POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

KINGS COUNTY IS UP IN ARMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 1.)

premier still insists that the ratepayer shall have no direct say as to how the taxes shall be spent. The policy he enunciates, is, after all, not one of progress, but rather a baited hook, dangled in the hope of turning back to his support some of the many votes that in every district in the county have been pledged by men of influence to the opposition candidates.

One of the most remarkable features of the highway act is to be found in the apologies that are being offered for it on all sides. The government candidates have nothing to say in direct defence of it. They are telling audiences in all parts of the county that it is a bad act, but they do not suggest any improvement. They are unable to say, thus and so will the government deal with this important question, if you return us to power. They have no authority from the government to say to the voters we will do so and so. Each man on the ticket, McAllister, Scovil or Wetmore, has his own pet views as to how the ill-conditioned law should be treated. Dr. McAlister has ventured the opinion that the worse the roads are the better he will be suited but he will find few farmers to follow him along this line of reasoning. The joke is not one to be appreciated by a long suffering public.

In sharp contrast with this display of helpless inability to suggest a cure for the evils that exist on every road in every parish of the county, is the attitude of the coming premier, Mr. J. D. Hazen, and his lieutenants in Kings, Messrs. Jones, Murray and Sproul. The opposition platform in regard to the highways is clear cut. "Put us in power," they say, "and the administration of the roads will be handed back to the municipal councils—to the men who must appeal to you for your support every two years." "If the people of the county pay the taxes, the people of the county should have the control of the expenditure of the money," say the opposition. "The people pay the taxes and will maintain our election machinery with their money," say the government and so it is that the roads have been neglected year after year since the present act came into force. It is a simple proposition that confronts the elector. If you believe that the road monies which are taken out of your pocket should be used to pay men over whom you have no control, and who are government favorites, rather than competent overseers, vote for the government ticket, but if on the other hand, you wish to have a say in the spending of your own hard earned cash, you will vote for the opposition. Which will you have?

In its evil effects the highway act is not a respecter of persons. It bears more heavily perhaps on the farmer, but all classes are ground down by the iniquities of the law. No man is safe on some of the roads after nightfall. The doctor or the clergyman who is called to attend the sick and dying goes forth often at his peril. The man who has his produce to market or his supplies to secure knows not how the trip is to end until he has reached home. The hours and hours that are wasted in moving along some of the ruts that are honored with the name of highways is too well known to all to need special mention here. In its administration of the road law, the government has struck at all classes and by all classes it should be held responsible. It is too late to make promises. Why was not the injustice removed a year ago, when the cry for reform was as loud as it is today?

Having no respect for persons or things, the government has allowed the law to administer itself. Mr. Voter, do you recall the days when no highway act had taken from your direct control the care of your roads? If a bridge washed out or was worn out or your road blocked with snow, was not the defect remedied promptly? You and your neighbor were able to make the necessary repairs or to see that they were made and your road was kept passable. In the winter you turned out and forced a way through drifts and reopened the highway. In those days you could get somewhere. Do you find things so now? How about the bridge that was a source of danger a year ago, is it not in some cases still there? And how about the tracks you follow through fields and woods to get to your home or to your friend's home or to your dealer's? These are the things that have been presented to you by the government that now asks once more for your support. And when the road was bad how many visits did you have from your road commissioner in his eagerness to do the right thing by you and give you the benefit of the services that you paid him so handsomely for. Ask yourself this question and if you can answer that your road commissioner was always at your bidding when you had a just and pressing complaint to offer, you will prove an exception to the rule.

Some Facts About Road Expenditures.

Let us look at the work done by the road commissioners in each of the districts, and the rate of remuneration they received. You know the man who is responsible for the roads in your section of the county and the auditor-general, paid and kept in office by the government of New Brunswick, tells, in his last report, of the salaries paid to the different commissioners and of the taxes paid by you during the year 1906. These figures are the latest available and are supplied by the government.

In district No. 1, which includes the parishes of Westfield, Greenwich and Kars, the amount of money laid out on the roads from the municipal fund was $660.92 and of this total $625 was paid in salary to the road commissioner, Capt. A. L. Peatman. The roads got $35.92 from all the taxes levied on the people during 1906 and Capt. Peatman received $625. Do the men of Westfield, Greenwich and Kars think this is a square deal?

