

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Mr. Charles Dalton, President. J. H. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. H. M. Gaulty, Associate Editor.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1922

DEBT INCREASED \$182,000

Notwithstanding all the increased taxation the Bell government has added over \$182,000 to the Public Debt of the Province. This is shown by the External Auditor's Reports of 1920 and 1921.

In the External Auditor's Report for last year, 1921:—

The Liabilities of the Province are given as \$1,373,461.76

From which may be deducted alleged assets amounting to \$1,191,461.76

Giving net liabilities of \$1,182,000.00

The External Auditor's report for 1920 gives the net liabilities \$1,073,933.72

Which gives an increase of \$108,066.28 for the year 1921 over that of 1920.

But this does not include the expenditure on Highways from October 31 to December 31. The External Auditor announces that the Highways Expenditure had been audited by the Dominion Government as at Oct. 31, and therefore there is the expenditure from that date to December 31 to be taken into account. As far as can be ascertained the Province's share of this will amount to not less than \$25,000, so that we are face to face with this financial situation:

Increased Liabilities as above \$157,849.15

Two months' Highway Expenditure 25,000.00

Total Increased debt \$ 182,849.15

The Bell government has increased its revenue by \$378,652 over that of 1919 and in addition has gone behind \$1,828.09.

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W. Wordsworth.

Discharging duty doesn't make much racket.

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ent bridges which they have repaired, unless they want to take credit twice for the same expenditure.

The next "asset" in the list is entered as National Service Bond \$792.75. What do our readers imagine this represents? It is hardly credible but it represents notes which the banks failed to collect for the "free grain" distributed during the war and for which the Government became guarantors. It has come to this, then, that in order to boost their assets the Bell government has resorted to irretrievably bad debts which the banks repudiate.

The succeeding item has similarly no right to be taken into account as a credit, being the P. E. Island Brick & Tile Company's assets which the government merely holds at best as collateral security for money advanced. It does not belong to it at all.

The remaining item, \$3,382.42 the alleged "value of books on hand, over and above the bank overdraft" at the School Supply Branch, ESTIMATED at \$3,382.42. We showed in a previous issue that the Government had boosted the price of school supplies 25 per cent, so that this "surplus" is actually non-existent, and cannot be ESTIMATED at \$3,382.42—or even three cents.

This disposes of the "OTHER ASSETS" claimed by the Bell government, and we think every honest man, be he Conservative or Liberal, will join in vigorously protesting against so flagrant an attempt to pad the Public Accounts with such transparent inaccuracies.

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Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

Tuesday afternoon in the Legislature was almost entirely devoted to further debate on the road question in its relation to the city and towns, and to a long and rather lively discussion which the Commissioner of Agriculture brought in by the cars and for which to give himself the opportunity, he moved the formal adjournment of the House.

In his long speech, based on an editorial and letter printed in the Guardian he proved himself to be as sensitive to criticism as he is pugacious in word and act towards his fellow members, the Press, and the people.

The Commissioner succeeded in gaining for himself a bad quarter of an hour when Mr. Kennedy and Mr. McLean got after him. Both of these gentlemen as merchants and business men know the wants of the farmers and all the ins and outs of the government's methods of dealing with them the inferior quality of much of the hay supplied and the bungling mismanagement of the entire business. Mr. Leagot some "hard feed" for himself along with the cattle-feed he had handled. Just as Mr. Higgs had found some pretty rough travelling along the so-called improved highways, a little earlier.

Mr. Dewar voiced a timely protest against the waste of time by ministers and their supporters in empty words, and he put a timely question as he inquired when the budget speech would be forthcoming. It had long ago been promised by the Premier at an early date and no word had been heard about it since. Three weeks of the session have already passed and the House and the province have already been committed to a huge borrowing scheme, with no information before them as to what provision will be made for the ordinary services of the country.

In the evening session the Opposition scored handsomely, first as Mr. Kennedy kept the ministerial party dancing and squirming, secondly as Mr. Stewart won the Speaker's ruling that his amendment was in order, against the contention of the legal lights on the other side, and thirdly when in the first division of the session he found himself supported by two members who had formerly voted with the government. Altogether it was an unpleasant night for the Bell Government and its supporters. They were worsted in argument and outplayed in parliamentary strategy. And they felt it.

There is a whisper around the House and lobbies, that the bill to give women votes in provincial elections may not be enacted at the present session, notwithstanding the Premier's promise to put it through at once, as made to prominent members of the Women's Liberal Club. Some of the government's supporters are at heart opposed to it, others think it highly unpolitic, seeing what so many of the lady voters did in the federal election to the Conservative party which gave them votes.

It is intimated that the bill may be introduced and discussed and not put through, but promised to be carried at next session! This would be true to the Premier's procrastinating, "tomorrow" policy and would also to the government's long record of broken promises. Among so many of these in the past one more could scarcely be noticed at the bottom of so long and black a list. At best the bill if it does come and whenever it may come, will be but another "Me, too" imitation of what has been at

travelled this road know that the trains are always held up to conform to the time table and that the journey could be made in much less time than it is. It is most important that as much speed as is consistent with reasonable service and safety should be given during the summer rush of travel. The service on the western, southern and eastern lines also requires readjustment and if this is not done before the time tables are prepared it will not be done at all.

