

THE DAILY EXAMINER

MAY 10, 1898.

THE ASYLUM BUNGLER.

The clap-net argument with which the bungling of the Government in respect to the proposed annex of the Hospital for the Insane was defended in the Legislature last evening was not worthy a gentleman of the reputation of the Hon. Mr. Warburton. While Mr. Warburton did not attempt to deny that the plans of the party architect were all wrong, he avoided reference to the mean and crafty shifts by which the Government sought to impose the cost of the extra excavation required for the foundation upon Mr. Lowe, and the continued neglect of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mr. Chappelle to give Mr. Lowe the authority required by the terms of the contract to proceed with the extra work. The contract forbade Mr. Lowe to do any extra work unless by the written order of both the architect and the Commissioner of Public Works. This order has been, from first to last, persistently and systematically withheld. The result is that, while the money borrowed to erect the "annex has been used as current revenue, the annex is still on the ground in the shape of material placed there by Mr. Lowe, and yet unpaid for.

It may be easy to persuade partisan supporters in the Legislature that Mr. Walter Lowe is a very bad man. The facts in this case go to show that he is an honest man. If he had chosen to make a deal with the architect, he could have gone on with the work and perhaps made some money for himself. But the building would have been "scamped" and the present loss as well as future expense would have been saddled upon the public. Looking at the reports of Messrs. McMillan and Lemay, and all the correspondence (which the Government was afraid to table!) we can come to no other conclusion than that the course of the Government in this matter is inexhaustibly tortuous and unbusinesslike. When the architect's blunder as to the foundation of the building was discovered, the necessity of correcting the blunder was apparent. But instead of grappling with the matter like men, the Government haggled with Mr. Lowe and refused to give the necessary order to correct the blunder, though repeatedly urged to do so by the contractor. Consequently, the responsibility for the loss and delay which has occurred lies with the Government.

P. E. ISLAND'S CLAIMS.

REFERENCE was made by Mr. Martin in his recent speech—a summary report of which was published by THE EXAMINER on Saturday—to the misapprehension of the Mail and Empire concerning the claims of this province to railway extension. The Mail and Empire did not know, apparently, that the P. E. Island railway was constructed by the Provincial Government at the proper cost of the Province. We have no doubt that the ignorance of this able and usually well-informed journal in this regard is shared by many thousands of intelligent persons throughout Ontario and Quebec. This ignorance is to be overcome. We regret that no disposition to overcome it has been shown by the Liberals, either in or out of Parliament. The Toronto Globe's only reference to the important matter which Mr. Martin treated so ably is contained in these words:

"The greater part of the afternoon was devoted to the consideration of very uninteresting Eastern motions, with hardly a quorum of members present."

This shows how much the leading organ of the Liberals cares about justice being done to Prince Edward Island! The Globe's remark is untrue in more than one particular. We are informed upon excellent authority, that Mr. Martin had as good an audience as is common on a private member's day and that his convincing statement received "the undivided attention of the House." It is not too much to say, unless our advices are wholly wrong, that Mr. Martin's speech made a capital impression and that he performed a distinct service to the Province in presenting the case of P. E. Island as he did. The Mail and Empire is disposed to do him justice. Its report is as follows:

"Mr. Martin said in the House this afternoon that the statement in The Mail and Empire some months ago that Prince Edward Island had paid nothing towards railway construction was incorrect. Quoting from the sessional paper of 1876 he showed that at the time of the Confederation, in 1873, the sum of \$1,000,000, spent by that province in railway construction, was charged against the Province of Ontario had expended on the railway since Confederation, but had received from the Dominion for that purpose \$74 per head. On the other hand, Prince Edward Island had spent \$28 per

head in building railways, but had only received to the extent of \$5 per head by the Dominion.

This is a fair statement, showing that the leading Liberal-Conservative newspaper is open to connection and ready to silt the truth.

THE ESTIMATES.

