

The Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1916.

THE BUDGET

Premier Mathieson in his Budget speech estimated for a surplus of \$5,384, and a reduction of the debt by \$24,000. The revenue is estimated at \$490,791 and the expenditure at \$485,407.

The Speaker took the chair at twenty minutes to nine last night, when in anticipation of the opening of the Budget debate there was a crowded House. The Premier immediately rose and moved that the House go into committee on Supply, which is the preliminary to the delivery of the Budget speech. The Premier intimated that that was the fifth occasion on which he had been privileged to introduce the Budget, and proceeded to review the financial policy of the Government since it took office. He showed that when the Government succeeded the Palmer Government it succeeded to a legacy of debt and liabilities of \$168,000 which the public accounts showed no trace of. When two bankers were called in and made a special audit, they found that the total liabilities of the Province when the Government came into power was \$1,072,000. That was their starting point. At the end of their first year they reduced the debt by \$45,000, yet the party press at that time said they were responsible for the largest deficit in the history of the Province, and the same thing was said throughout the last election campaign. In 1913 they again reduced the debt by \$24,711, and in 1914 the reduction was \$19,180, the total reduction being \$89,241. That was the amount by which the Government had reduced the debts and liabilities of the Province, and no one who values his reputation as an accountant would dispute these statements. Unfortunately they had not the same favourable report to record of the past financial year, due to circumstances which were entirely unforeseen and unprovided for. The revenue shrunk and the expenditure increased so that instead of making a further reduction as they had confidently expected and hoped for, the whole \$89,000 had been wiped out, and a liability of \$16,191 incurred. That was disappointing no doubt, but if the record stood at that without any other qualification it would have been the best record since confederation. The average increase of debt for the four years of the present regime was \$4,000, while the average increase during the time of their predecessors was \$45,000. Would it not have been worth while to change the Government for such a record alone. During its regime the Government had spent \$32,335 for war purposes, and if it had not been for that expenditure, the public debt would have been reduced by \$16,144. He challenged anyone to question the accuracy of these figures. If there were any question of the truth of these they were prepared to call in a council of experts and to place the accounts before them. The receipts for the last year had fallen short of the estimates by \$47,554, mostly due to the decrease in the fox tax and shrinkage in the oyster revenue, the latter largely owing to the unwise and unpatriotic actions of the members of the Opposition. The expenditures had exceeded the estimates by \$40,121. Were it not for the war expenditure the Government would have reduced the public debt by \$16,000, but their record was very much better than that. They had invested in Permanent Works \$201,000, in Agricultural Buildings \$24,000. That was, the Province had now \$225,000 more property at their credit than when the present Government came into power. During the twenty years the Liberals were in power they added \$218,000 in the permanent public works, so that in four years the Government has added more to the property of the Province by \$7,000 than their predecessors had done in twenty years. The improvements which everyone could see for themselves in the Provincial building were typical of what had been done in all the public works throughout the province. Was it not worth while changing the Government for the improvements and additions to their permanent public works? In addition the Government had redeemed the education system from the decay from which it had been perishing, and had spent an additional \$145,000 upon it during their regime. That was, the Government had converted an average deficit of \$45,000 into an average deficit of \$4,000, they had added \$225,000 to the permanent works, and had increased the expenditure on education by \$145,000, and surely when they took these facts into consideration every loyal citizen would bless the day when the old government gave place to the new. The Leader of the Opposition and the Patriot newspaper had claimed that there had been a deficit of \$150,000 apart from that of the past year. In view of the fact that, including the past year, the total increase was only some \$16,000 on the certificate of their External Auditor, how could any responsible member of the Opposition look an honest man in the face and declare it to be otherwise, unless he wished his word to be taken as worthless. When the Leader of the Opposition was previously in the House he had supported a Government which had a deficit of \$119,942, when there was neither storm nor war nor any pest such as the present Government had to contend against. The Leader of the Opposition was a sort of political Rip Van Winkle who had wakened up after a quarter of a century's slumber and wished to be permitted to return to the system of waste and extravagance that characterized his political past.

