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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1912.

HON. J. K. FLEMMING.

Hon. J. K. Flemming, Premier of New Brunswick, will be the guest of honor at a banquet in this city this evening. Mr. Flemming needs no introduction to the people of St. John. Entering the Legislature in 1900, he has been re-elected at the general elections of 1903 and 1908. For eight years he occupied a seat on the Opposition side of the House and was the chief lieutenant of his party and financial critic of the old Administration. It is not claiming too much for Mr. Flemming to say it was largely owing to his industrious probing into the accounts of the Tweedie Government and to the exposure of their financial methods that brought about their downfall at the elections in March, 1908.

From 1900 to 1908 the Province of New Brunswick suffered under the worst Government since Confederation. Not only were the finances of the Province handled in so loose and unsatisfactory a manner as to cause the people to pay large and unnecessary charges for interest, but every year there was an average of $100,000 added to the permanent debt for expenditures that under an honest administration would have been paid out of ordinary revenue. Not only were the old Government extravagant, but they were so indifferent to the collection of the revenue justly due from the Crown Lands that they failed to get much more than half of that which should have been collected.

The overturn of 1908 placed Mr. Hazen in the saddle as Premier of the Province and he selected Mr. Flemming as his Provincial Secretary, an office he held until October 16, 1911, when the resignation of Mr. Hazen left the office of Premier vacant, an office which Mr. Flemming was called upon to fill. Mr. Grimmer, who had filled the office of Surveyor General so acceptably in the Hazen Government, was selected by Mr. Flemming for the important portfolio of Attorney General. Mr. McLeod, who had been Solicitor General in the Hazen Government, was given the portfolio of Provincial Secretary, Mr. Flemming himself taking that of Surveyor General, a position which has taken first rank in the Cabinet within recent years, and which gives ample scope for the administrative ability of the Premier.

As Provincial Secretary Mr. Flemming showed marked business ability in the re-organization of the financial affairs of the Province after the change of Government. The loose methods of the old Administration, which permitted all sorts of irregularities, were immediately wiped out by the new Government and a system adopted by which a complete check was kept on all receipts and expenditures of Provincial money. Suspense accounts have disappeared entirely under the new system and the annual report of the Auditor General is now a truthful representation of the actual financial condition of the Province; whereas, under the old Administration the report gave only such a representation of the receipts and expenditures as the Government desired to put before the public. A large share of the credit for this changed condition of affairs is due to Mr. Flemming.

During his short term of office as Premier, Mr. Flemming has had to deal with more really important projects than any of his predecessors in that office for many years. Mr. Hazen was a progressive and aggressive leader. The Valley Railway project and the Gibson and Minto Railway were both due to his initiative, but it was left to Mr. Flemming to give practical effect to these two great measures. Mr. Hazen had opened the way for the development of the Gloucester iron mines and by wise legislation had made the gas and oil wells of Albert a commercial proposition. To the legislation passed since Mr. Flemming became Premier is due the opening up of the Albert County shale deposits, which, in a year or more, will result in the erection of a town in Albert County of three or more thousand population within a few miles of Moncton. Mr. Flemming has also passed legislation which will increase immigration into the Province and repopulate many of its deserted farms.

A great deal has been accomplished in the four years that have followed the elections of March, 1908. The financial standing of the Province is better today than at any time in its history. Its revenue has been largely increased through the efforts of the present Administration, and the increase has been wisely expended in improving educational facilities, in the betterment of the roads and in the improvement of the bridges. The grants for agriculture have been doubled and farmers have been shown how they could increase the value of their land and add to their incomes by adopting better methods of farming than formerly employed.

One of the great achievements of the present Government in agricultural development has been the demonstration of the capabilities of this Province for apple culture. While it is true that apples have been grown successfully in many sections of New Brunswick for years, it remained for the present Government to demonstrate that apple culture can be conducted as a commercial success, not only in the St. John River Valley but in many other sections of the Province not previously thought of. The attention which the Government have given to apple culture has caused horticulturists in other sections of Canada to make inquiries for land in New Brunswick suitable for the planting of orchards. Last year, according to the statement of the President of the New Brunswick Horticultural Society, 40,000 apple trees were set out in New Brunswick, and this year 60,000 more will be planted. In two years there has been greater progress in this branch of agriculture than in the previous twenty years. The opening up of the centre of New Brunswick by the Valley Railway, and the improved transportation facilities thereby afforded, will further increase the interest of farmers in this highly profitable branch of agriculture.

