

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1912.

YESTERDAY'S ELECTION.

The Standard said yesterday morning that the best information obtainable the night before indicated a clean sweep of the Province by the candidates favorable to the Fleming Administration. The election is over and the votes counted and in only one county, the small county of Madawaska, have Opposition candidates been elected. Premier Fleming and the policy he represents have been endorsed by practically every constituency in the Province.

It is a wonderful victory and shows that the people appreciate honest government and a progressive policy. Mr. LaBelle, who has a longer continuous service in the House than any other member, and Mr. Copp, the leader of the Opposition, have both gone down to defeat, notwithstanding the assertions of the Telegraph and Times that the policy they stood for was in the interests of the Province. As a matter of fact the Opposition had no policy worthy of the name and the electors no confidence that they would keep a single pledge they made. They were the apologists of the worst Government the Province had ever had, and the electors defeated them having no belief that they would do better in the future than in the past.

The campaign which followed the announcement of the election has been short but strenuous on both sides. The result should cause little surprise. It was evident from the very beginning that the Government were strong in every constituency. For four years they had administered the affairs of the Province in an honest and business-like way. The legislation they had promoted had been of an advanced character and calculated to benefit every class in the community. The revenue had been greatly increased and the expenditures carefully and prudently made. They had laid vouchers before the Accounts Committee for every dollar that was spent and the names of the persons to whom the money was paid. They had put the Valley Railway under construction and had passed legislation to give full development to the natural resources of the country. No scandal of any kind, great or small, attached to the Administration or to any member of it. The Government had a clean record on which to appeal to the people.

The Opposition had no case on which to go to the people. As a consequence the campaign conducted on their behalf was marked by flagrant misrepresentation. The manifesto which Mr. Copp submitted to the electors was the most untruthful document that any political leader ever submitted to any intelligent electorate. From beginning to end it was nothing but a misstatement of facts. It alleged that the permanent debt of the Province had been increased over a million dollars. This statement was absolutely false, but it was kept prominently before the electors during the entire campaign. Another statement made by Mr. Copp regarding the excess revenue received by the present Government from Ottawa was equally untrue, but it was never corrected nor withdrawn but used throughout the campaign for the sole purpose of deceiving the electors.

The Telegraph and Times, which are the principal organs of Mr. Pugsley and the Opposition in this Province, were conspicuous in these misrepresentations throughout the campaign. There was no statement too untruthful for them to make and day after day they submitted to their readers assertions of the most erroneous character which, when attention was called to them, they refused to correct, adding to the original offence by republication at the earliest opportunity. Such journalistic tactics as the Times and Telegraph have been guilty of during this campaign have never been attempted in this Province before and are disgraceful to say the least.

Unable to make out a truthful case against the Government they descended to misrepresentation of the honest and most malicious character in order to place in power men whose record did not entitle them to the support of any respectable elector. The methods of these newspapers have met with a just rebuke from an indignant electorate. Three of the candidates whose cause was espoused by the Telegraph and Times in St. John failed to get enough votes to save their deposits. Both newspapers are thoroughly discredited.

The majority of people in every constituency in this Province like fair play and early in the campaign recognized that the organs of Mr. Pugsley were neither fair nor truthful. It is unnecessary to comment on the efforts of these newspapers to convince the reading public that the Opposition were gaining ground in every constituency and that Mr. Copp would be the next Premier of the Province. The answer of the electors shows their opinions of the Telegraph and Times.

When Mr. Copp was selected for the honorable position of Leader of the Opposition the Standard pointed out his unfitness and the serious straits to which the Liberal party was reduced in being compelled to select a man with a questionable record and whose attainments were not of a high order. The electors of Westmorland and the Province at large have endorsed the judgment of The Standard and re-elected Mr. Copp to private life, denying him the privilege of further wrong-doing in the Legislature. The triumph of the Fleming Government is more complete than any victory ever won by a government in this Province.

A SINGULAR OPPOSITION.

If, as now seems probable, Mr. Dugal, one of the chosen in Madawaska, decides to cast in his lot with the Government, it will leave his Liberal colleague, Mr. Pelletier, in a most enviable position. The case in the Mikado of Pooh Bah as "lord-high-everything-else," is nothing to it.

Mr. Pelletier will not only occupy the position of Leader of the Opposition, but is already marked out as the financial critic of the Government. His acceptance of the important duties of Chief Whip to his party is assured. It is hoped they will not prove too exacting. Meetings in caucus in Room 3, at which Mr. Pelletier will from force of circumstances always attend, will be singularly harmonious next session, and it is confidently predicted that he will be more closely in touch with the rank and file of his party than any previous Liberal leader in the House of Assembly.

The new Leader of Mr. Pugsley's forces will have unique opportunities to make his mark as the most effective debater opposed to the Government. His career as a strong and determined Opposition will be watched with much interest.

THE REPUDIATION OF MR. PUGSLEY.

