

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1908

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ROBINSON'S RESCUE IN PROVINCIAL FIGHT

Interference from Ottawa in New Brunswick Contest.

Office Holders Forced to Become Local Government Candidates and Promises of Reward Held Out to Unwilling Victims--The Cases of Sears, Allen and W. D. Carter Brought Up by O. S. Crockett.

Ottawa, Feb. 13--The provincial elections of New Brunswick engaged the attention of the house today. The matter was brought up by Mr. Crockett who was supported by Dr. Daniel, Mr. Fowler and others. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Lemieux, Mr. Emerson and Mr. Logan were among the speakers on the other side.

On motion to go into supply, Mr. Crockett, in a little over a half hour speech, made it somewhat lively for the government and their supporters. Mr. Crockett said in part: It is well known, Mr. Speaker, that when the Hon. Wm. Pugsley ceased his exploitation of the government of New Brunswick a few months ago to turn his attention to the larger opportunities which this government affords, that he left in that province a government so thoroughly discredited that very few who had formerly supported it would give it any countenance, and that men of capacity and reputation could not be induced to join it.

These are two flagrant instances of the most unseemly use of federal patronage for the purpose of influencing provincial politics. In the county of Kent, also, a federal government employee has been induced to accept a nomination as a provincial candidate. Mr. W. D. Carter, who had the position of Indian agent at Richibucto, has been induced to resign his position to become a candidate. Not only, however, with reference to these matters, has this government offended in an endeavor to control the government of New Brunswick, but we find, by reference to the auditor general's report that members of the local legislature are regularly fed by this government in violation of the statutory law of the province of New Brunswick.

Mr. A. B. Copp, the local Liberal candidate in the county of Westmorland, and Liberal organizer for the province, is down in the auditor general's report for services performed for a department of this government from Aug. 1, 1906, \$221.94; attendance at office, 36 days at \$25; making a report, \$30; stenographers fees, \$35; witness fees, \$1.15; stationery, \$1; telegrams and telephone messages, \$8.20; law charges in 1905-6, \$200; total, \$1,096.69.

It is not my purpose at the present time to criticize the due or undue largeness in the scale of remuneration which was fixed for Mr. Copp; although, in view of the nature of the services which Mr. Copp and his fellow Liberals in the province of New Brunswick indulged in reference to the payment by a former Conservative government of men of eminence and reputation in the country for enquiries into matters of the most vital concern to the people of this country at the rate of \$10 a day, I think it is not amiss to say that the scale that has been fixed for Mr. Copp has been rather liberal. But it is not in that aspect that I propose particularly to criticize this payment to Mr. Copp. It is, as I have said, because it is an express violation of the statute law of the province of New Brunswick as tending to the destruction of that principle of which our honorable friends on the other side of the house profess to be guardian angels, when in opposition.

Notwithstanding the explicit provision of that section, we have the printed record in the auditor general's report of this government's complexity and duplicity in the violation of a statute law of New Brunswick. Mr. Copp has been a member of the local legislature of New Brunswick for the last five sessions, and sat in the house after receiving these payments in violation of that statute. He is standing openly as a candidate in the county of Westmorland. Section 20 of the same act provides: "No person disqualified by this chapter, or by any other law, to be elected a member of the legislative assembly shall sit or vote in the same while he remains under such disqualification. If any person by this chapter is made ineligible as a member of or declared incapable of sitting or voting in the legislative assembly, sits or votes therein while he is so incapable or ineligible he shall thereby forfeit the sum of \$200 for every day on which he so sits or votes."

How significant is it of the faithfulness of the Liberal party to the principles which they so loudly professed when in opposition, that they have appointed as their organizer in the province of New Brunswick, for the purpose of directing a campaign for the triumph of Liberal principles, Mr. A. B. Copp, who stands convicted of a violation of the statute law

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS News and Opinions Concerning the Approaching Contest in This Province.

Mr. Hazen and Other Opposition Speakers Evoke Great Enthusiasm in Memramcook--Charlotte Solid for Opposition --Clean Election in York--No Party Lines in Queens.