Mr. Flemming's important services to the Province entitle him to the recognition which is tendered him today. The persistency with which he has labored to bring about the construction of the Valley Railway, by which one of the oldest and best settled sections of the Province will be afforded transportation facilities long denied, entitles him to a first place in the esteem of all progressive citizens. Not only has he secured the construction of this important railway but the arrangement under which it will be built will not in all probability cost the Province a single dollar. Its construction is undertaken by a company whose bonds are guaranteed to the extent of $35,000 a mile. Three thousand dollars of this guarantee is to remain under the control of the Government for the purpose of meeting any deficiency in the earnings of the railway to pay the interest on the bond guarantee. When constructed the railway will be leased to the Government of Canada and operated as part of the Intercolonial system, the constructing company receiving its rental, forty per cent. of the gross income from the railway. No such favorable terms have ever been made for the construction of a railway in this Province. The credit for this businesslike arrangement is due to Mr. Flemming's business ability.

THE SERVANT GIRL PROBLEM.

Why is it that a man who has no trouble in getting girls to work in his factory is unable to secure a girl to do domestic service in his house at fair wages in addition to free lodging and meals? This question, which deals with an important phase of the servant girl problem common in most communities, is answered with some instructive detail in the annual report of the New York Commissioner of Licences. He declares the principal reason that girls prefer to work in factories and even sweat shops at a less wage than they could get as domestic servants is because they desire their independence.

Following up the subject the Commissioner submits the following list of reasons given by him as agreed upon by employment agencies:

(1) Every girl who works likes Sundays off. Sunday is the day a servant must work hardest.

(2) Servants can have no callers, or at least callers are frowned upon by the employers. In apartment houses the servant cannot have her acquaintances or relatives call upon her.

(3) A servant's work never ends. She has no freedom; no time of her own.

(4) Girls in factories can sing together sometimes while at work and flock together socially at night, but a servant is always lonesome.

(5) The immigrant girl or "green" girl wants to be with her relatives or friends as much as possible and at least to spend her evenings with them. At domestic service she gets homesick.

(6) Employers give no consideration to the social instincts of their servants. They believe servants have no business having social instincts.

(7) Household service is too menial and undignified. A girl may work anywhere else and call herself a lady. She may be a saleslady or hold a position with a firm (even if she works in a factory), but in a household there is only one lady and she is the employer. The servant is just a servant.

It is a significant fact that in the city of New York there are vacancies for 100,000 domestic servants which cannot be filled. The question of higher wages is not to any extent a factor in the situation. The report states that there has not been a marked increase in wages this year over last, largely because many women refuse to do housework at any price. It would seem that the servant girl problem has come to stay.

THE SINS OF THE FATHERS.

An incidental remark by Mr. Lloyd George, in his speech on the Bill to Disestablish the Church in Wales, has provoked an amusing and somewhat instructive controversy in England on the merits of a descendant's responsibility for the sins of his fathers. In the course of the debate Lord Hugh Cecil had protested that it was something like "sacrilege" to lay a hand upon the temporal possessions of the Church, and Mr. Lloyd George retorted that the Cecil family had not always objected to grants of Church property. The allusion was, of course, to gifts of priories and ecclesiastical manors to the Cecils in the sixteenth century.

Both Lord Hugh and Lord Robert Cecil asserted that none of this property had descended to them, but they were promptly called to book by Professor Pollard of Oxford, with citations from the "Papers" of Henry VIII. As Lord Robert had observed that Mr. Pollard's views were "astonishing even in a professor," the professor was seemingly justified in retorting that Lord Robert's idea of evidence was "astonishing even for a lawyer."

It was Lord Hugh, however, who had the last word, and displayed the family talent for controversy by declaring that it was absurd to hold that "remote descendants are precluded from censuring immoralities which resemble those by which their ancestors benefited." He wound up pungently: "Suppose that Mr. Churchill denounced in the House of Commons some transaction as corrupt, would it be anything but childish and ill-mannered to reply that it was too late for him to talk about corruption because the great Duke of Marlborough made illicit profits on army contracts, and Lord Sunderland freely accepted bribes? I am surprised that a man in Professor Pollard's position should be so foolish. He might as well pick a pocket and then complain that the policeman who arrested him was descended from Robin Hood."

