

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

BUSINESS-LIKE GOVERNMENT.

Good Roads.
After the War Land Settlements.
Technical Education.
Crown Lands Classification.
Revision of Mining Laws.
Cheap Power.
Prohibition.
Aggressive Immigration Policy.
Valley Railway Completion.
Improved Workmen's Compensation Act.

These are some of the planks in the platform of the Murray Government. Don't they appeal to you as good business?

THE ELECTION ISSUES.

In this campaign the electors of New Brunswick face a clear-cut issue. On one side stands the Murray Government with its definite and direct policy on questions of vital importance to the province, its record of good administration and its proven ability to implement every pledge made. On the other is the opposition party with Mr. Walter E. Foster as its titular leader, while lurking just behind him are the heirs and assigns of the administration which held office prior to 1908, an administration that Hon. C. W. Robinson himself characterized in a speech in Moncton as "broken-down, spavined and knocked."

The opposition cannot assail the Government on its administrative record. They are unable to point to one case where a member of the Government has done wrong, or where a cent of public money has been lost to the province. On the contrary, Hon. C. W. Robinson, again in his Moncton speech, admitted that the Government had largely increased the collections from crown lands.

The Government has given an honest accounting for every cent collected. The public services show for themselves that the expenditures have been wise and in the interest of the province. Every cent of current expenditure has been met with current revenue, there has been no bonding for overdrafts as was the case with the former administration, and while the public debt of the province has been slightly increased, yet every dollar added to that debt has gone for permanent improvements or to pay legacies bequeathed by the administration headed by Mr. Robinson himself.

Thus, as to the record of the two parties there is no comparison. On one hand we have clean, aggressive administration with honest collection and wise expenditure; on the other we have the shameful record of the days prior to 1908, when the politicians played ducks and drakes with the finances of the province in the interests of themselves and their favorites. Asked to judge between the clean record of Premier Murray and his associates and the shameful story of the old gang there is but one answer the electors can honestly make.

Not only is the opposition party unfortunate in its record, but it has no policy upon which it can hope to successfully appeal to an intelligent electorate. Let us briefly consider the leading planks in its so-called platform and compare its promises with the things the present Government have either accomplished or else have well under way.

First, as to roads: The oppositionists pledge themselves to take the roads out of politics. This is a distinct confession of lack of faith in their own ability to frame a road policy and put it into effect. They would appoint a commission, with no indication as to its scope or powers, and delegate to it charge of the public highways—clearly a matter that should be under the most direct sort of government control and for the good administration of which the government and its responsible ministers should be held to account.

In striking contrast to this is Hon. B. Frank Smith's proposal. The Minister of Public Works has announced

a plan by which at least half a million dollars will be available for permanent roads and these roads will be paid for, not by the farmer for whom good roads are one of the necessities of life—but by the man who owns his automobile and uses the roads as avenues of pleasure and recreation. In other words, the Murray Government propose to give the province good roads while the men who can best afford it bear the cost—clearly a policy in the distinct interests of the people. Having built good roads the next thing is to maintain them. This, the Government proposes to do by means of a patrol system—a system that has given the greatest satisfaction in England and wherever else it has been adopted. This is the business-like policy. The opposition, in their nondescript platform, have nothing to compare with it.

Another matter in which the opposition have signally failed to meet public opinion is that of prohibition. The Government has a prohibition act on the statute books and ready for operation on May 1st—nine weeks after election day—and it is well known that the enforcement of that act will be placed in the hands of an official in hearty sympathy with it and with its purposes. The opposition stand definitely pledged to a referendum with its various delays and the very best they promise is a prohibitory law by July 15th, 1918. Thus, for prohibitionists to vote against the Murray Government means to postpone the coming of prohibition by at least fourteen months and a half. Mr. Foster and the newspapers supporting his party may try to evade that matter as much as they can, but the facts are there—set out openly in the opposition platform and cannot be denied.

The Government pledges itself to introduce technical education and to make provision on the public lands of the province for such returned soldiers as may wish to engage in agricultural pursuits. The opposition has no such policy.

The Government has already improved the public book-keeping of the province and today there is in effect a system by which there is a daily audit in every department. The opposition proposes nothing better.

The Government has vastly increased the territorial revenue of the province and has now underway an accurate and scientific classification of all crown lands with a view to determining exactly what areas are suitable for agricultural purposes.

The opposition does not trust itself to deal with crown lands at all, but advocates the appointment of a commission—thus delegating to irresponsible outsiders a duty which should be performed by a department of the government, under the direction of a minister responsible to the people.

The people will not approve of that sort of platform. If the most important departments of the province are to be administered under the opposition by a system of commissions, what is the reason for an administration at all? What is the excuse for Mr. P. J. Sweeney who, it is reported, is to be Minister of Lands and Mines, if he is to have no authority and no responsibility? Why bother voting to elect Mr. Walter E. Foster or Mr. Bentley, or Mr. Osman, or Mr. Tweeddale if the Department of Public Works is to be administered by a commission? It will not do. The people of this province want responsible government by men not afraid to face the duties confronting them, by men of thought and vision, not by a party composed either of political buccaners or self-confessed amateurs whose wish it is either to exploit or experiment. New Brunswick demands a business government by business men, and it is just that sort of administration Premier Murray and his associates propose to supply and in which they will have the hearty endorsement and approval of the entire province. The people want the business of the province transacted in a business way and the Murray Government will do it.