Number 2 district includes two sections of the parish of Rothesay but only in one of them, that presided over by Commissioner Gilliland, is the stipend of the commissioner given. Probably this accounts for the comparatively good showing made in this section, where the municipal grant amounted to $956.63 and the overseer only received $250 or 25 per cent of the total tax. Rothesay is lucky but, as has been observed, only part of the story is told by the auditor-general.

In Springfield, Norton and Kingston, district No. 3, John Muir was the commissioner in 1906 and he did much better than Mr. Gilliland. He was given $1,455.40 by the municipality to expend and his share of the taxes was $625. About one-half went to the commissioner and the taxpayers got the benefit, in the way they do benefit, of the balance.

In Studholm and Havelock, district No. 4, Warren S. Mason, the commissioner, made a hole of $625 in the county grant of $1,600. These two parishes only had to sacrifice about forty per cent of their taxes to pay the commissioner's salary.

They were more lucky than Sussex, Hammond and Waterford, district No. 5, where the taxpayers raised $1,423.04 and the government handed over $625 to John Morrison, the commissioner. This deal only left $798.04 from the people's contribution for use on the roads.

So, is it any wonder that the roads are bad? Look at the entire list above and there is not an argument that can be justly urged in support of a policy which calls for a condition such as exists in every hole and corner of Kings county. But the above figures do not tell all the tale. There is not one of the above mentioned commissioners who has not some other line of business to which he devotes more time than he does to the roads. Does the road commissioner in your district put in six weeks work in the whole year? You will know about how much time the man responsible for the highways in your section spent in your behalf in 1906 and if you give him the benefit of every doubt that may arise and let him have credit for six full weeks, you will find that with the exception of Mr. Gilliland, commissioner for part of the parish of Rothesay, you have been paying him at the rate of $5,000 per annum and what is most galling, you never had a say as to whom your money should go to or as to how it should be laid out.

Possibly a word might be said in regard to the duties of the road commissioner in your parish. Did you notice that he went to work earlier in the morning than you or worked later at night? Did the perspiration roll from his tired brow when the day was declared closed? No doubt he was a most tired man at the end of each week, and crawled home Saturday night thanking heaven for the boon of Sunday, in order that he might rest his weary bones. He felt his responsibilities mightily, as you knew him, and rested not by day or night in order that it might not be said of him that he had not fully earned that salary, at the rate of $5,000 per annum, that was taken from your taxes by the government and handed to him without as much as "by your leave." Why discuss the matter of the commissioner's duties further. You know him full well and are the best judge as to your belief in $5,000 salaries and bad roads. Just one thing, however, these figures are not supplied by the wicked opposition but by the government's auditor-general, who is pronounced by Premier Robinson to be a most trustworthy public servant.

How the People's Money Goes.

The government says, "But we are going to change all this." How are they going to change it and when? The warrants for the year 907 have been issued by the municipal council of Kings, and for one year at least nothing will be done or can be done to improve the roads, except what is being done under the present system. The government road commissioners will be in full control until 1908, and if the Robinson government were returned to power it would probably forget all about the promises now being made. The reform that is most needed at present is to hand back to the county councils the keeping of the roads, and this the opposition say will be done after March 3, by Mr. Hazen. The whole scheme under which money is taken from taxpayers and handed over to political favorites is wrong. It is because of the receipt of the money paid by the taxpayer and spent by the government that the road commissioners of this county are working so hard today for the return of their kind masters—kind with the money that has been taken from every man in this county. Has your road commissioner asked you to sign the nomination paper of one of the government trio? If he has, remember he is being paid for his services as an election agent, with your money. And remembering this don't let Mr. Commissioner dominate your reasoning power. Think for yourself and vote for yourself. If your commissioner has worked as hard on your roads as he is in this election, credit be to him. But first place his industry at this time side by side with that displayed by him in fixing your bridges and clearing your winter roads.