THE LATE JUDGE MABEE'S WAY.

The late Judge Mabee had a way of looking after humble litigants which might be very generally imitated. The Ottawa Free Press recalls an instance when a widow wrote to him protesting that a railway was expropriating the only means of egress from her property. When the day came for adjusting the case, the woman was not represented. The railway counsel anticipated no difficulty.

"But, see here," said Mr. Mabee, "the land you are taking includes the only means of egress which this widow possesses. And I don't propose to stand for it."

Counsel for the railway gasped: "Why, that's to be the site of our station," he exclaimed.

"No, it's not," said the chairman.

"But we are going to put our station there," reiterated the man of law, who could hardly comprehend anyone interfering with such a sacred thing as a station site.

"Would giving this woman a safe means of egress involve moving your station?" asked the commissioner.

"Yes, and——"

"Then move it. She was there before you were."

They did.

Current Comment

(Toronto Weekly Sun.)

The cost of our militia service in 1910, exclusive of armories and the civil branch represented by the department itself was almost the even $6,000,000. Of this total $1,381,000 was spent on the permanent force. This leaves $4,619,000 as the cost of staff and of the 25,000 men who were drilled for two weeks in the year. This figures out at about $180 a man. That seems a fairly high price to pay for very little drill.

(Bangor News.)

We learn from the Boston Post that the Woodrow Wilson campaign money, far from being tainted by trust associations, "continues to come from the Sunday schools and orphan asylums." That being the case, those worthy institutions must be subjected to a heavy drain. It has been intimated that they are the sources of the Roosevelt campaign funds too.

(Portland Argus.)

In Ohio, the President's home State, the Taft-Roosevelt campaign should reach its climax. By way of variety the contestants might engage in joint debate, with policemen on the side to keep the President of the United States and the ex-President of the United States from physically assaulting each other.

(Greenwood Ledge.)

The man who complains the most in a hotel is the man who has the least at home.

The Poets' Column

PLEASE USE LITTLE WORDS.

The following two remarkable sonnets, which are rich alike in sentiment and expression—though containing no word longer than one syllable—were contributed some years ago to the Princeton Review, by Dr. J. Addison Alexander.

Think not that strength lies in the big
round word,
Or that the brief and plain must
needs be weak.
To whom can this be true who once
has heard
The cry for help, the tongue that all
men speak,
When want, or woe, or fear is in the
throat,
So that each word gasped out is like
a shriek
Pressed from the sore heart, or a
strange wild note
Sung by some fay or fiend? There is
a strength
Which dies if stretched too far or
spun too fine,
Which has more height than
breadth, more depth than length.
Let but this force of thought and
speech be mine,
And he that will may take the sleek
fat phrase
Which glows and burns not, though it
gleam and shine—
Light, but no heat—a flash, but not
a blaze!

Nor is it mere strength that the short
word boasts:
It serves of more than fight or storm
to tell,
The roar of waves that dash on rock-
bound coasts,
The crash of tall trees when the
wild winds swell,
The roar of guns, the groans of men
that die
On blood-stained fields. It has a
voice as well
For them that far off on their sick-
beds lie;
For them that weep, for them that
mourn the dead;
For them that laugh and dance and
clap the hand;
For joy's quick step, as well as grief's
slow tread,
The sweet, plain words we learnt at
first keep time,
And though the theme be sad, or
gay, or grand,
With each, with all, these may be
made to chime,
In thought, or speech, or song, in
prose or rhyme.

A WAIL.

I used to have a-many friends,
So eminent and wise,
They greeted me with happy smiles
With sweet, seductive eyes,
They grasped my big and honest hand
With fervency supreme,
And led me to the Club, Alas!
It was a happy dream.

A hundred Statesmen waved their
hands
When I was driving by,
A hundred pretty matrons smiled
(Excuse this tearful sigh.)
The little children, sailing boats
In every tiny ditch,
Remarked: "That's Rantom Boggleby.
Oh, gee, he's awful rich."

I had to be the Chairman if
A meeting was in sight,
I gave subscriptions to the church
With manifest delight.
I went to dinner with the great,
To luncheon with the strong,
And life for me appeared to be
One grand, unending song.

But now, alack, my friends are fled.
The men I used to know
Are Priests and Levites. When I pass
Across the street they go.
I have to BUY my dinners now
Like any other dub,
And seldom do I get inside
The big exclusive Club.