The Premier, who was in magnificent form, proceeded to review the leading political incidents since last election, and dealt with them in a trenchant, vigorous manner, exposing the gross misrepresentations and gross partizanship which had characterized the Opposition's policy since Mr Bell took up the leadership. He challenged Mr Bell to produce one leading Liberal in Charlottetown who approved of his line of policy in regard to the oats and hay contracts and in the Souris campaign. The Premier reviewed the work of the past few days in the House, and especially the obstruction offered by the Opposition to the Drainage Bill. The Opposition had obstructed the committee stage of the bill for a whole day, and they might have the same kind of obstruction every time the Government proposed to go into committee, but he told the hon. Leader of the Opposition that before the House rises, no matter what the obstruction might be, that bill would go through. The Premier said they had not exhausted our claims against Canada, and the Government had put on record at Ottawa the particulars of those which had yet to be satisfied.

In conclusion the Premier said that while it was always more pleasant to have a surplus than a deficit to speak of, yet if he could not think that they could make a reduction in debt next year, he would not care to remain long Leader of the Government. They had made three surpluses out of four, and he hoped they would have the record of having made a reduction in public debt seven times out of eight.

The Premier, who spoke for over two hours, was followed by Mr Bell. He spoke along general lines for an hour, when he moved the adjournment of the debate at midnight, and the House adjourned till ten o'clock this morning.

THE WAR

From the military view point there is little new in the war situation. Fighting is almost continuous, the chief centre of activities being around Verdun.

In diplomatic circles there are possibilities, among them a rupture between Germany and the United States, although the patient forbearance of the latter nation in the face of continuous happenings which would have driven the most pacific man or nation into war, leads to the belief as well as the hope that the relations between the two countries will go on uninteruptedly as at present. The tone of many American papers is becoming decidedly warlike, however, and anything may happen. The German reply to the enquiries regarding the attack on the Sussex and the German submarine policy generally is simply an impudent evasion and denial. The press of the United States says bluntly that any promise made by the German government would be worth less than the paper on which it was written. Her denial of responsibility for the attack on the Sussex is plainly and unequivocally a falsehood and the French government, according to our despatches of yesterday, has the documents to prove it. Any further effort on the part of the United States to come to a satisfactory conclusion with Germany would be so much time and energy wasted. United States papers now openly demand severance of diplomatic relations. The next few days will probably settle the question one way or another. It is not likely that the United States will waste any more "notes" on Germany.

The situation at Verdun is simply an enigma. The battle has been raging incessantly for nearly two months, the longest as well as the bloodiest war in history. The German army's official casualties for March totalled 63,545, of which 14,705 were killed, and French authorities claim the number was very much greater as whole regiments were annihilated. The dash and fury with which the Germans persisted in attacks against hopeless positions is inexplicable. The honour of the Crown Prince was at stake and it appears he was loathe to abandon an attack for which he alone was responsible. He gained some successes. They succeeded in capturing Bethincourt, which military experts declared formed a dangerous salient for the French and the retention of which had been criticized by military observers. The French General, Petain, it appears knew how long to hold it and when to abandon it and he did the latter when the time was ripe. For his unerring judgment in letting it go at exactly the right time he is now highly praised. The Germans acclaimed this as a great victory, but the position was worth nothing to them. Immediately after this coup the Crown Prince followed up his success with heavy drives against the French wings five miles apart. They were attempting to duplicate their victory at Bethincourt on a larger scale. Using the "nut-cracker" tactics that squeezed the French out of Bethincourt the Crown Prince attacked the five mile French front to force the entrance of all the stronger fortifications of Verdun on the north-west. The right jaw of the German nut-cracker carried them into advanced French positions, but the French drove them out again. The left jaw was hurled against the French line between Le Mort Homme and Cumieries village and here too they were driven back with fearful losses as they were caught under a withering fire and halted before they reached the French lines. That the French also lost heavily cannot be doubted, but the losses of the Germans were appalling. Here the situation rested, according to our last despatches. The Germans have not abandoned the attempt, but there is a lull at present whether for further preparation or for abandonment is not yet clear. The failure of the Germans in this desperate attempt has greatly encouraged the French and the Allies. What the next few days will reveal with reference to the position at Verdun can only be conjectured, but the best military authorities agree in declaring that the Germans will never get through there and that they have lost heavily in prestige as well as in men and material in the venture.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