In closing these brief remarks about the roads of Kings county, it may be well to add that from every section of the electoral district, come reports of the expenditure that must come in the near future, in order to place the roads on a good footing, that is to say, in as good condition as they were before the government stepped in with his high salaried commissioners and light labor. The money that will be needed to do this work must be borrowed by the government or raised by direct taxation from the voters of the county. The Robinson government by its extravagance has placed New Brunswick in a position where money cannot be borrowed from the banks. The bonds of the province cannot be sold at a reasonable figure and the return to power of the present administration means that before long direct taxation must be resorted to. A change in government means more economical administration of the affairs of the province and better credit. Consequently, every reasonable argument points to the wisdom of voting for the full opposition tickets

HOW THE SECRET BALLOT WILL ENABLE KINGS CO. TO BEAT A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT

For the first time the secret ballot will be used at this election in the county of Kings. This will enable to exercise their franchise in any way they may see fit, without fear of anybody ever knowing for whom they voted. The day has passed when men can be driven to the polls and made to deposit their ballots at the bidding of the government drivers. It is being said by prominent supporters of the government that the present ballot will answer their purpose as well as the old. What do they mean by this? Is it an intimation that ways that are dark are to be used in the present contest, or is the declaration made in the hope of deluding voters into the belief that the ballot is not a secret one? If the government forces mean to convey the former impression, and the responsibility for the statement is attributed to one of the government candidates, the scrutineers of the opposition will need to keep their eyes open on election day. If the intention is to make voters believe that the ballot is not secret, the announcement may promptly be denounced as a falsehood.

The old ballot was deposited in the open. The party worker could pay so much money for a vote and then follow their voter into the poll and see that the ballot given him was placed in the box. Under the new law the ballots of both parties must be placed on a table which must be concealed behind a screen. When the voter enters the polling booth he will give his name to the returning officer, who will hand him an envelope. The voter then proceeds to the private compartment behind the screen and places his ballot in an envelope, which is then handed back to the returning officer, who will deposit it in the ballot box. The voter may vote the whole ticket of either party, or he may erase the name or names of any candidate or candidates on the other ticket. Erasures must be made with black ink or pencil and any substitute names must be supplied with black ink or black pencil. The opposition is issuing this warning to voters:

"The presiding officer or representatives of either party has no right to watch the deposit of any ballot by a voter, so that it will be impossible for either party to get a line on the way in which any vote is recorded. The fact that the ballot is secret cannot be too strongly impressed on voters. In many of the counties of the province the government party is openboasting that any amount of money will be used in the effort to return the Robinson aggregation to power. A well known Liberal senator, who takes a deep interest in provincial affairs, has told his friends that Hazen will be beaten, if money can beat him. So that there need be no surprise if the cold cash is used extensively in Kings. If it is, it will not have the same result as in former elections. The man who buys a vote has no means of knowing how any man votes and there is no good reason why the voter should not exercise his own discretion and vote as he sees fit, money or no money. If the officials of the government forces use threats or try to bulldoze you, report the matter to the central committee at Sussex and the case will not be allowed to drop."

Opposition supporters say the government candidates in Kings county are not as brave as they might be. Shortly after Messrs. McAllister, Scovil and Wetmore were nominated, Dr. McAllister challenged the opposition forces to a joint meeting. F. M. Sproul received the defi and within an hour accepted it. The conditions laid down by Dr. McAllister were that two candidates from each side should take part. Dr. McAllister was to see one of his fellow candidates and let the other side know more about the meeting. Major O. W. Wetmore was said to be delighted with the prospect of a joint debate and everything was most promising. But the meeting never materialized. The government executive was much exercised over the doctor's indiscretion and after holding an inquest on the remains, declared it a dead one. The idea of Messrs. McAllister and Wetmore meeting Messrs. Murray and Sproul on the stump sent the cold shivers down the spinal columns of the government managers. The news of the calling off of the meeting is a source of great disappointment to the electors of Sussex, who were eagerly looking forward to it. As Dr. McAllister was the man who suggested the debate, the opposition say it looks like a bad case of fright.

SKETCH OF THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES IN KINGS

James A. Murray.

The life history of James A. Murray, one of the opposition candidates in Kings county, is that of a most successful business man and one of the best known figures of commercial life in the maritime provinces. No candidate running in New Brunswick enjoys a wider acquaintance than he, and his friends in the maritime provinces are to be numbered by thousands.

