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E. R. Brow
General Agent
Charlottetown

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 6, 1897.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

MANY expenditures belonging to last year having been deliberately kept out of the public accounts of last year and many receipts of this year having been deliberately included in the receipts of last year, the report of the Provincial Auditor is practically valueless. Of necessity it exhibits a false statement of the financial position of the Province at the end of last year, and a false basis of comparison as between the operations of last year and previous years. The false showing may extend to the amount of \$20,000, \$30,000 or \$40,000 or it may be only \$5,000 or \$10,000. No one can say how far wrong the accounts are. We shall not know until after the elections, not even then, what condition the finances had been brought to by our Liberal Government at the end of 1895.

But false and deceptive as the public accounts of last year are, we approach them more in sorrow than in anger. After all that has been done to make them appear to be favorable, they show a deficit of \$14,135.35. This is the best result that can possibly be exhibited by a Government that received the confidence of the people upon the distinct understanding that should make ends meet without imposing additional taxation.

The receipts of the year (as shown) amounted to \$273,495.92, nearly \$50,000 of which came from taxes which were not imposed by the present government's predecessors. They are made up as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Dominion Subsidy..... | \$183,010.90 |
| Public Lands..... | 24,432.93 |
| Commercial Travellers' Licenses..... | 3,570.00 |
| Incorporated Companies..... | 4,775.00 |
| Ferries..... | 7,015.24 |
| Prothonotary Offices..... | 2,279.53 |
| Registry Offices..... | 4,161.66 |
| County Courts..... | 1,294.79 |
| Provincial Secretary's Office..... | 572.80 |
| Peddlers' Licenses..... | 805.00 |
| Vendors' Licenses..... | 304.00 |
| Hospital for Insane..... | 651.59 |
| Prince of Wales College, Fees..... | 1,391.25 |
| Fines and Penalties..... | 208.09 |
| Casual Revenue..... | 157.51 |
| Private Bills..... | 105.00 |
| Succession Duties..... | 3,660.68 |
| Provincial Land Tax..... | 30,082.69 |
| Income Tax..... | 4,971.16 |

The expenditure (as shown) amounts to \$287,631.27, \$124,084.32, or nearly half of which went for education and \$15,441.18 for interest on the accumulated debt of the Province. There was also expended upon ferries \$25,000.63; upon roads (including inquisitions) \$15,337.83; bridges, \$13,682.23; hospital for the insane, \$18,755.33; administration of justice \$14,733.04.

It is significant that of the whole number of last year's payments, only three items (including Education, Hospital for Insane and Ferries, were larger than that of interest paid upon the Provincial Debt. According to statements as set forth in the Auditor's report, this debt now amounts to \$392,036.50, made up as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Treasury Balance..... | \$ 27,720.48 |
| Stock Farm Balance..... | 7,693.23 |
| Debentures (less sinking fund)..... | 179,339.09 |
| Borrowed under Act of 1894..... | 174,151.47 |
| Private Loan..... | 3,132.32 |
| Total Debt..... | \$392,036.50 |

That is to say, upon their own showing, the Government have, after being four years in office, run up the debt of the Province to close upon \$400,000,—though they were elected to make expenditures and revenue meet!

Moreover, it is to be remembered that the Government have taken from the people in additional taxes and fees, close upon, if not fully, \$200,000—though they were pledged not to impose additional taxation.

How much additional debt was floating around throughout the country at the end of the year in small amounts due poor people, is not known and never will be known. Nor do we know how much money has been given away, in the shape

of discounts to persons indebted to the Land Office. Such knowledge—necessary as it is to a correct view of the financial condition of the Province—must be arrived at until the present administration has driven from office.

OUR SCHOOLS.

ACCORDING to the annual report of the Superintendent of Education, 569 teachers were last year employed in as many school departments, 22,138 scholars were enrolled, the average daily attendance was 13,412, the percentage of attendance 60.58, and the total cost to the Provincial Treasury \$124,084.32. This is, in brief, the story of our public schools for 1896.

The cost of our schools was last year about \$2,000 more than the highest of that of all former years. On the other hand, the average daily attendance at the schools was larger than ever before, and ten additional teachers were employed.

A good idea of the work of our schools in the past year will be afforded by a perusal of the following table showing the numbers of pupils in each branch of study:—

| | 1896. | Increase. | Decrease. |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Primer and Book I..... | 4,871 | | 139 |
| Books II and III..... | 7,498 | 83 | |
| Book IV..... | 4,603 | 100 | |
| Book V..... | 3,304 | | 155 |
| Book VI..... | 1,756 | 176 | |
| Writing..... | 19,136 | 68 | |
| Arithmetic..... | 19,639 | 6 | |
| Grammar..... | 12,005 | 481 | |
| History..... | 8,620 | 442 | |
| Geography..... | 12,635 | 52 | |
| Orthography..... | 14,108 | | 1,233 |
| Composition..... | 10,627 | 121 | |
| Music..... | 4,504 | 16 | |
| Book-keeping..... | 170 | 9 | |
| Drawing..... | 5,609 | 107 | |
| Scientific Temperance..... | 4,548 | 471 | |
| Agriculture..... | 967 | 233 | |
| Latin..... | 1,441 | 113 | |
| Greek..... | 19 | 14 | |
| French..... | 3,582 | 147 | |
| Algebra..... | 1,362 | 114 | |
| Geometry..... | 1,235 | 79 | |