AS BETWEEN the expenditures of last year and the estimates of this year there is a difference of \$21,867.89. That is to say, the expenditures of this year are to be so much less than those of last year. We note that the public expectation of a Provincial exhibition open to Canada is to be disappointed. There is to be no exhibition this year,—thereby effecting a cash saving of \$6,800. There is, also, to be a reduction of \$8,400 in the expenditure upon roads, \$23,404 having been expended last year and only \$15,000 being estimated for this year. There are reductions under several other heads. But the interest payment must necessarily be as large or larger than ever, and the estimate for education also exhibit a small increase. Upon the other hand, the revenue of last year, all told, amounted to over \$272,550, while the expenditure of this year, as estimated, will amount to \$279,884—difference of \$7,334.00. It will be interesting to hear the Leader of the Government explain the new policy which has evidently been decided upon by the Liberals in caucus. Is there to be an increase of taxation or a continuation of deficits? That the estimates of expenditure are short by many thousands of dollars, and that they are yet away ahead of the revenue, is apparent.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Chinese Minister in London says that he hopes that every obstacle to the expansion of British trade will soon be removed. John Bull is a welcome visitor.

Commenting on Mr. Martin's recent speech the editor of the St. John Sun says:—"The whole calculation is a little difficult to make with absolute fairness, but there can be no doubt of the justice of the claims of Prince Edward Island to additional railways."

Farmers have no fault to find with the present price of wheat. Both in Ontario and Manitoba buyers are paying \$1.04 in the country markets. When the war advance came it found an unexpectedly large reserve in the hands of growers, especially in Ontario. Last week one Manitoba farmer sold in Portage la Prairie wheat to the value of \$13,000, all of it his own growth. But the wheat was not all of one season's crop, a lot of it being of the 1896 harvest.

ESTEEMED EXCHANGES.

The Mail and Empire remarks that "the dread of an outbreak of yellow fever among the American forces that will probably in the near future be quartered in Cuba is quite natural, in view of the experience of the Spanish troops that have been sent to suppress the rebellion. There is, however, no doubt that infection has been largely due to carelessness, and that with proper methods of inspection and sanitation the disease could be controlled. Kingston in Jamaica was at one time as subject to yellow fever as Havana, but as a result of the adoption of English methods, few cases now occur there. Cuba is as healthy as any tropical country, but the Spanish medical authorities have persistently put their fever patients in old infected buildings near stagnant and polluted parts of the bay, instead of on higher ground behind the town."

Mail and Empire: Mr. M. C. Cameron, who is to be the new governor of the North West Territories, became famous as a statesman through his admissions that he had spent some \$20,000 to get into Parliament, for which exploit on behalf of purity he was duly unseated. He then sank out of sight, and made his reappearance by means of a speech delivered attacking Sir John Macdonald's administration of the Indian Department. The charges which he brought against Sir John were fortified by extracts from published Indian reports. When the originals were examined it was found that Mr. Cameron had snipped little pieces out of sentences, thus changing the meaning of his quotations, and creating statements upon which to base his arguments. For this conduct he was soon popularly known as Ananias. In the present Parliament Mr. Cameron has become famous again by reason of his nepotism. He secured the dismissal of the Goderich postmaster, and appointed his son-in-law to the place, after having procured the position for his brother-in-law. In the west, Mr. Cameron will be able to teach the politicians a thing or two. As a parting shot Mr. Cameron is organizing the party in his constituency with a view to the election of his son to fill the seat he is vacating. He feels that there ought to be some one of his own kind in Parliament.

PERSONAL.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of Canadian-American citizens held at the Sherman House, Chicago, Co. George A. Baynes, chairman, has appointed an executive committee to carry out the details for the formation of a Canadian American legion, which will offer to the State of Illinois several regiments of Canadian-born citizens for service during the war. A large number of letters have been received from Canadian-American citizens endorsing the West and Northwest, offering their services if acceptable to the government.

There will be a full practise for the Methodist Church recital for both ladies and gentlemen at the Kindergarten Hall this evening at 7.45 sharp.

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MAY MAGAZINES.

The Canadian.

The Canadian Magazine has opened its eleventh volume with a bright May number. W. A. Fraser, the Canadian Kipling, who has won so much praise in New York and London, contributes a weird tale of India. Elton Harris, the bright Prince Edward Island writer, is author of a charming English love-story. Professor Adam Shortt, of Kingston, contributes the leading article of the month, and in it criticizes the social life of Canada, showing wherein we fail to attain the culture, courtesy and breadth of view attained by educated Europeans. Reginald Gourlay, the well known hunter, tells a good bear story, which S. Monkski has profusely illustrated. There are many other good things in the number, including book reviews and national sport. The war has not been overlooked. John A. Ewan, of the Toronto Globe, writes about it under "Current Events Abroad," and the editor writes of "War and Finance," with special reference to the present struggle. One of the prettiest illustrations in the issue is a full page portrait of Julia Arthur, the well known Canadian actress.



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