Ah, once I swam in happiness,
I breathed the airs of bliss,
Today I haven't any friends,
The joys of life I miss.
I feel as lonely as a clam,
As grouchy as an actor,
And Ottawa is cold to me,
For I'm a Grit Contractor.
—Toronto News.

"IT ISN'T WHAT YOU WERE."

It isn't what you were, but what you
are
And furthermore, It's "what you're go-
ing to be."
Never mind about the title of your pa
But, dig a grave and plant your pedi-
gree.

Now you've hit this land of freedom,
where the overalls are worn
Where every man is "just a man," no
matter where he's born;
Never mind about your lineage, wheth-
er baronet or peer,
For in the land of freedom you are
judged by what you rear.

You'll find a pair of overalls are get-
ting cold for you
So put 'em on and dig right in, there's
lots of work to do
The way to get an appetite for the
"flap jacks" and the "mush"
Is "jest to sink yer sentiments," keep
plodding on, and "push."

For, it isn't what you were, but, what
you are,
And, furthermore, it's "what you're go-
ing to be,"
Never mind about the title of your pa
But, dig a grave and plant your pedi-
gree!

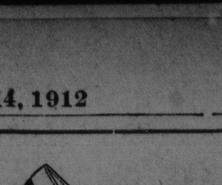
ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY ROAD.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting
day,
The lowing herds wind slowly o'er
the lea,
The plowman homward rides, and on
the way,
He gaily toots his auto horn at me.
—Chicago Record-Herald.

The boast of limousine and much
horsepower.
And all that engine and magneto
spell,
Await like the inevitable hour—
The paths of speeding lead you to
the cell.—New York Mail.

Here lies his head upon the lap of
earth,
A youth to fortune and to fame
unknown;
The auto hit him for all it was worth,
And then sped on and left him here
alone.—Houston Post.

Haply some hoary-headed swain may
say:
"I seen him when he passed and
noticed how
"He seemed to want to hurry on his
way—
"I got his number, but forgit it
now,"—Chicago Record-Herald.



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PERSONAL.

Miss Manning and Miss Sadie Manning, of Moncton, N. B., are the guests of Mrs. C. A. Rutherford, Carmarthen street.

Hon. J. K. Flemming came to the city last evening.

C. W. Cowles, of New York, one of the directors of the Pejebscot Lumber Company, was in the city yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Peters, of St. John, are in New York for a pleasure trip and are staying at the Hotel Astor, Times Square. While there they will visit many of the places of interest in and around the city and will make a trip to Atlantic City.

Most Anything

Generous Papa.

"Tommy, if you'll saw some wood I'll tell you what I'll do."

"What's that, dad?"

"I'll let you have the sawdust to play circus with."

A Sign.

"Have you proposed yet to that North Side girl?"

"I can't seem to get a chance."

"Can't get a chance, eh? Better turn your attention elsewhere then. If your girl wished it, you would get a chance all right enough."—Pittsburg Post.

Fell.

Lippincott's:—Mrs. Murphy:—So your son Dinnis fell from his aeroplane? Sure Oi thought he was learnin' to fly in a corrispindence school.

Mrs. Casey:—He was, but he sthopped short in the middle of a lesson.

Not Quite Clear.

Los Angeles Express:—"I can understand spreadeagle tactics, but here's something I can't understand."

"What's that?"

"Why should a Congressman arguing for an appropriation to dredge a creek, speak bitterly about the crowned heads of Europe?"

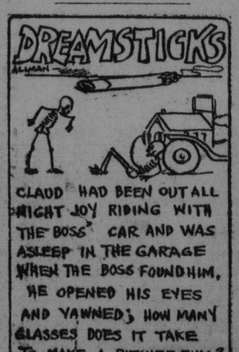
A Pending Divorce.

"If you remember, Wombat was married just a year ago."

"I remember."

"We ought to remember the anniversary in some way. Yes; just a year ago the wedding cards were out."

"Forget it. The wedding cards are being shuffled for a new deal."



Skin Disorders In the Spring

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Mr. John A. Creech, postmaster, Randwick, Simcoe county, Ont., writes: "I was a great sufferer from eczema or salt rheum. My hands and face were covered with itching skin eruptions and though I used many different remedies I could get no relief. Finally I was recommended to try Dr. Chase's Ointment and am thankful to say that it has completely cured me. You may publish this for the benefit of others suffering as I did."

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