The result of the Provincial election yesterday means more to Hon. Wm. Pugsley than to any other man in the Province of New Brunswick. It signs his political death warrant. It was only during the present campaign that the full facts concerning the Central Railway have been laid before the people. Many attempts have been made to explain this scandalous transaction, but it remains a monument to Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Tweedie as one of the most disgraceful episodes in the history of the Province. It was nothing more or less than an effort to enrich a few men by exploiting the Provincial credit. Enough money was drawn from the treasury to have constructed the railway from Minto to Chipman and to have carried out the solemn pledge made to the Legislature by both Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Pugsley that this road would be built. The railroad was not built and where the money went to has never yet been properly explained, and it is unlikely it ever will be.

This disgraceful transaction added a million dollars to the permanent debt of the Province. Another million was added by unwise and reckless expenditure in the Public Works Department during the time that Mr. Pugsley was Attorney General of the Province, and which he might have prevented had he so desired. While the Government were spending money on all sides with a lavish hand they were also neglecting to collect the revenue from the Crown Lands. An honest collection of the just dues of the Province would have paid for all the public works expenditures of the old Administration and left a surplus besides. These matters were discussed during the election of 1908 but the complete facts were not then obtainable, and those responsible were deluded into the belief that they would never become public. During the past four years the present Administration have been able to furnish undeniable proof that the accusations they made when in Opposition were mild, compared with the actual facts brought to light since the overthrow of the old Government. Mr. Copp and his followers tried very hard to escape responsibility for the acts of the old Administration, but the people refused to be deceived, and by their votes of yesterday passed condemnation on Mr. Pugsley as well as on Mr. Copp.

When Mr. Pugsley entered Dominion politics he did so with the full consent of the Liberal party backed by a large number of Conservatives, who felt that he was the right man to represent the interests of St. John in the Laurier Administration. For this reason he was allowed to take his seat by acclamation and might have made himself the greatest political factor in New Brunswick. That he failed was his own fault. He first alienated his Conservative supporters and so conducted the internal affairs of the Liberal party as to bring about general dissatisfaction. This dissatisfaction was not confined to the city of St. John but was broadcast throughout the Province. Money was expended lavishly but the party weakened under his control. While in power, with the ability to dispense patronage indiscriminately, Mr. Pugsley was able to hold the control of a large section of his party, but when he was relegated to the Opposition and could no longer hand around good things to pacify the malcontents the revolt against his rule became pronounced. It is notorious that he had the greatest difficulty in controlling party nominations in the constituency he represented at Ottawa.

Mr. Pugsley is a man of unquestioned ability, but his political record is such that it requires a pair of very broad shoulders to sustain it. The burden has proved too great for even Mr. Pugsley to bear. The result of yesterday's election puts an end to his political ambitions. When his present term expires he cannot be re-elected to represent the city of St. John and even the county of Kings which he so long represented in the Legislature has revolted against him. If he continues in Parliament it will be as a representative of some constituency outside the Province of New Brunswick. Apparently convinced that St. John was opposed to him, Mr. Pugsley has been nursing the county of Kings and was directly responsible for the campaign in that county which resulted so disastrously to his candidates. No better evidence is needed than the returns published today to show that as the leader of the Liberal party in New Brunswick Mr. Pugsley's political career has come to an ignominious end.

THE RESULT IN ST. JOHN.

The result in the city of St. John was a genuine surprise to even the oldest politicians who had been engaged in active campaign work for more than a quarter of a century and who thought they knew something of the temper of the constituency. The Telegraph and the Times, with their usual reckless inaccuracy, had been foolishly declaring that St. John, particularly the county of St. John, was Liberal. They are probably convinced by this time that they were mistaken. In past years both the city and county have voted in favor of both political parties, sometimes casting a large majority one way and at the next election reversed the vote by a majority equally as large. If there is any difference in the strength of either political party it favors the Conservatives. In the election of yesterday, the question of party was a minor issue of the campaign, for while the great majority of Conservative electors were in favor of the Administration the results conclusively prove what The Standard has always claimed that hundreds of Liberal voters in this contest would cast their ballots for the Government candidates.

There were good reasons why they should do so. The Administrations of both Mr. Hazen and Mr. Fleming had given the Province honest government for four years. No scandal had occurred since 1908 and the additional revenue that was collected from the Crown Lands furnished convincing proof of the dishonesty of previous Administrations. Besides giving the Province better government than ever before, the present Administration have done more in four years to advance the material interests of St. John than the old Government did during its entire twenty-five years of power.

The construction of the Valley Railroad alone will do more to promote the commercial interests of this city and county than any measure that has passed the Legislature since Confederation. It also corrects the errors of pre-Confederation days and places St. John in the position it should have occupied fifty years ago to control the whole trade of the Province. This fact was recognized by the people generally and no amount of misrepresentation or political quibbling could convince them otherwise.

