

**THE DAILY EXAMINER**

APRIL 26, 1898.

**THE PUBLIC WORKS REPORT.**

The annual report of our Commissioner shows that there was expended by the Public Works Department of this Province, in 1897, \$106,007.42. This is made up chiefly of little amounts for repairs, etc. The larger contracts entered into by the Government have not been completed; and we note that there is a balance of \$27,418.40 for which the Province is liable, on account of unfinished contracts. This amount remains to be added to the constantly increasing liabilities of this Province. The largest item to be paid is for the erection of an addition to the Hospital for the Insane, viz.; \$19,890.00. The contract for this building was entered into August 27th 1896,—but for some reason which the Government is expected to fully explain, nothing has been done upon it, though the contractor has had a large proportion of material placed on the ground. "A Capital Account," (save the mark) is set out showing expenditures to the amount of \$19,873.43, chiefly, if not altogether, for mere repairs to old Government buildings, wharves, etc.

**A MELANCHOLY FAILURE.**

The Liberals obtained office and power in this Province upon the distinct pledge that they would reduce expenditures and make ends meet. Ends were to meet without resort to taxation; or, if taxation should eventually be found necessary, it was not to be applied without the consent of the people. How completely and lamentably they have failed to perform their promises is shown by the Public Accounts. Every year, without exception, their expenditure has been in excess of that of their predecessors, while their deficits amount to close upon \$200,000, and the taxes they have imposed to nearly \$190,000. The following statement tells the tale:

	1891.	Deficit.
Expenditure.....	\$304,486.41	
Receipts.....	274,047.21	\$ 30,439.20
	1892.	
Expenditure.....	\$283,303.57	
Receipts.....	245,652.28	\$ 37,651.29
	1893.	
Expenditure.....	\$337,415.36	
Receipts.....	317,473.03	\$ 19,942.33
	1894.	
Expenditure.....	\$302,632.19	
Receipts.....	282,467.98	\$ 20,164.21
	1895.	
Expenditure.....	\$310,177.20	
Receipts.....	277,314.40	\$ 32,862.80
	1896.	
Expenditure.....	\$287,631.27	
Receipts.....	273,495.95	\$ 14,135.32
	1897.	
Expenditure.....	\$310,751.89	
Receipts.....	272,550.24	\$ 38,201.65
<b>Total Deficits</b>		<b>\$193,396.80</b>

**TAXES IMPOSED.**  
 1894.....\$45,182.81  
 1895.....47,661.00  
 1896.....48,466.10  
 1897.....46,674.50 \$187,984.41  
 Taxes to date \$381,381.21  
 Comparing the promises with results we have this sum of \$381,381.21 against the Liberals. Truly they have failed miserably! What will they now do about it?

**CUTLOOK OF FINANCIERS.**

It is remarked by Henry Clews that the absence of panic or sensation in the financial circles of the United States in the very presence of war is something remarkable, and has rarely been witnessed in the world's money markets under the influence of like conditions. Such catastrophes are invariably attended with panic on the Bourses and violent fluctuations in the money markets, which extend to other countries than those directly concerned in the hostilities. The United States, Mr. Clews continues, are probably the most largely debtor nation in the world. England, Germany, Holland, and France hold, according to common estimate, fully \$2,000,000,000 of their investments. These creditors have recently had their confidence severely tested by the late silver agitation; and it might be expected that these fears would be acutely revived by the financial strain to which this war may subject the country. That such apprehensions would cause a more or less important return of corporate securities from Europe was naturally to be expected, and in fact has been looked for. But no such movement has appeared to any appreciable extent. The foreign organs of financial opinion, which at times have had much to say about the possibility of the United States drifting upon the silver basis, have had nothing to suggest about that danger being increased by the contingencies of war.

finance; American securities have held their own by the side of the issues of other countries, while Spanish 4s have declined 30 points, and the amount of stocks and bonds returned to the States market has not been at all abnormal in amount.

—Nothing doing in the House this forenoon. Waiting members have plenty of time to talk about the war.

—Another Government fiasco: That of Mr. Harris, as traffic manager of the Intercolonial Railway.

—The Patriot announces that a new, and larger, and stronger, and better winter steamer is to be put on between this Province and the mainland. This is good news. We shall probably soon hear that a vacancy has been made in the representation of East Queen's.