We would suggest that our Boards of Trade, which include the business interests, and representatives along these lines of railway, get together and with Superintendent Grady agree upon a schedule that will give reasonable service. This is most important and should be attended to at once.

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Others' View Points

Still on the Federal.

(London Daily News)

Owing to the house shortage at Goettingen some university students have taken up their residence on top of the tower of the Church of St. John. "What are your impressions of life on top of a tower?" was the question put to them in the course of a letter recently sent them. "We have not got the least intention of supplying an English newspaper with interesting news about Germany" was the reply he received. "We have quite a different conception of the work we ought to do for the reconstruction of the Fatherland." Though they have stopped singing their morning hymn of hate, it is evident that in the Fatherland they have not yet learnt to love us.

Appeasing the Turks.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer)

Undoubtedly the Turks will be appeased by these concessions and they may graciously consent to cease fighting. But it will be only one more chapter of the long story of temporizing, expediency and sharp practice which has marked modern Europe's dealings with the Ottoman. It is not a chapter of which the present generation can be proud, and it is undoubtedly a chapter which will have a sequel of suffering and confusion. Eventually, perhaps, there may arise a group of statesmen competent to solve the Turkish problem without wire-pulling, political haggling and recrimination, and thus write the final chapter of the book of horror.

The Late Sir John Eaton

(Toronto Globe)

Sir John Eaton was the son of a merchant prince, and was proud of his inheritance. He conceived it to be a filial duty to preserve unimpaired the principles upon which his father founded and built up the gigantic establishment bearing the family name. Succeeding to a great business, Sir John made it greater. He regarded it as a trust which he so discharged as to honor Timothy Eaton's memory. Sir John's loyalty to his father's ideas was expressed in his continuous efforts to improve working conditions, an aim agreeable to his own kindly disposition. In this emphasis on the human element of business, such as the reduction of the hours of labor, and other provisions for the welfare of those in his service, the Eaton firm has been a pioneer, and its example has had a powerful effect upon the whole mercantile community. The moral influence has resulted in lightening the toil of a multitude of others. The country owes a lasting debt also to Sir John Eaton's war work. He facilitated the enlistment of an enormous number of his own employees by an unparalleled financial generosity. The Eaton Machine Gun Battery was a unit into the organization of which he put much thought and effort. The cost of Sir John's war activities was a sacrifice even for so rich a man. The University of Toronto, the Toronto General Hospital and other

ready done under Conservative leadership.

We are indebted to Mr. Hessian for the rather remarkable information that this province is "an island entirely surrounded by water." This is now believed to be true, however much the quarter from which the statement emanates might lead some to doubt it. There are lawyers and lawyers. It has been said of some of them that even at night they often lie awake, and when they sleep they lie first upon one side and then upon the other! Whom shall we believe? Is this terraqueous island entirely surrounded by water when its upper side is dry? But Mr. Hessian may claim, and call Mr. Lafage to witness that this Garden of Bootleggers is never dry.

The Bell Government affords perhaps the most perfect example of that entire insulation which Mr. Hessian is studying so closely. It is "entirely surrounded," east, west north and south, above and beneath on the right hand and on the left, by its broken promises which taint the air and the waters above and around; it is submerged and engulfed by the indignation of the people whom it has deceived, betrayed, loaded with taxation and plunged into debt and whose substance it has wasted beyond repair. It is a culprit government on the scaffold of public justice, fearfully waiting the noose round its neck and the fatal drop into the depths of political perdition.



The New Picture Hats Are Just Adorable

Little wonder that our Millinery Salon is thronged with feminine enthusiasts these days. They are like a flower garden and a gallery of old masters, all in one—

Radiant with new colorings, in the wonderful trimmings but more glorious still by reason of the wonderful beauty of lines and forms in the new hats themselves.

And what does all this mean? Except that descriptions impoverish words and you must bring your own eyes to see the delightful creations that Miss Dorion chose when on her buying trip. Everything is ready. Command us.

For Tweed is the thing in Women's Spring Suits and sensible choice that fashion has made.

The textures are fascinating—the coverings are so delightful—the patterns so distinguished and the lines of the Suits are fairly beyond description.

Supple youthfulness, smart style, supreme refinement—such are the claims of Tweed Suits to womn's universal favor.

Radiant Canton Crepes at \$4.50 a Yard

Just the rich and lustrous tissue that every well-informed women desires for important Spring frocks—soft and supple as fashion demands—glowing with colors in the newest shades.

A superb quality that the dressmaker will love to work with and every woman will take pride in wearing.

Velour Coatings for that new Spring Coat in new Fawn Shades at \$2.00 and \$3.50. Patons Limited.