Thus it will be seen that there was a heavy falling off in the number of scholars studying orthography and composition—two highly important branches; and there was a falling off also in the number studying drawing, scientific temperance and agriculture. On the other hand, there is shown to be an increasing number who study Latin, Greek, French, Algebra and Geometry. Upon the whole, the tendency of the students in our public schools is not in the right direction,—for the good of the Province.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The report of the Commissioner of Public Lands is short. We quote it in full:

"During the year 5975 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land were sold for which the sum of \$8,741.37 was agreed to be paid.

"The receipts for the year amounted to \$25,565.61.

"Five hundred and thirty-six deeds and counterparts were executed during the year.

"Three hundred and fourteen accounts were closed during the year.

Appended to this report is a statement of the cash account. Only that and nothing more!

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Public Works Department last year amounted in all to \$91,553.69. Of this amount, \$17,154.04 is set down to capital account—though most of it went for simple repairs!

The amount of the contracts entered into during the year was \$44,041.52. Of this amount \$20,820.02 were paid, and the balance remained to be paid in this year.

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MR. HACKETT'S CASE.

THE Patriot has been more highly favored than THE EXAMINER in that it has obtained a copy of the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada upon this case. We are unable to deal fully with the matter to-day. But we hasten to say that the judges of the higher Court at Ottawa are in perfect agreement with the judges of the lower Court in this Province. Chief Justice Strong and his colleagues are unanimously of the same mind, in respect to this case, as Chief Justice Sullivan and Mr. Justice Fitzgerald. Of this fact, let all persons engaged in electioneering take notice. The precedents of the past have been overruled and a new standard of electioneering has been set up by the Judges of our land. Mr. Hackett has been deprived of the seat to which he was elected because he did not explicitly warn a man named Callaghan, by whom he was being driven round previous to the election, not to treat anyone to whiskey. It is admitted that Mr. Hackett did not know that the man had any whiskey. But the judges say that he ought to have suspected it, because Callaghan, without his knowledge, took O'Brien into a barn and gave him the whiskey secretly (so that Mr. Hackett would not know it), and because he afterwards took some other persons into the woods and gave them some whiskey, also without Mr. Hackett's knowledge! The Court is unanimous also in the opinion that this particular treat was a corrupt treat because it was given in secret,—although the man who was treated swears that it did not at all influence his vote and was not given for that purpose. The judges are profound and learned men and candidates must in future be particular to inform all persons that they may (without his knowledge) be his agents, and are not to treat any one to whiskey unless in his presence!

The law as quoted by the judges sets forth that—

"Where, upon the trial of an election petition, the court decides that a candidate at such election was guilty by his agent or agents, of any offence that would render his election void, and the court further finds—

(a) That no corrupt practice was committed at such election by the candidate personally, and that the offences mentioned were committed contrary to the order and without the sanction or connivance of such candidate; and

(b) That such candidate took all reasonable means for preventing the commission of corrupt practices at such election; and

(c) That the offences mentioned were of a trivial, unimportant and limited character; and

(d) That in all other respects, so far as disclosed by the evidence, the election was free from any corrupt practice on the part of such candidate and of his agents; then the election of such candidate shall not, by reason of the offences mentioned, be void, nor shall the candidate be subject to any incapacity therefor.

Mr. Hackett was found to be free from everything mentioned in this section—except that under sub-section (b); and inasmuch as he did not know that Callaghan had the whiskey—the fact having been kept a secret from him—we think that reasonable men will agree with us that he ought not to have been deprived of his seat and mulcted in heavy costs simply because he failed to warn Callaghan not to treat anyone. The object of the law as quoted is, clearly, to prevent the voiding of a seat on account of offences of a trivial character; and Sir Henry Strong says "I admit that the offence proved in the present case was of a trivial and unimportant character." In view of this admission sensible men must wonder that the Court did not give Mr. Hackett the benefit of the law in regard to his failure to warn Callaghan.

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Blue Cotton Soft Bosom, collars and cuffs and cuffs very nobby, \$1.18. Men's Full dress Shirts, worth \$2, for \$1.85. Men's Neglige Shirts, a full stock, in fancy stripes, just the thing for wheelmen, from 65c to \$1.50.

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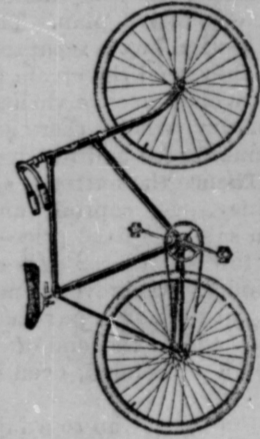
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