendent	.....	1,300.00
.....	.....	\$59,251.67

COMMONS AND SENATE IN SECRET SESSION

(Special to the Guardian.)
OTTAWA, April 18—The House of Commons met in secret session for two hours this afternoon. Beyond members and officials of the House there were present members of the Senate only. The following report of the proceedings at the secret session was issued tonight under the authority of the Speaker:—

The Prime Minister on a motion to go into Committee of supply made a full statement surveying the present war situation, treating of the military position, the supply and production of foodstuffs and the problem of merchant shipping and the submarine, with special reference to the manpower position of the British Empire and the Allies. He stated that the Government being impressed with the desirability of giving to the House the fullest possible information had communicated to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom its intention to move for a secret session and had requested from Premier Lloyd-George a statement of the present position which might be made known to the House.

Lloyd-George's message in response to this request was then read, but necessarily its contents are not for publication.

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LONDON IS CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE VICTORY

Battle Still Rages Fiercely. French Reinforcements Have Come to Aid of British. Some Retirements and Advances by Allies. British Are Confident.

(Special to the Guardian.)
WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 18—Things looked distinctly better from the Allied standpoint as a result of the British withdrawal in the north which climaxed the great salient that bulged out over the Passchendaele Ridge system. The defending troops this morning were sitting in snugly prepared positions along a line running a little east of Ypres after a secret and orderly night retirement which which the enemy interfered in no way. In the meantime the British were more than holding their own in the fierce struggle in the Wytschaete-Bailleul sector where the progress of the German troops had threatened the defence of the wide flung salient to the north. Certainly the men in khaki were fighting gallantly and they were giving little ground here according to the latest advices from the very front lines.

GERMANS GAIN FOOTING BUT ARE EJECTED LEAVING 600 PRISONERS IN HANDS OF BRITISH.

(Special to the Guardian.)
PARIS, April 17—The Belgian communication reads: "This morning the Germans attacked in force our system of advanced posts between Le Blancquet Pond and the Ypres salient and succeeded in securing a foothold in a number of our positions but energetic counter-attacks by our troops drove them out. About 600 prisoners remain in our hands."

French troops are reinforcing the British lines. The enemy is repositioned on the whole Lys battlefield.

(Special to the Guardian.)
LONDON, April 17—Although the official report from the battlefield this morning does not record any further German advance and has several encouraging features the public here learned with disappointment of the withdrawal of the troops holding the forward positions to the eastward of Ypres. The Ypres salient has long stood in popular imagination as a monument to British valor and dogged tenacity in the face of repeated and almost overwhelming onslaughts of the enemy. Nothing is known as to the extent of the withdrawal in this region or the position of the new line mentioned by Field Marshal Haig.

BRITISH RETIRE FROM WYTSCHAETE AND METELEN.

Late afternoon and night brought news more disquieting in brief despatches from general headquarters of the contending armies. After heavy attacks the British had retired again from Wytschaete and Metelen. Sir Douglas Haig reported there was also admission that the British had retired from certain of their lines in the Ypres salient. The retirement here was expected for the ad-

vance of Germans at Neuve Eglise and Bailleul left the positions in front of Ypres open to a flank attack. It is officially stated that the retirement was orderly and it may be that it will have more of a sentimental than a strategic effect.

REINFORCEMENTS COMING.

(Special to the Guardian.)
LONDON, April 17—The British army is fighting a Waterloo, while Blucher is marching to the field.

HEAVY ATTACK ON LYS FRONT NOW IN PROGRESS.

LONDON, April 18—The Germans opened a heavy bombardment on the Lys front last night, which was still in progress at dawn today. The British line is resisting the fierce onslaughts of the enemy, south-east of Kimmel Hill on the north front. The intensity of the battle is undiminished. The British are resisting the Germans at Ypres and Hazebrouck. The French troops have come to the aid of General Haig, and are now fighting side by side with the British.

MAN POWER BILL PASSES SECOND READING.

(Special to the Guardian.)
LONDON, April 18—The House of Lords today passed the second reading of the government Man-Power Bill.

