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Our Ottawa Letter.

The last Budget of the century has been presented to the country and to say that it met all the most sanguine expectations that have been created by the periodical statements of progress and development that have been made public during the year, is to put the case very mildly. Mr. Fielding's speech in presenting his financial statement was concise, and held the close attention of the House and galleries; but had it been the most prosaic statement on record it would have been interesting, for its subject matter was of a character to appeal to the most responsive feelings of every elector.

THE STORY OF THE BUDGET.

It told the story of an increase in Canada's trade from \$239,000,000 in 1896 to \$374,000,000 in 1900, an increase of \$135,000,000 in four years, as against \$66,600,000 in the previous eighteen years. It told of a growing revenue in each of those years which culminated in an increase of more than \$6,000,000 in 1899 over that of 1898. It told of an estimated revenue for the current year, ending in June, of over \$50,000,000, which will be yet another \$4,000,000 in excess of last year or an increased revenue of \$10,000,000 in two years, and this in the face of substantial reductions in taxation, the result of large additions to the imports placed upon the free list, to the operation of the preferential tariff, to the reduction in postage rates, etc. It told of new sources of revenue and reductions in the cost of administering the old departments. It told of every liability met, including the heavy expenditures on the South African contingents, and not a dollar added to the public debt—a condition of affairs which has not occurred for nearly twenty years—and it told of an estimated surplus for the year now drawing to a close, of probably \$7,500,000.

THE DAYS OF UNREST ARE GONE.

In the old days when the National Policy was in the heyday of its glory and the Dominion was protection mad, the bringing down of the Budget was always anticipated with nervous anxiety by the business community, and the event was invariably preceded by a period of uncertainty and restless expectation which had a most injurious effect upon the trade of the country. Ottawa was invaded by scores of deputations representing every variety of "infant industry," the promoters of which were anxious to obtain special tariff advantages at the expense of the community at large. But this sort of thing has entirely changed. Unrest has given place to confidence, and the feeling of anxiety to a sense of security. The people have discovered that there is a Government in power able to direct the fiscal policy of the country along clearly defined lines, respecting and conserving every legitimate interest in the country, while at the same time lessening the burden of taxation upon the people, and returning to the country a hundred cents for every dollar of revenue received. Appreciating this fact they also understand how much or rather how little attention to pay to the perpetual chatter about extravagance in expenditure and increase of the public debt. They realize that while it is true that the expenditure during the last two years has been increased, for example by \$2,370,000 through the cost of administering the Yukon, the revenue has been increased to \$2,570,000 from the same source; that railway construction has been pushed forward with greater activity and therefore that more money has been required within a given time for that purpose; that our canal system from the great lakes to the sea has been completed in three years, instead of in about thirteen, which would have been the time at the old rate of progress—and they appreciate the fact that in all this and in a dozen other ways an added expenditure both in income and capital account, is an investment from which the country will reap big returns. Moreover with all this activity in the work of opening up the country and developing its resources the actual increase has been far less under this Government than during the former regime which preceded its advent to power, for while the average increase in the public debt for the eighteen years was over \$6,500,000 each year, the average increase under the Laurier Administration is only about \$1,700,000.

WHERE MR. FOSTER MISSED IT.

Mr. Foster, ex-Finance Minister and Tory financial critic, took four days to prepare and four hours to deliver a labored and sophistical criticism of the Finance Minister's speech, but his efforts lost much if not all its force from the utterly unreliable data which he presented and upon which he based his deductions. As Sir Richard Cartwright pointed out in his reply, and as has been pointed out a score of times before, it is utterly and most manifestly unfair to take the expenditure of 1896 and quote it as an indication of Tory expenditure, for the

simple reason that obligations which should have been included in those figures were left over for the next year, and at least two big departments of the public service were so abominably starved during the last year of Tory administration, that it cost the country many thousands of dollars additional to repair the damage done. The fair comparison would be between the figures of 1895 and those of 1899, or between the estimates for 1897, as prepared by the late Government before they vacated office, and those now brought down for 1900.
Ottawa, March 31, 1900.

Maple

The members of the Literary Society are preparing a mock trial to be given at their closing concert in two or three weeks.

Rev. C. A. Campbell has received and accepted a call to a church in Lakefield, near Peterboro. He will leave for his new charge in May.

Mr. Amos Shunk, who has carried on the butchering business here for some years, intends removing to Toronto, with his family, about the first of May. He has rented a house and shop on Parliament St.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Henry Snider of Elia, took place to the cemetery here on Monday afternoon, and was largely attended.

The choir of Hope Church and a few of their friends met at Mr. G. J. Cook's last Friday evening and had a pleasant time in games and music. Ice cream and other dainty refreshments were served. During the evening the Male Chorus Club presented their accompanist, Mrs. Cook, with a very pretty jewel case.

Mr. J. Gillis and family are moving this week to a farm at Emery. They will be greatly missed in the Presbyterian Church and Sabbath School where they have long been active and useful members. A load of young people from here surprised them last Friday evening and spent a pleasant time.

Mr. H. Bailey purposes building a brick shop in place of the one that was burned. Mr. S. Walker of Teston, has the contract for that, and also for Mr. W. Knight's brick dwelling house.

A petition to the Grand Trunk Railway Company is in circulation, requesting that the name of Richmond Hill Station be changed to that of Maple.

Kindergarten Concert.