—It is calculated by the Mail and Empire that the increase in the duty on sugar and the reduction of the rate of interest on Post Office savings bank deposits will just about give the government enough to pay for running the Drummond County Railway as a part of the Intercolonial. What the consumers pay and the depositors lose will help to make Mr. Greenshields rich.

—The Conservatives of Ontario lost South Perth because some of the ballots were improperly printed. The St. Mary's Argus, at whose office the ballots were printed, states that the deputy returning officers got a great many more ballots than were required. It would have been easy therefore to throw away the bad ballots and hand out only good ones. It would appear that the Conservative candidate ran up against all the bad ones and that the Liberal candidate was remarkably lucky in avoiding them. The judges have held that these improperly printed ballots cannot be counted, and so Monteith (Con.) is deprived of his majority of five and Moscrip (Lib.) is given the seat by a majority of four. This is properly regarded as nothing short of an outrage in a country which boasts of free and representative government.

Montreal Gazette: Sir Louis Davies unbosomed himself to some extent to a deputation of university professors who waited upon him yesterday to urge the establishment of a marine biological station on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The glimpse he gave of the interior workings of his department offered stronger proof than any the deputation could produce of the necessity for some step such as they recommended. His remarks about political patronage will be appreciated by those who know how long the minister has been persecuted by the hungry office-seekers of his own party, and how he has withstood their onslaughts.

**War News.**

A declaration of war has been made by both houses of the United States Congress.

The British Government has warned all United States and Spanish warships to leave British ports within twenty-four hours, and British subjects are warned not to enlist under either of the fighting nations.

According to despatch boats which have arrived at Key West from the United States fleet, the port of Havana is blockaded; but otherwise the situation is unchanged. Contrary to reports previously received, these boats say that not a shot has been fired by either side.

Capt. General Blanco has published a decree confirming his previous decrees, and declaring the island to be in a state of war. He also annuls his former similar decrees granting pardon to insurgents, and places under martial law all those who are guilty of treason, espionage, crimes against peace or against the independence of the nation, seditious revolts, attacks the form of government or against the authorities, and against those who disturb public order, though only by means of printed matter.

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**UNITED STATES NOTES.**

SIR.—A large proportion of notes now in circulation are American silver dollar and other notes,—I should say at least one-third. The reason for it is that banks and public offices will only take them at one cent on the dollar discount. But at the stores they are taken at facial value when you buy any goods. If you tender a \$5 note in payment, the change is given in American notes. They are thus kept in circulation, as people do not like to have one cent on the dollar shaved off. It is all very well for public offices to refuse to take these notes at the facial value, although it is a nuisance to the travelling public.

Now, a large portion of the profit of banks is derived from keeping these notes in circulation, as interest at the rate of 7 1/2 per cent. is going on the notes the whole time; when they allow American notes to take their place, of course the Yankee banks get the profit on their floating notes.

I would suggest to the banks that it would be in their interests to take these notes at their full value, send them to their agents in the States and get them cashed. By so doing their own notes would be kept in circulation, and I think they would gain by it.

Your obedient servant,  
 BI METALIST.

Charlottetown, April 24.

Oysters on the Half Shell at Joy's



**THE I. O. O. F.**

Will celebrate their 79th Anniversary by a **GRAND OPERATIC ENTERTAINMENT** —IN THE— **Opera - House,** —ON— **Tuesday Evening, April 26th**