Born in Moncton in 1864, he came to St. John at an early age and entered the employ of that old and reliable firm, Daniel & Boyd. After several years of faithful service with that concern, Mr. Murray entered the office of the general manager of the Intercolonial Railway at Moncton, from which he retired to represent the standard house of Greenshields, Limited, of Montreal, acting in their interests in the maritime provinces until 1896, when Mr. Murray commenced business for himself as a manufacturers' agent and commission broker. He has succeeded in building up the largest business of its kind in the maritime provinces, which compelled him a few years ago to retire from active work on the road and devote his whole time to its management. His connections are among the best in his territory and assisted by a staff of travelers his sales each year mount up into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Every merchant of importance in Eastern Canada knows of James A. Murray and his personal relations with his customers are of the most pleasant nature.

Mr. Murray's life as a resident of Sussex since 1893 is best known to the people of Kings. His wife was Miss Mills, a sister of Mayor Mills, and a member of one of the old and respected families of Kings. The Murray residence is one of the handsomest in the town, situated midway between the Upper and Lower Sussex. When the town was incorporated Mr. Murray was elected alderman at large by acclamation. He served in that capacity at the council board for two terms and was then chosen mayor of Sussex for two successive terms, without opposition. When it became known at the beginning of December that Mr. Murray had decided to retire for the quiet of private life, he was urged again and again to consent to a third term. In religion, he is a member of Chalmers Presbyterian church, of which he is an elder and chairman of the board of trustees as well as superintendent of the Sunday school, and has been one of the most earnest workers in the Presbyterian denomination.

Mr. Murray is a good citizen and has given valuable time to civic affairs. He believes in Sussex and the county of Kings and has left no stone unturned to do his share to making it a progressive centre,

George B. Jones.

George Burpee Jones was born at Belleisle Bay, Kings county, on Jan. 9, 1866. He is the second son of the late Stephen Jones, who married Eliza Erb, daughter of the late Seth Erb, of Kingston, Kings county. The family moved to Apohaqui, where Mr. Jones received his education at the Apohaqui Superior school. At the age of twelve years he entered the employ of the late J. A. Sinnott, who did a large general business. After six years' service with Mr. Sinnott he resigned and accepted the position of general manager for the late Hugh McLean, of Salmon River, Queens county, who did a large general business and was the largest lumber operator on the Salmon River.

In 1888 Mr. Jones married Melissa J., third daughter of the late William Fowler, of Salmon Creek, Sunbury county. In 1889, after four years with Mr. McLean, he bought a small general store and business from David Long, of Apohaqui, where today he has one of the largest and best equipped country stores in the maritime provinces.

Mr. Jones puts great faith in his native county and province. Twelve years ago he began investing every spare dollar in freehold timber limits and last year his firm cut and manufactured 6,000,000 feet of lumber. While Mr. Jones has been very successful in business his success was not attained in easy ways. He has always worked hard and has given his business his personal attention.

He received a severe setback on May 13, 1893, when he lost his store, house, warehouse and barns by the disastrous fire that visited that village and destroyed twenty-one buildings. Mr. Jones was not discouraged but with determination and great faith in the future of the county he rebuilt and today he has a business to be proud of. During the last few years he has built ten comfortable cottages for the convenience of his employes. He has the confidence of all who have had the pleasure of meeting him either in business or social life.

His business integrity and strict sense of honor have won for him a great hold on the people of his native county.

Fred. M. Sproul.

One of the best known men in Kings county is Frederick Millidge Sproul, of Hampton. He has been fighting political battles for a number of years and his opponents know him as one to be reckoned with on the platform or among the people where his personal popularity is great.

Mr. Sproul was born on April 26, 1854, at Portage, then in the parish of Sussex, but now in Cardwell parish, Kings county. His father was the late James W. Sproul, who for thirty years was the deputy sheriff and jailer of Kings county, and his mother, now also dead, was, before marriage, Elizabeth A. Demill.

Mr. Sproul was educated in the Varley school in St. John and the Kings county grammar school at Kingston. On April 11, 1883, he married Miss Dorcas A., daughter of the late Harding Smith, of Barronsfield, Cumberland county (N. S.)

Mr. Sproul was a member of the first municipal council of Kings and was reelected by acclamation every year as councillor for Hampton until 1882, when he removed from the parish. He has always taken a close interest in the affairs of his province and county and is well informed on all public matters. He is a good, forceful platform speaker.