Another prominent factor in the election of yesterday in the two constituencies was the revolt of a large section of the Liberal party against its present leader. For a considerable period there has been a feeling of unrest among St. John Liberals which had much to do with the result in the last Dominion election, but it only developed its full strength yesterday.

The Liberal machine in St. John had not the wisdom to recognize the strength of this revolt until the campaign opened and an attempt was made to organize for the election. It was only then that the weakness of the party was discovered. Old time workers were absent from their committee meetings; in several wards the party was practically without organization at all, and on election day was unable to man the polls with efficient workers.

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Odd Items From Everywhere.

Edgartown is the only town in Marthas Vineyard that voted for it. Hence this year, but up to the time no one there seems inclined to take advantage of the privilege and no application for a liquor license has been made.

On a farm at Nyon, near Geneva, Switzerland, a pair of linnetts built a nest in a beehive in the spring and have continued to life on the best of terms with the bees. There are now several eggs in the nest and the birds and insects fly in and out, using the common entrance.

BIG GAME TODAY AT 3.30 O'CLOCK

The fast Woodstock team will arrive in this city this morning and on the Marathon grounds at 3.30 o'clock this afternoon will play a game with the Marathons. The game promises to be a closely contested one from start to finish and the Greeks will strive hard to keep up their winning streak.

HOW THE MONEY IS TO BE EXPENDED

Toronto, June 20.—After conferences extending over several months, Hon. Martin Burrell and Hon. James Duff have agreed on Tuesday to have the policy to be followed by the provincial department of agriculture in the expenditure of the federal grant. A check for half the sum of \$175,000 set aside by the Dominion government as a preliminary pledge for the Ontario agricultural department is now being prepared to start work. In fact, have already started, upon the far-reaching plans for rural Ontario the federal grant has made possible.

The erection of a new building at the Ontario Agricultural College, the extension of the work of the district representatives' branch, special work for the improvement of dairying, and of particular interest in view of the onslaught of enthusiastic northerners, these are a few of the ways in which the department is extending its work this year. When C. C. James, who was appointed by the Dominion government as a special commissioner to study the agricultural needs of the various provinces, makes his report, and a definite settled policy of aiding the provinces is framed, the work instituted by the Ontario department of agriculture this season will be carrying on.

A New Building at Guelph. According to the plans made public yesterday by W. Bert Roadhouse, deputy minister of agriculture, forty thousand dollars of this year's grant will be expended in erecting a field husbandry building at the Ontario Agricultural College. This will provide accommodation for the department of husbandry at the college. It will not only furnish much-needed room for the large and growing number of students in long and short courses, but will also give greatly increased facilities for the work in seed improvement carried on in conjunction with 5,000 farmers throughout the province. Another \$10,000 goes as a contribution toward more accommodation for the winter fair held at Ottawa to encourage the livestock industry, while \$10,000 will be expended on special grants for agricultural exhibition buildings, including \$5,000 for Port William and Port Arthur, \$2,500 for London and \$500 for Windsor.

Increasing the Egg Output. For "poultry work" \$10,000 is set aside. To further develop the poultry industry throughout the province it is necessary to extend the equipment at the college to carry on breeding work on a larger scale in order to supply both birds and eggs of the best breeds. Two extra men will be employed, one to devote all his time to the work of the plant and one to do extension work among district representatives. In addition to providing for this assistance, this sum makes provision for a 2,000-egg incubator, a new poultry house and improved teaching accommodation. It also includes a sum to make a study of handling eggs in Great Britain, Denmark, etc., for which purpose Prof. W. R. Graham left for England a few days ago. While there he will also represent Canada at a big international poultry conference in London in July.

Live Stock for the North. The start in establishing an industry for which the north country is admirably suited, but which it has never possessed to any extent, is to be made by means of a grant of \$5,000. This is to provide for placing male animals of various classes at different points in Northern Ontario in order to establish a live stock industry on a proper basis.

The department will spend \$12,500 in purchasing in England a small herd of high-class milking Shorthorns in order to test the possibilities of the development of a class of cattle in Ontario which will be profitable both for beef and milk production. They will be handled almost entirely at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Prof. Geo. E. Day, head of the department of animal husbandry, will leave shortly for England to make the purchase.

To employ competent men to give instruction among those engaged in producing cream for creameries in Western Ontario, \$1,500 is to be spent.

record of the present Government and the disaffection of the rank and file to vote for anyone they nominated. The failure of three out of four candidates to save their deposits is a wholesome lesson to political bosses who attempt to deny a party the right to nominate their candidates.

It will be claimed by the Opposition press today that the result of yesterday's elections was due to the liberal use of money and rum. No amount of money or spread before any St. John newspaper since the beginning of time.

The deposits of the defeated Opposition candidates will be added to the Territorial Revenue. They have taken to the tall timber.

Judging by results, that hoodie fund collected at the Laurier banquet to help the party to redeem New Brunswick didn't amount to thirty cents.

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