This being Passion Week, several of the Churches have been holding special services, the members and adherents laying aside all social activities for the time being, that they might participate.

A great many friends were at the First Methodist Church last Monday morning to witness the marriage of Capt. C. Williams to Miss Stella Fletcher, and the happy young couple left on their honeymoon amid showers of confetti and good wishes.

Mrs. A. A. McLean was among the guests at an afternoon tea given this week in Ottawa at which Mrs. W. C. Edwards was the hostess. Mr. and Mrs. McLean were also guests when Hon. Robert and Mrs. Rogers entertained on Saturday evening at a dinner given at the Chateau Laurier.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. O. Moran are enjoying a short holiday in Atlantic City having left for there the earlier part of the week.

Mrs. J. A. Mathieson was hostess for the afternoon Bridge Club on Thursday which was the last meeting until after Easter. A most enjoyable game and social hour was passed by the ladies present.

There has been quite a change in banking circles on the Mainland during the past few weeks which are of interest to many friends in this city. Mr. R. G. Wallace of the Bank of Nova Scotia, St. John, has been transferred to Hamilton, Ont. and will be joined there by Mrs. Wallace and children in about three months time. Mr. R. Rossborough, also of the Bank of Nova Scotia, who has been attached to the Staff at Edmonton, Alta. is to come east to Campbellton, N. B., which will no doubt be a pleasant change, being near his old home.

Mr. D. R. Laird, Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Amherst who has been in Boston and New York for several weeks, receiving treatment for his ear, returned home this week greatly improved in health.

Among the visitors this week to Atlantic City are Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Alley who left for that place on Monday last.

Mrs. Carson Flood, is visiting St. John for a few weeks and receiving a hearty welcome from her many friends.

Capt. Fred May's many home friends are giving him a kindly welcome during his visit here as the guest of his Aunt, Mrs. D. Davies. Captain May is suffering from the effects of his experience at the front and can tell many tales of hardships suffered and heroism shown by the brave men who are giving their lives for their country. Capt. May is to remain here several weeks and it is hoped his visit will completely restore his health.

At the general annual meeting of the Charlottetown Golf Club on Thursday evening there was quite a large attendance of interested members. Last year's officers were all re-elected and arrangements made for the coming season which, with the present bright sunshine, will soon be here.

The ladies were very much in evidence at the Legislative Assembly last evening for the opening of the Budget debate.

ISLAND PRISONERS

Sir—The Carpet Slipper Club have undertaken to adopt John Murphy of Charlottetown now prisoner of war in Germany. This leaves only two prisoners provided with weekly boxes of food and comforts. One lady has promised me \$1.00 a month, if three others will do the same to provide for another prisoner. Who will help? In my former letter, I omitted to say that the "socks for the Front Society" per Mrs. Ings, have sent each Island prisoner one suit of warm underwear, two pairs of socks and three handkerchiefs.

I am Sir, etc.,
 JAMES SIMPSON,
 St. Peter's Cathedral.

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

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ALL IS WELL.

In the centre of the circle Of the will of God I stand: There can come no second cause, All must come from His dear Hand. All is well for 'tis my Father Who my life hath planned. Shall I pass through waves of sorrow? Then I know it will be best; Though I cannot tell the reason, I can trust and so am blest. God is Love and God is Faithful, So in perfect peace I rest.