The Corps, and in support of this statement he quoted the words of Sir John French, Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, and other prominent Englishmen. Lloyd-George in addressing the officers of the 4th Canadian Division at Hankley Common in Surrey in July, 1916, speaking of the stand of the 2nd Canadians at Ypres, where one thin line of Canadians held back the whole German army and advanced and recaptured some guns which the British had lost, he said: "Gentlemen, you saved Canada and saved the British Army."

The speaker also referred to the number of those Islanders who had won distinctions. There are 1 V.C., 4 D.S.O.'s, several military crosses, and a large number of Military Medals. At the close a hearty vote of thanks, moved by Rev. Dr. Fullerton, seconded by Mayor Wright and supported by Col. Moore and Dr. Ross was tendered Col. Jenkins for his admirable address. During the evening the St. Dunstan's Orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Brawders, contributed several selections which were greatly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed.

SPLendid ADDRESS BY COL. J. S. JENKINS

Col. J. S. Jenkins, recently returned from overseas, gave a delightfully informative address to a large audience last night in the People's Theatre. The intention at first was to hold this meeting in the school of Trade Unions but the audience proving too large for the capacity of these rooms, Manager Gallagher of the Prince, Edward Jenkins kindly placed the People's Theatre at the disposal of the Women's Auxiliary of the Army and Navy League under whose auspices the meeting was held.

Mrs. H. J. Palmer, President of the Auxiliary, presided. Colonel Jenkins began by describing the organization of the 24th Battalion with which he went over to England. The battalion, he said, was physically perfect, as he had examined some ten thousand men in order to get one thousand to go over to France. The Battalion was quite a few months in Montreal, and the men were impatient to leave for the scene of action, as they thought (as so many others did) that the war might be over before they got there. How delighted they were when they got orders unexpectedly one day to get ready to leave, the audience could imagine. They left on the 11th May, 1915, and were on the ocean about ten days on the troop ship "Cameronia," which was afterwards torpedoed in the Mediterranean. The Battalion arrived at Devonport and were met by five destroyers two days out. The sight of these destroyers was a pleasing one and inspired the men with a feeling of relief and security. They were accorded a splendid reception, not a few ships, cruisers, and training ships being in port; and they were cheered by all the sailors and towns people. Colonel Jenkins described the beauty of the scenery on the approach to Devonport—the red cliffs and green fields reminding one of Prince Edward Island. One might almost imagine oneself to be sailing along the coast of this province, although, said the lecturer, the scenery was perhaps a little grander, the fields being greener than would be found in Prince Edward Island at that time of year (May 21, 1915). The Battalion were conveyed by two troop trains to Shorncliffe Camp, and detained at Weston Hanger at midnight on the same day. They had left Devonport at 10 o'clock in the morning and on their arrival had a five-mile march. Shorncliffe Camp extended from St. Martin's Plain to Otterpool, a distance of about ten miles. Besides the units of the Second Canadian Division, of which Colonel Jenkins' Battalion formed a part, there were various depot units and reserve battalions, as well as necessary hospitals, etc. Shorncliffe is situated in the centre of a great farming community, and the English people of the County were exceedingly good to the Canadians, although the trades people in Folkestone charged them excessive prices. In fact they had two prices—one for the English and one for the Canadians, and it was so bad that Sir Arthur Markham, M.P., brought the subject up in the House of Commons.

The Battalion were four months in training at Shorncliffe. The Brigade of which Colonel Jenkins' Battalion formed a part was at East Sandling, and consisted of the 22nd French-Canadian, the 24th Victoria Rifles, Montreal, 215th Nova Scotia and 24th New Brunswick. The