In military matters, Mr. Sproul has taken a good deal of interest. He was first lieutenant in the 8th Princess Louise Hussars and was a member of the Wimbledon team of 1876. He has been a member of the Orange order for thirty-five years, a member of Londonderry Heroes, Lodge No. 91, of Markhamville. He has also been connected with the Masonic fraternity since 1876 as a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 13, Hampton.

TERRIBLE INDICTMENT OF LONDON SWEAT SHOPS

London, Feb. 17 — Father Bernard Vaughan, a brother of the late Cardinal Vaughan, preaching in the Jesuit church here, yesterday, during the course of a powerful plea in behalf of the bill which will come before the House of Commons this week against "sweat shops," gave a graphic illustration of the manner in which the poor workers in the east end of London are compelled to live. In a small room, he said, that ought to be occupied by no more than two persons, there were twelve machines working all day and late in the evening. Then the machines were removed and straw mattresses laid on the floor, men being admitted to sleep. At 2.30 in the morning these men were turned into the street and the room re-let to another lot of sleepers, who were also driven out at 6.30 at the return of the machine workers.

M. W. Brest, night watchman at a Kalamazoo (Mich.) paper mill, recently found a $500 diamond in the refuse from the rag cleaning room.

WOODS AND SLIPP WARMLY RECEIVED

Queens County Opposition Campaign Going With a Grand Swing

MANY AT MEETINGS

Candidates and Other Speakers Present Striking Reasons for Defeat of Government Forces—Cole's Island, Waterbury and Upper Jemseg Meetings.

Cole's Island, N. B., Feb. 15—A large and successful meeting on behalf of the opposition candidates, Messrs. Slipp and Woods, was held in the new hall here on Friday evening last. The hall was crowded and Mr. Woods, the opposition candidate; Burton L. Gerow and John R. Dunn were applauded again and again as they scored point after point against the government. Councillor Vradenbury was elected chairman.

It was Mr. Woods' first speech at Cole's Island, and he was enthusiastically greeted. His speech, lasting one hour and a half, was a masterly one and one of the best ever delivered at Cole's Island, consequently it was listened to with the closest attention. Time and time again he was interrupted by the applause as he discussed the issues of the day. The extravagance of the administration, its disgraceful railway policy, and the great increase of the debt, were thoroughly exposed by him, and when he concluded his address he was given a great ovation.

Mr. Gerow and Mr. Dunn discussed the excessive cost of the school books, and the crown land policy of the government. Mr. Gerow sharply criticized the administration's policy with reference to the Central railway, and the excessive guarantee of the railway company's bonds, while Mr. Dunn punctured the statements of the government as to the alleged good done by its highway act. Both delivered able addresses, and their remarks were frequently applauded. The meeting was brought to a close by cheers for the candidates, Messrs. Slipp and Woods, and the singing of the National anthem.

The feeling around here is very strong against the government. Many prominent government supporters are leaving its ranks to go to the opposition, and the overthrow of Farris and Carpenter seems inevitable.

Waterbury, Feb. 13—A very successful opposition meeting was held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Waterbury, Messrs. Woods and Slipp, the opposition candidates, were both present. It was Mr. Slipp's first appearance before a Waterbury audience, and they gave him and Mr. Woods a rousing reception. The building was crowded and many were turned away. Dr. Earle was appointed chairman.

Mr. Woods spoke first and was heartily applauded as he scored point after point against the present administration. Severely, and without mercy, he criticized the financial policy of the government, and its railway policy. He also discussed the highway act and the injury it was doing to the country.

Mr. Slipp mercilessly scored the government for its attitude with reference to the school books. He pictured in its true colors the extravagance of the government in making the Central railway a sink hole of corruption. The misappropriation of the public funds and the starved condition of the finances, were ably criticized by him. Both candidates received round after round of applause.

A vote of confidence in Mr. Hazen, the leader of the opposition, and in Mr. Woods and Slipp, was passed.

The meeting was, in the opinion of many government and opposition supporters, the largest and most successful ever held in the parish of Waterbury, and an indication of the strong trend of public feeling in this constituency against the government.

One interesting feature in connection with the gathering, was that a musical programme, carried out by the ladies was much enjoyed.

The meeting broke up with rousing cheers for the candidates and the singing of the National anthem.

