

THE DAILY EXAMINER

JULY 31, 1899.

**WHAT HE PROMISED
HOW HE PERFORMED.**

WHEN he was in Opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

"They tell us that if we were in power we could not retrench and economize. But I do not believe that it will be a difficult task. It would not be a very difficult task to economize to the extent of one, two, three millions—and Mr. Mills told his constituents a few days ago that it was possible to retrench to the extent of four millions a year."

The total expenditure for the year in which these words were spoken amounted to \$41,371,040.

Sir Wilfrid was taken at his word and placed in power.

The government expenditures of this year are to be \$60,916,244.06.

TAXATION IN ENGLAND.

The amount of revenue raised in England last year from taxation was £99,000,000, of which £48,000,000 were raised by direct and £81,000,000 by indirect taxation. Sir Henry Fowler, in a recent address upon the whole subject lately delivered in London, said that £45,000,000 of this were paid by the working classes, who constitute two-thirds of the nation, and £54,000,000 by all other classes who make up the remaining third. Comparing the four years 1895-9 with the preceding four years, Sir Henry Fowler finds that there has been an increase in the taxation revenue of £51,000,000. This money has gone thus:

Navy	£30,000,000
Army	4,000,000
Education	8,500,000
Local Grants	5,500,000
Public Buildings	3,000,000

Sir Henry criticizes the increased local grants very strongly, holding that they were not necessary and were strengthening a bad system, which makes people seek to get money out of the treasury for the mere sake of spending it; but he approves of the expenditure on the navy as necessary in the circumstances of the time. The English Budget for the current fiscal year is £110,287,000, to which is to be added the £370,000 from the new stamp and wine duties—in all £111,153,000.

REDISTRIBUTION.

We publish today the Senate Hansard's report of Hon. Mr. Prowse's forcible speech on the Redistribution Bill, and ask for it an attentive perusal by all our readers. Naturally the representatives of this Province were particularly interested in a measure which was so audaciously unfair in respect to Prince Edward Island. Senator Prowse, Senator Ferguson, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Martin and others made this unfairness as clear as the sun at noon today; and it is to be noted that not one of the Liberal members in either House, has had the boldness to justify it. Senator Ferguson showed that the Minister of Justice himself had declared that "in no case should there be two representatives for the same constituency." Yet the government proposed to go back to double constituencies for P. E. Island and maintain them in Hamilton and Ottawa, while abandoning the fundamental Liberal principle of representation by population and avoiding the provision of the British North America Act that redistribution shall be made immediately after each decennial census. We cannot believe that the government will dare to appeal to the constituencies upon the defeated Redistribution; for it was without a single redeeming feature.

THE PACE IS TOO SWIFT.

We agree with the Montreal Star that "the present reign of corruption in Canada cannot last long, the pace is too swift. Moreover, the masses of the people are still honest. They are not such fools as to want to be bribed with their own money and they know that no nation of five millions could stand a drain of sixty millions a year for many years. The fall of the gang who are looting the treasury is not far distant, and it will be well for Canada if they do not involve the country in their own ruin."

THEIR MOTTO

"Most of the Ontario and Western Liberals, at least, know that they have not the remotest chance of ever sitting in another Parliament, and their motto is 'Let us eat and drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.'"

Their masters cherish the forlorn hope that the Machine, with a spending power of sixty million dollars to drive it, may save them."

This is the opinion of an independent organ of public opinion in view of the money votes of this year, which amount to \$60,916,244.06!

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The law provides that the County Court shall open at Belfast to-morrow. But there is no judge to try the cases.

—It has transpired that in addition to persons, perjurers, etc., the crew attending on the Liberal machine in Ontario, included a gang of counterfeiters, whose bogus ballots were stowed in some of the elections.

—"We must lighten the burdens of the people," said Sir Richard Cartwright in 1895. "That is the goal that the Reform Party must keep in view; that is the goal for which they must strive; that is the goal which I hope and trust they will soon attain." The Reform Party has turned its back upon the goal. Expenditures have been increased by them to the amount of about \$20,000,000 a year.

—The Montreal Witness finds an excuse for the extravagant expenditures. It says: "A great deal of money is being frittered away upon projects which will yield no adequate return, but the expenditures will please the constituencies." This as the Mail and Empire remarks, is a nice state of affairs—the economists frittering away money upon useless projects to please the constituencies.

—The Montreal Gazette remarks: "The mistakes of Mackenzie" were among the things the Laurier Government was warned against early in its career by some of its practical friends. The warning seems to have been heeded. Mackenzie described himself, in regard to the demands for expenditure made upon his administration, as feeling "like the besieged, lying on my arms night and day," guarding the treasury. With over fifty-one millions a year pouring out of the breaks in the treasury, it is plain to anybody on the Laurier-Tarte-Sifton Blair cabinet, is not losing sleep in doing the sentinel act. One of Mackenzie's mistakes has been avoided.

—The Patriot questions the truth of THE EXAMINER'S statement about reports of official interference in the recent by-election, as if THE EXAMINER were in the habit of making statements without back. Well, we submit the following extract from a letter received from West Prince: "That industrious and important personage to whom we pay a big salary for looking after the fisheries of the Province and who intrudes himself into every political contest at the West, which would have been a high crime on Mr. Hackett's part when he held the same position, was around on the heels of the C. P. W., to do the fixing, and they imported their henchmen from all the Federal jobs to vote."

Montreal Star: The Conservative victory in Prince Edward Island on Tuesday, by which a Liberal majority of 240 was turned into a minority of 31, may be called a small affair, but it was one of those little things which at times are not without significance, especially as it is the second reverse of the Local Government recently.

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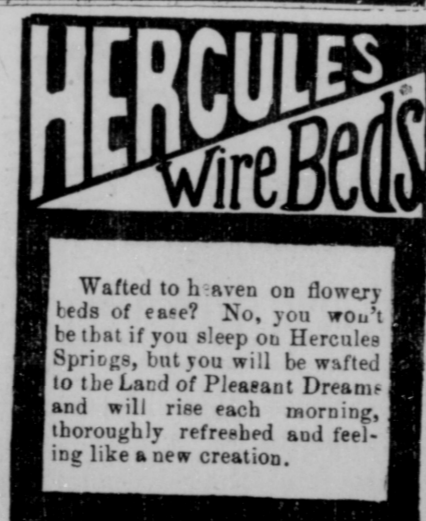
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