Colonel Landry of the R.C.R.'s a very excellent officer but without overseas experience. The Division was in command of Sir Sam Steele, Royal Northwest Mounted Police and Strathcona Horse. Both these officers were replaced. The 5th Brigade was taken over by General Watson, who previously had been in command of the Second Battalion first Canadian Division, and command of the Division passed to General Sir Ernest Turner, K.C.B., V.C., D.S.O., who worked the Division up to a very high state of efficiency and they were reviewed by His Majesty King George at Beaulieu, a week previous to leaving for France. The men left Sandling Camp on 14th September, 1915, marched to Folkestone, a distance of 5 miles, and embarked on one of the packet steamers for Boulogne, where they arrived at midnight and marched to St. Martin's Rest Camp, a distance of 2 miles from the pier and uphill over cobble stone roads. The men were very fit, the valley did not sound until 11 a. m. They remained here a day and took train from Boulogne for up the line, disembarked at St. Omer and were met by members of General French's Staff including the Prince of Wales. They halted for breakfast a mile or two outside St. Omer and marched to Hazebrouche. The men found the going very hard over the cobble stone roads. Colonel Jenkins was a mounted officer but his horse was lame and he was obliged to march carrying 65 lbs. They bivouacked at Hazebrouche in a building intended for a civilian hospital but which was not completed.

The men bivouacked about a mile party went forward to reconnoitre. The Colonel who was one of the party, said he would never forget the enthusiasm and excitement that prevailed.

Colonel Jenkins said he was fortunate in having associated with him 350000 men in his Battalion, the only three in the Battalion; one was Sergeant J. West, the other was an esteemed citizen Mr. Arthur Bell. Sergeant Bell later on received a commission in the Royal Flying Corps, and no Canadian officer has done better in that branch of the service. He has been twice mentioned in dispatches, and was with German armies, to use the words of his Flight Commander, "he saved the British Patrol." He went back to England with 3 bullets in his foot, and it will likely be sometime before he returns to the front. Col. Jenkins expressed the hope that Flight Lieutenant Bell would receive the proper recognition for his services. Previous to leaving England, Col. Jenkins understood that Lieutenant Bell had been recommended for that coveted honor, the Military Cross. The Colonel's Sanitary Sergeant, a very good man, was Sergeant Laird, who was later transferred to a tunnelling company. Another of his assistants was Private Charles Carmody.

Colonel Jenkins dealt with the life of the men in the trenches, and went on to describe his duties while attached to the Fifth Field Ambulance, and later on the organization, arrival in France and doings of the Fourth Canadian Division up to the time that he proceeded to England in October, 1916, to take up his appointment as Quarter Master General in the medical service. He dealt with the standing of the Canadian Corps in

CONDENSED SPECIALS

- WANTED A CHAMBERMAID, Apply at Strathcona Hotel, 4624-4-1831.
- TO LET A FLAT PARTLY FURNISHED. Apply at this Office. 4641-4-19M31.
- WANTED.—TO RENT THREE UNFURNISHED rooms for family of two. Apply at this office. 2597-2-16Mtt.
- FARADOR MACHINE TO LET by week or month. Apply to 224 Euston street. 600-10-12Mtl.
- HEAVY BROWN PAPER FOR sale, excellent for putting under oilcloth or carpets. Apply at the Guardian Office. 732-10-20Mtt.
- THE FARADOR HAS EFFECTED hundreds of cures in P. E. Island. For sale or to lease. All rental money goes toward the purchase of the machine. W. E. Enman, Representative, 226 Richmond St., Charlottetown. 4694-4-17M3wks.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE.

TIDE, MOON, ETC.
TODAY IS THE 136th DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.
TORONTO, April 18.—Strong north east and east winds, unsettled and cold with light snow falls today. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 29 above. At 9 a. m. it was 26 above. At 9 p. m. it was 24 above. The lowest the previous night was 22 above. The tide will be high this afternoon at 5:53 and tomorrow at 7:10; it will be high tomorrow morning at 7:46 and Sunday at 3:34. The sun sets this evening at 8:06 and tomorrow at 8:07; it rises tomorrow morning at 6:27 and Sunday at 6:25. The moon sets tomorrow morning at 6:21. The first quarter of the moon was on Tuesday, April 17th at 12:05 a. m. The moon will be full on Friday, April 26 at 4:05 a. m. The length of today will be thirteen hours and thirty eight minutes.