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CLEMENTS' GREAT PULL WITH THE GOVERNMENT

While it was pleasing to note in the estimates brought down in the House of Commons at Ottawa on Monday of this week that Prince Rupert and the district of Comox-Atlin were not overlooked, a comparison of the vote this year with that of 1911 under a Liberal Government and with a Liberal representative, Hon. Wm. Templeman, is interesting.

THE NECESSITY FOR AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT

A statement of the expenses incurred by the government in connection with the purchase of the Songhees reserve and the removal of the band to its present home is included in the public accounts for the year ended March 31, 1912, recently presented to the house.

inducing the Songhees to sell the reserve. The amount paid to the Indians for the purchase of the land, improvements, interment, removal of dead, etc., was about \$437,750 on which the commission obtained by these two gentlemen amounted to 24 per cent.

We were all pleased when the vexed question was settled but was it necessary to pay to two people the immense sum of \$105,000, one alone receiving \$75,000? There is no doubt that the services of Mr. Helmcken, for whose memory we have the highest respect, were desirable, if not necessary, owing to the esteem in which he was held by the band but Mr. Helmcken received less than half the amount paid to his colleague.

It is questionable if this transaction has a parallel on the continent with respect to the commission paid on the amount of money involved. Real estate brokers are quite content with 5 per cent.; big underwriting firms handle municipal and government bonds at a commission under one per cent; but in this instance the government paid 24 per cent. on the actual cost of the old reserve and improvements, or 14 per cent. on the value of the old and new reserves, improvements and accounts paid to private and business firms.

Seventy-five thousand dollars to one man! In itself it is a fortune sufficient to bring in a revenue upon which three families could live comfortably. The public accounts volume contains a number of other interesting items, but nothing in the class of this one. Incidentally it suggests the identity of the writer of that mysterious letter to the premier published in the Times on September 23 last. In that letter the writer stated that he considered he had "earned one hundred thousand dollars," and would "accept that amount to complete the work."

PARIS MOTOR BANDITS WERE HEARD IN THEIR OWN DEFENCE

ACCUSED CONFEDERATES OF BLOODY BONNOT MAKE FIERY SPEECHES—COURT TOLERANTLY PERMITS HARANGUES.

Paris, Feb. 7.—The second day's trial of the automobile bandits produced brief passages between the president of the court and the counsel and prisoners, but otherwise there was an absence of incident.

Today's proceedings were occupied with the examination of Dieudonne, Callemine, Monier, Alies, Alies Simentoff. Of the six charges against Dieudonne the most serious is his attempt to murder the bank messenger Gaby in the Rue Ordener.

Callimen, known as Raymond Lascience, because of mathematical studies, is accused of ten crimes, including the murder of Policeman Garnier.

Monier is accused of playing a prominent part in the outrages in the Forest of Senart, where a motor car was stolen after the driver had been shot dead, and in the robbery of the bank at Chantilly, where two cashiers were shot dead.

The three prisoners all made long speeches to the judge and

jury and at frequent intervals had heated altercations with the judge. At times all three spoke at the same time, but President Guinard was tolerant itself, as was shown when he allowed Dieudonne to waste ten minutes of the court's time in a speech on the philosophy of anarchy. Dieudonne, who is a carpenter by trade defended himself with energy.

Monier is a robust and self-confident man and a most voluble talker. Holding a roll of notes in his right hand he delivered interminable speeches to the judge and jury and reporters, accompanying his remarks with expressive gestures.

During the hour he was on his feet he was most anxious to persuade the court he was a maligned citizen and that he was honest and simple and kind hearted. His fellow prisoners were spellbound by his eloquence. They never took their eyes off him, but the judge and jury looked very bored.

BETTER MAKE HASTE WITH CIVIC LOAN

Montreal Advised By Bank to Place It Now, Before War is Over.

The following despatch from Montreal, appearing in a Toronto paper just received, should serve as a valuable tip to Prince Rupert's City Council:

Montreal, Jan. 23.—Montreal has been advised to "do it now" in regard to the placing of the civic loan of \$14,000,000. The regular meeting of the City Council will be held tomorrow, when the question of the \$14,000,000 loan, which the city intends floating on the London market, will come up for discussion. The city has been advised by the Bank of Montreal to close the deal as soon as possible, as it is very likely that after the war in the Balkans is over important operations on the money market will tend to increase the rate of interest, which will probably be

higher than 4 1/2 per cent., at which the city can borrow now. Of the \$14,000,000, \$2,000,000 will be devoted to the improvement and enlargement of the waterworks, and special plans are now being prepared by Mr. Janin, which will be submitted to the aldermen.

F. F. Hanning, formerly manager of the Stewart branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is now acting manager of the recently established branch at 1060 Pandora Street, Victoria.

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THE SALVATION ARMY CITADEL Granville Court Sunday services at 11 a.m., 3 and 8 p.m. Sunday School, 1.30 p.m. Week night services Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. CAPT. AND MRS. TUTTLE Commanding Officers

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D. C. STUART

Accountant 309 2nd Ave. Phone 228 Auditor for the City of Prince Rupert PRINCE RUPERT, B. C.

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Saturday is an Awful Slow Day for Good Stories

—Drawn for The Daily News by "Ho"