THE CAMPAIGN.

The second week of the provincial election campaign has opened very favorably for the Government. Saturday's conventions brought more strong candidates into the field in support of Premier Murray's energetic administration. On the other hand the selections made by the opposition have not added to its strength. In several constituencies men who might have made dangerous opponents, men of much personal popularity and strong local influence have refused to be associated with the group of discredited politicians who constitute the real leaders of the opposition party and the candidate seekers have been forced to fall back upon weaker material for their sacrifices.

The Government nominees have been named in every constituency in the province with the exception of St. John city, which will select its candidates tonight. The fine class of men chosen where vacancies existed in the representation is a source of much gratification to Premier Murray and his associates; there has been no difficulty in securing as candidates the leading men in the various constituencies and in this regard the Government has been much more fortunate than its opponents. For reasons that will readily suggest themselves the better class of representative Liberals in New Brunswick have shown a strong disinclination to associate themselves with the opposition and despite the best efforts of their organizers and agents they have met with very poor success in securing as standard-bearers men in whom the electors have confidence.

This fact makes the position of Mr. Leader Foster particularly unenviable. So many members and active supporters of the old gang have forced their way to the front rank of the opposition that the people by this time have realized that a victory for the opposition will mean a return to the days of suspense accounts and overdrafts, of financial kite-flying and "juggled surpluses," of tree-choked roads and rotten bridges, of an agricultural department administered as in the days of Mr. Commissioner Faris when the entire plant consisted of a few postage stamps, a picture of a horse and an engraving of the late lamented Queen Victoria, of diminished territorial revenues and a general period of inaction and depression. New Brunswick has had development and prosperity since 1908. The people are delighted with the advances made in all departments of public effort. They want no departure from these conditions and, on February 24th, will see to it that there is none.

As it stands today it can truthfully be stated that there is not one constituency in New Brunswick upon which Opposition Leader Foster can place his finger and say "there we have a chance of winning."

Now that China has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany the Teutons' plans are likely to go rapidly to smash.

THIRTEEN DEAD IN HOTEL FIRE

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 12.—At least thirteen persons were believed to have lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the Kenwood Hotel, a four story building, early today. One woman jumped to her death from the third floor. Police and fire department officials believe that nearly a score of persons were precipitated into the basement by crumbling floors and buried under the debris.

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Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

Yesterday afternoon Ed Wernick came around with a funny looking black bug in a sear box, saying, look out, don't touch it, you don't know what this is.

Wat is it? I sed.
It's a gow fee, sed Ed Wernick, and I sed, Wat are they? and he sed, A gow fee is a Chinese lucky bug, my uncle brant this gow fee all the way from China and he had to climb up a grate big high mountain full of wild beasts to catch it, and my uncle sed there's only about 100 gow fees in China and whoever has one will be lucky all the rest of his life and get everything he wishes for, providing he don't wish for to much.

G, wat are you going to wish for? I sed.
I don't know yet, sed Ed Wernick, I get everything I want without a gow fee, I'm going to sell this gow fee if anybody awfers me enuff for it.

G, I'll give you a sent for it, I sed.

Haw, a sent, wat do you take me for, G, a sent for a gow fee, sed Ed Wernick.

I'll give you 2 sents for it, 2 cents is all I got, I sed. And Ed Wernick thawt a while and then he sold it to me for 2 sents, including the sear box, and I took it home thinking of things to wish for, and I showed it to pop, saying, Wunt to see a gow fee, pop?

I wunt to see all sents of things but this happens to be a common ordinary beetle, sed pop. And after suppr I went around to Ed Wernicks house and his mother sed he was out, and I sed, Is his uncle heer?

Wat uncle? sed Mrs. Wernick, and I sed, His uncle from China. He has no uncle from China or enyware elts, sed Mrs. Wernick. Proving that enybody that expects to get everything they wish for is pritty lucky if they do it for 2 sents.

MAJOR TILLEY HAS RESIGNED POSITION

All Salary He Received Was Turned Over to Patriotic Fund, Along With Personal Subscriptions.

(The Globe.)

When the Globe today asked Major Tilley if he had any answer to make to the statement of the Telegraph this morning that Major Tilley, with \$250 a month and expenses, as Director of National Service, ought to retire from politics or from the other position, he smilingly answered: "Major Tilley is not a director of National Service." When questioned further, Major Tilley said, although he felt there was no legal objection to a member of the legislature discharging such a duty to the country as was involved in National Service work, he had retired from that board in view of the criticism levelled at him by the late Minister of Public Works.

Major Tilley said he had long ago placed his services at the call of the

government and for many months had given much time to recruiting, turning over to the Patriotic Fund all the salary received, more than \$1,000 in addition to purely personal subscriptions. The time and attention given to this work had been at the sacrifice of his personal business, and when the Directorship of National Service was offered him he accepted it continuing to make a monthly payment to the Patriotic Fund. In his opinion, he had done nothing which could be fairly challenged as a violation of his right, but since political opponents not unduly conspicuous in patriotic activities had challenged it, he had relinquished the work and was again a private citizen.

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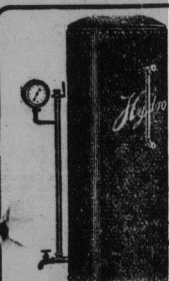
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