The youthful performers in Miss Long's Kindergarten class gave an enjoyable entertainment in the Masonic Hall on Monday evening. Unfortunately the evening was wet and this had the effect of keeping many away who doubtless would have been present had the weather been fine. Those who were present, however, enjoyed a treat, and many were the expressions of surprise that the children from 6 to 12 years of age, could have been taught to take their parts so well after a practice of little more than a week. Mr. J. T. Saigeon made an excellent chairman, and the wit and humor which he displayed between the various selections were interesting features of the entertainment. During the evening there were about 40 selections given, consisting of kindergarten songs, glees, drills, dialogues and recitations, but as many of them were short the whole programme was finished shortly after 10 o'clock. Miss Daisy Saigeon acted as piano accompanist. The following are the pieces given as announced by the chairman:—

Opening Chorus, "To all a good cheer."

Chairman's Address.

Trio, "Little Feet be Careful" by Alice Storey, Dell Saigeon and Gertrude Derry.

Recitation, "A little Cur" by Myrtle Smith.

Kindergarten game, by five little girls.

Recitation, "I'm little but I'm Spunky," Arthur Cooper.

Kindergarten Solo, "Go to Sleep," Alice Storey.

Recitation, "Fishing for Whales" Carl Saigeon.

Recitation, "Little Chatter-box," Kathleen Proctor.

Kindergarten Chorus, "Away among the Blossoms."

Recitation, "A Pretty Figure," Alice Storey.

Recitation, "A Blue Ribbon," Newton Brydon.

Kindergarten Exercise, "Grasshopper Green."

Dialogue, "Trials of Teaching," Miss Long and Donald Atkinson.

A Tea-Party Invitation, Gertrude Derry.

Recitation, "A Smart Girl," Carmel Claffey.

Patriotic Selection, Nora McMahon.

Cassie Hill and Allie Startup.

Recitation, "Grandmother's Beau," Myrtle Saigeon.

Kindergarten game, "A little bird once made a nest."

Recitation, "A little girl's hope" Annie Kerswill.

Solo, "Hide behind the door when Papa Comes," Winnifred Hume.

Recitation, "A Student's Trucble," Donald Atkinson.

Dialogue, "An anxious enquirer," Miss Daisy Saigeon and Murray Storey.

Kindergarten Chorus, "A Rainy Day."

Recitation, "Flo's Baby Brother," Nora McMahon.

Kindergarten Chorus, "A little worm, a lovely butterfly."

Recitation, "Grandmothers," Charlie Brown.

Duet, "My little Rag Doll," Myrtle Saigeon, and Hazel Switzer.

Recitation, "Bread Crusts," Jean Boyle.

Wishing Dialogue by nine children.

Selection, "Entertaining Big Sister's Beau," Keith Hill.

Kindergarten Chorus, "Polly wants a cracker."

Recitation, "Mamma's Help," Muriel Brydon.

Song, "Just as the Sun went down," Freddie Sisley.

Dialogue, "The Sick Doll," Hazel Switzer, Susie Startup and Harold Johnston.

Recitation, "A number of girls."

Recitation, "A little boy that ran away," Murray Storey.

Solo, "Let me kiss your tears away," Myrtle Saigeon.

Kindergarten Chorus, "God is love."

On behalf of the audience, and the parents of the children, Mr. Saigeon thanked Miss Long for the pains she took in instructing her class for the entertainment. The program closed with the National Anthem.

Concord.

Following is the school report for month of March:—

Sr. IV—Ernest Bowes, Ada Miles, Edgar Bowes.

Jr. IV—Elmore Reaman, George Miles, Ray Riddell, Lizzie Cooper.

Sr. III—Pearl Pearson.

Jr. III—Norma Fisher, Fred Miles, Mary Stewart.

Sr. II—Jesse Farrel, Birdie Riddell, Estella Reaman, Wilkie Bowes, Ethel Whitmore, Walter Stewart.

Jr. II—Beatrice Reaman, Ross Charlton, Chas. Poole.

Part II—Tena Vanderburgh, Pearl Miles, Mary Golland.

Sr. Part I—Ella Reaman, Ross Fisher.

Jr. Part I—Opal Stewart, Pryce Evans.

Present every day—Ernest Bowes, Edgar Bowes, Ada Miles, Fred Miles, Ethel Whitmore, Wilkie Bowes, Chas. Poole.

Aggregate attendance, 524.

Highest daily attendance, 39.

E. J. A. JOHNSTON, Teacher.

Victoria Square

Miss Jessie Brown has returned home from Detroit.

Messrs. Ed. Forester, K. McKenzie, J. Lyons, J. Munro, L. Meek and E. Carver left for the North-West on Tuesday last.

The scores of the Rifle Club on the 200 yd. range are as follows:—

	Score T1
W. Scott	78 100
C. P. Read	74 100
I. Lever	72 100
G. Forester, jr.	71 100
R. Agar	71 100

Patterson

Report of S. S. No. 19, Vaughan, for the month of March.

Sr. IV—E. Rumble, E. Deadman, G. Deadman, R. Rumble.

Sr. III—A. Rumble, A. Wilson, V. Hislop.

Jr. III—C. Johnson, J. Wilson, H. Rumble, J. Rumble.

Sr. II—I. Keith, F. Rumble, S. Charles.

Part II, Book I—J. Keith, A. McNair.

Part I—R. Rumble, J. Hislop.

Notice to Creditors

In the estate of

ANNE KEFFER

Late of the Township of Vaughan in the County of York, widow, deceased.

Pursuant to Statute R. S. O. Chapter 129, section 38.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of the said Anne Keffer, who died on or about the 20th day of February last, are required on or before the

25th day of April, 1900,

To send a statement of such claim together with their names and addresses by post prepaid to Arthur Quanz, Langstaff P. O., or to Jesse Keffer, Concord P. O., administrators of the said estate.

And take further notice that after such last mentioned date the said administrators will proceed to distribute the assets among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to such claims as they shall then have received notice of.

WILLIAM COOK,
No. 1 Adelaide St. East, Toronto,
Solicitor for Administrators.

Dated March 23rd, 1900.