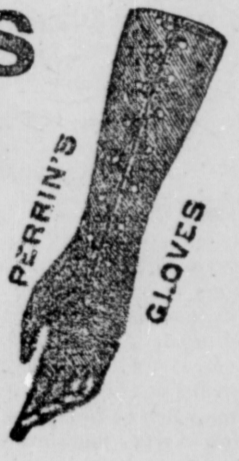
**PROGRAMME.**

- PART I.**  
 Overture.....Vinnicombe's Orchestra  
 1. Operatic Chorus from Cinderella.....with Orchestral Accompaniment  
 2. Living Picture....."g Brethren"  
 3. Baritone Solo.....Selected Mr. J. H. McDonald  
 4. Reading—"In the Addington Aqueduct"  
**Miss Alice Lillian Butcher**  
 5. Vocal Quartette—"The Lovers"  
 6. Character Song.....Koschat Op. 21  
 7. Vocal Solo.....Selected Miss Edna Sinclair.  
 8. Rainbow Dance with Electrical Effects Miss Nora Waddell.  
**PART II.**  
 1. Scene from Opera Robin Hood.....Prof. Vinnicombe.  
 2. Violin Solo....."Call John"  
 3. Comic Quartette—"The Misses Earle and Messrs Moore and C. Earle."  
 4. Reading—"A Sisterly Scheme"  
**Miss Alice Lillian Butcher,**  
 5. String Quartette—"Pastimes on the Levee"  
 The Misses Murphy, Maccahern and Blake, Miss Carroll Accompanist.  
 6. Operatic Chorus...Selections from Erminie  
 7. Living Picture—F. L. T.....  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.**  
 Doors open at 7.40. Entertainment commences at 8.  
 Admission 25 and 35 cents. Plans at usual places on Wednesday 20th at 10 a. m.  
 T. M. WALLER J. F. WHEAR,  
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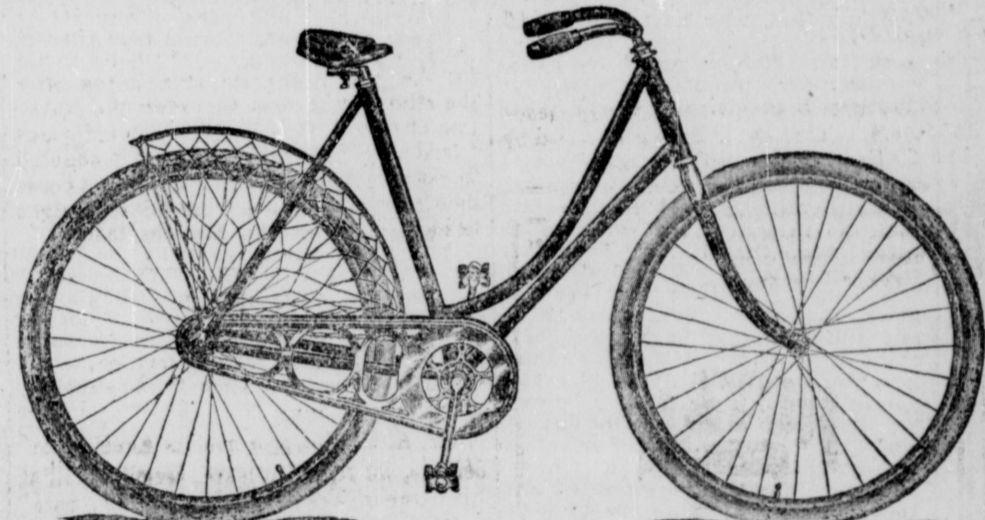
MONTREAL & QUEBEC

—10—  
**SOURIS.**

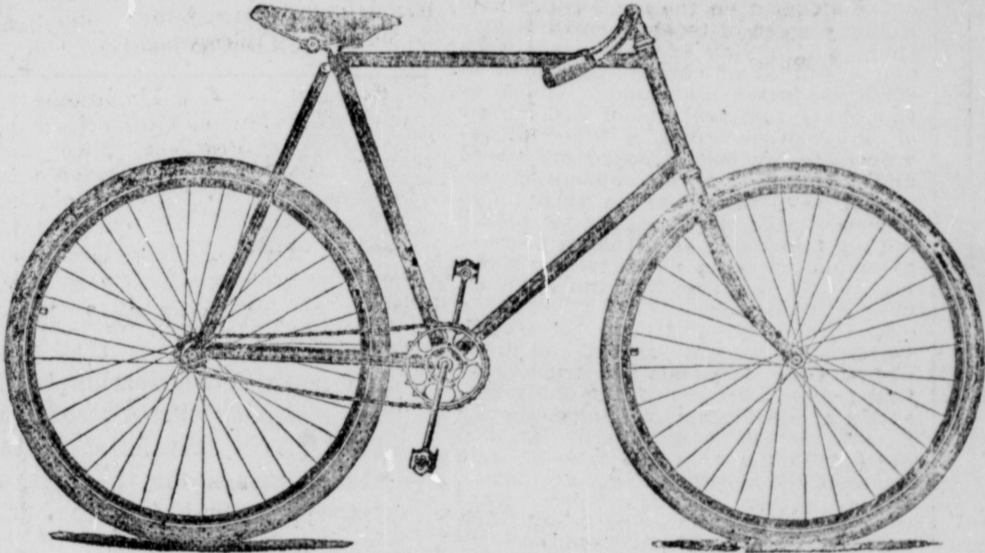
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