Upper Jemseg, Feb. 14—An enthusiastic meeting, in the interests of the opposition candidates, Messrs. Slipp and Woods, was held in the Temperance hall, Upper Jemseg, on Thursday evening. Mr. Slipp was not present, but Mr. Woods was on hand and received a very flattering reception. The other speakers were John R. Dunn, Burton L. Gerow, from St. John, and S. L. Peters. The hall was crowded and the addresses were listened to with the deepest interest. Councillor Camp, falsely reported by the St. John newspapers, the Sun and Star, as supporting the government, was the chairman.

Mr. Woods, who spoke first, severely arraigned the general policy of the government. Its reckless evpenditure of the public moneys, and its utter incapacity as an administration, were clearly shown by him in the course of his interesting and able speech. He was enthusiastically cheered at its conclusion.

Mr. Dunn exposed the utter failure of the crown land policy of the government, and the enormous increase of the debt of the province since the advent of the present administration. Numerous instances of favoritism to its supporters were also clearly shown by the speaker, as was also the falsity of the statements made by them as to what had been done in the interests of the people.

Mr. Gerow was also heartily received. Taking up the question of the school books, he proved the fallaciousness of the statements made by the supporters of the administration with reference to the prices of the readers and the other school books. The correctness of the opposition figures as to the prices of the school books in Ontario and Nova Scotia as compared with New Brunswick was fully demonstrated by him to the satisfaction of the audience. The general policy of the opposition was shown in favorable contrast to that of the government, and the point made that it was therefore worth the favorable consideration of the electors.

Mr. Peters in a strong speech exposed the utter failure of the highway act which in itself was a sufficient reason for hurling the government from power.

Morris Scovil also spoke. The meeting closed with enthusiastic cheers for Mr. Hazen and the candidates, and the singing of the National anthem.

CARLETON COUNTY CANDIDATES AGREE ON PURE ELECTION

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Woodstock, N. B., Feb. 17.—The executive committee of the reform society arranged a meeting in the council chamebr this morning between the government and opposition parties for the purpose of procuring the signatures of the six candidates to the resolution which was adopted at the reform society's convention on the 11th inst. The candidates of both parties acquiesced to this proposition and the resolution with their signatures appears now as follows:

"Resolved, that this convention presents to the electors and to the leaders and candidates of the political parties the following resolution for their signatures:

"We, the undersigned, for ourselves and for the political parties or organizations we represent, agree to act in the approaching elections of members to represent the county of Carleton in the house of assembly in the province of New Brunswick, according to the provisions of the election act, and the controverted elections act of the province of New Brunswick and that we will use our influence to prevent bribery and corruption during such election in the county of Carleton and we severally agree that we will not personally aid in any bribery and corruption at such election and we further assert that neither directly or indirectly have we accepted or contributed, nor will we either directly or indirectly accept, subscribe, pay or contribute any funds to be used for corrupt purposes in the conduct of such election.

"Further resolved, that we, the members of this convention, pledge our support to the resolution laid before the convention.

"Further resolved, that this resolution be an agreement binding upon each political party upon the condition that it is signed by the candidates and by at least twenty men representing each party, who shall be named by the leaders of the opposite political party.

"And still further resolved, that in case of either political party failing to accept the above resolution this convention agrees to support that party or those candidates who will pledge themselves unconditionally to the above resolution.

(Signed) "WENDELL P. JONES,
"HARRY H. CARVELL,
"GEORGE W. UPHAM,
"J. K. FLEMMING,
"B. F. SMITH,
"DONALD MUNRO.

Dated Woodstock, N. B., Feb. 17, 1908."

It was then agreed that twenty other names, representatives of the leaders of both parties, would be furnished, who would also sign the above resolution.

It was decided by motion to raise the sum of $1,000, one half to be subscribed by each party to be placed under the control of a committee of five, comprising one government, one opposition, one treasurer and the president and secretary of the reform society for the purpose of prosecuting any violation of the elections act and the controverted elections act in the county elections.