With the shade and with the sunshine, With the joy and with the pain, Lord, I trust Thee both are needed, Each thy wayward child to train. Earthly loss, did we but know it, Often means our Heavenly gain.

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DUAL CATTLE THEORY

Sir—For the past number of years many sections in this province have been endeavoring to improve their dairy herds by using pure bred bulls of one of the recognized dairy breeds and considerable progress was being made in several communities until two years ago the price of beef had risen to an unusual figure and the farmers started to look about them for a dual or two purpose cow, that sort of animal that is supposed to be suitable for both dairy and beef purposes, in fact as some of its admirers claim "best" for both beef and milk production. What a wonderful combination we would have in such an animal if this were possible. But we have sufficient proof at hand to show that no such cattle exist.

While I admire the shorthorn cow as a beef animal and recognize the fact that occasionally good "short period" milkers are found in their ranks, the number are proportionately small and they usually not of desirable beef conformation. So far as their dairy characteristics are concerned we have only to remember that their own promoters do not consider them more than half the equal of the heaviest producing dairy breed, as the Shorthorn breeders only require their mature cows to produce 5,500 lbs milk and 192 lbs. butter fat to qualify for entry in the advanced registry, while the Holstein breeders demand that 10,500 lbs milk and 357 lbs butter fat be given by animals of similar age. These breeders are the best judges of their own particular cows producing qualities, and the result of the R. O. P. tests bear out their judgment. I therefore cannot see what encouragement farmers see in breeding them for dairy work.

The reason given for using Shorthorn bulls on good dairy grade cows in many instances is that labour is scarce and they do not want to do much milking preferring to grow some beef which they claim pays equally well, and at present prices this may be true.

But, when the value of a heifer of the dairy breeds for breeding purposes is as great as a finished beef of similar age they can be raised and a considerable revenue received each year, which would fully equal at least the price that the same feed would bring in a beef animal.

At the present time an active and growing demand exists for dairy grades particularly Holsteins. During the past year I have assisted in loading four carloads for shipment to Manitoba and had to turn down an order for three carloads from one man. Good Holstein grades are worth today from \$75 to \$125 in this province and at the late Amherst Winter Fair one sold for \$200 another owned by the same man for \$135. During the past winter I paid one Holstein breeder (Mr. Harding of Grahams Road) \$78.50, \$82.00 and \$115.00 for three grade cows, and at the present time have several orders for cows of like calibre. I also know of another carload order for the West at the present time.

Now it has been argued that current price of beef justifies his rearing in preference to dairy stock even at the figure quoted. I have some experience in buying cattle and I never remember an instance where the butcher out bid me for any animal I was purchasing. Many of these cows bring \$75 and up, JUST AFTER GOING DRY, while it requires about six months of generous feeding to get an animal fitted for the block. In a comparison of the two lines we should credit the dairy cow with six months value of milk.

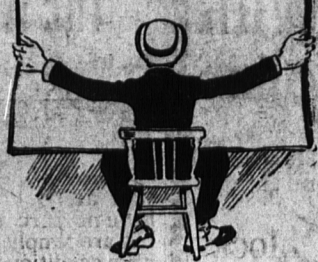
The demand is great and I believe unlimited, and a community that has now any number of good dairy heifers stands equally at least as good a chance to make money from raising surplus dairy cows for sale in conjunction with co-operative dairying as they would by growing beef. Further the price of dairy cows does not fluctuate to such an extent as beef and in communities where any dairy breed is now well established, I think it is a grave mistake to find any result of this improvement. We must never forget that the West can and is now raising with other prairie provinces immense herds of beef cattle, and the price of these is more liable to decrease than the price of dairy products; so there is no good reason for making this change. To grow any line of good live stock it is necessary to have an abundance of milk. This the dairy industry can furnish. In addition after several years have been spent in

(Continued on Page Six.)

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