LIBERAL WHIP LOOKS FOR THE DOMINION ELECTIONS THIS FA

Kingston, Ont., Feb. 17—(Special, The annual meeting of Frontenac Reform Association was held on Saturday. In addressing the convention J. McDonald Mowat, provincial organizer, advised Frontenac liberals to prepare for a provincial battle in June. The Dominion election would not be held before next November. Mr. Mowat said the prospects for liberal victory in Ontario were bright, as the independent vote would be on the liberal side this time, as it was with Mr. Whitney three years ago.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE ON THE SCHOOL BOOK QUESTION

The following report of an opposition smoker recently held in Moncton and taken from the Moncton Times contains much timely information on the school book question:

J. W. Y. Smith presided and after calling the meeting to order gave the meeting some facts on the school book question.

Mr Smith said the St. John Sun newspaper and the government candidates had been claiming that the Ontario school books were cheaper this year because they got a cut rate on a special lot, but would be higher next year. Premier Robinson claimed that the cheaper Ontario books were a job lot. Considering the various statements on the school book question Mr. Smith said he had wired to the premier of Ontario as follows:

Moncton, N. B., Feb. 1, 1908.
Hon. J. P. Whitney, premier, Ontario:
Toronto, Ont.

Premier Robinson states that in Ontario first four school readers cheaper than New Brunswick books because Ontario got cut rates on special lot. Is this so? Wire answer.

(Signed) JOHN W. Y. SMITH.
President opposition, Moncton, N. B.

To this Mr. Smith said he had received the following reply:

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 1, 1908.
John W. Y. Smith, president opposition
Moncton, N. B.

No, there was no cut rate. Tenders were advertised for for a number of weeks. A number of tenders were sent in and the lowest tender was accepted.

(Signed) J. P. WHITNEY.

Mr. Smith said he had later sent an editorial taken from the St. John Sun of January 29th, to the premier of Ontario, dealing with the price of school books, and received the following reply:

Toronto, Feb. 6th, 1908.
Department of Education, Ontario.

Dear, Sir,—The minister of education directs me to reply to a letter which has been handed him by the prime minister of Ontario from yourself, accompanied by a copy of the St. John Sun newspaper with an article on text books.

The minister of education desires me to direct your attention to the speech from the throne of the legislature of Ontario yesterday in which the cause of cheaper prices for Ontario reader books is officially declared. This is due to the adoption of the policy of public competition in publishing the books, inaugurated in this province last year. The contract for printing the books was awarded to the lowest tenderer. It is not expected that the prices now charged for reading books, will be increased when a new series is ready for authorization. It is, therefore, the opinion of the minister of education that the statements in the Sun newspaper to the contrary effect are not borne out by the information at the disposal of the government of Ontario.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
A. H. U. COLQUHOUN,
Deputy Minister of Education.

J. W. Y. SMITH, Esq.,
President Opposition Association,
Moncton.

The reference to schools in the speech from the throne in Ontario on Feb. 5th, 1908, reads:

"The large increases in the appropriations for the teachers' salaries, additional normal schools, and various other educational purposes, have received the commendation of the public, and you will be asked now to consider increased appropriations for urban schools. The policy of throwing open the publication of text books to public competition has led to considerable reductions in the prices of school reading books, and it is confidently hoped that reductions in the prices of other books will result from an extension of this policy."

Here, said Mr. Smith, they found a contradiction of all the Sun article on the school book question. The trouble in this province was that two or three parties have to make profit upon the school books before they reach the people. In Ontario the printing [illegible] supplying of the school books, is [illegible] public competition, and the p[illegible] benefit.

Opposition Mass Meeting
OPERA HOUSE,
Friday Next, 21st February
ADDRESSES BY
Messrs. J. D. Hazen
and J. K. Flemming
All citizens invited. A special welcome to the ladies.
Chair taken at 8 p. m.
J. B. M. BAXTER, Chairman. W. H. HARRISON, Sec.

Opposition Ward Meetings
Will be held EVERY EVENING at the Ward Committee Rooms as follows:
KINGS, QUEENS, DUKES and SYDNEY—No. 23 King Street, upstairs.
WELLINGTON and PRINCE—No. 22 Waterloo Street.
DUFFERIN—Fairyland Hall, No. 135 Mill Street.
VICTORIA—Victoria Rink.
LORNE, LANSDOWNE and STANLEY—Temple of Honor Hall, opp. Adelaide Road.
GUYS and BROOKS—'Prentice Boys' Hall, W. E.
All opponents of the Local Government are invited to atte
W. H. HARRISON,
Secretary Opposition Executive Committee