Memramcook, N. B., Feb. 13--The large C. M. B. A. hall here was crowded beyond its capacity tonight to hear J. D. Hazen, leader of the opposition; Messrs. Melanson and Black, opposition candidates, and others. For nearly three hours the elections remained standing, crowding every inch of space and giving strict attention to everything that was said on the political issue of the day.

The meeting was probably the finest that had here a few nights ago by the opposition ever held here in point of argument and frequency of applause. The body of electors manifested a marked degree of great wave of feeling in this parish against the present administration, and upon the platform, besides the speakers, were many prominent electors of the county. The speakers were F. B. Black, J. D. Hazen, leader of the opposition, and A. J. Legere, a rising young barrister of Moncton, whose home is in Memramcook. The questions upon which the electors will decide upon March 3 are: (1) the proposed highway act; (2) the proposed railway act; (3) the proposed school act; (4) the proposed municipal act; (5) the proposed provincial act.

Mr. Black, who spoke first, received a fine reception. He dealt with the cost of government, showing the increased revenues and starved services of the county as seen in the deplorable condition of the highways, the condition in which the province generally. He referred to different highways upon which the government gave liberal grants, but which were receiving no money whatever in different parts of the province. He pointed out that the school book question, the management of the government, and the maladministration of affairs of the province generally. He referred to different highways upon which the government gave liberal grants, but which were receiving no money whatever in different parts of the province.

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a country so well adapted. The only reason he gave for its not being completed was the increase of wages and cost of living. Hemlock stringers had been used in the bridges instead of pine. The railway was worth \$180,000. The rails, fish-plates, etc., would cost three times as much as the Central were almost entirely taken up with the advantage the road had been and would be to this section of the country. Yet he, strange to say, failed to say anything about its extension from Minto to Gibson or criticism Premier Robinson's statement by the house of assembly last year on the budget debates, that now there was no need for the extension. Yet he pictured the future profits in glowing colors. The earnings would be \$60,000 per year, and the probable income to the government in royalties \$15,000 per year, on coal hauled over the road. It was not mentioned that greater profits and increased royalties would result from the extension. He did not deny or admit that Messrs. Slipp and Woods were in favor of the operation and extension of the Central railway to Gibson.

He admitted the roads of the province were not in good condition, this disagreement with the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Farris, on the floor of the house the session before last, viz.: "As for the highway act, it is growing in popularity as it becomes understood. In Queens county, where a protest was raised against it last year, no protest was raised in its denunciation this year at the county council board" and with Mr. Carpenter's expressed approval of the road act, no later than last October, when he said that the act was working well and that the roads in Queens were in good condition.

The senator went on to say that some of the money may have been squandered and some of the commissioners may have been had in pocket. Senator King evidently does not approve of the attempt of Hon. Mr. Pugsley, Premier Robinson and others to have this provincial election run on federal party lines, as at the close he frankly admitted the right of all voters in this contest to cast their ballots according to their best judgment on the provincial issues, solely and entirely independent of domination party lines.

Indeed several leading Liberals in this parish had already taken proper view of the matter, and enlisted with the opposition workers, determined for a change in the administration at Fredericton. These men, Liberals of the old school, with no personal ends to serve by the continuance of Messrs. Farris and Carpenter in power, openly state the interests of the whole country demand a change. Meantime the feeling for a change of government is steadily growing here.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, in a most appropriate speech, seconded Mr. Thomas' resolution. He stated that in 1900 a similar agreement had been entered into, and he could say now that as far as the undertaking then entered into in behalf of the party which he belonged to it was carried out to the letter. He regretted very much that he could not say the same of all people, but he would not say that in this election that that person would do everything in his power to carry out the details as set out by the resolution of the Social and Moral Reform Association. He had himself taken part in elections in the past, and he could conscientiously say that not five cents had been spent to his knowledge in the contest.

A committee of twenty-five was appointed, who will meet with the government party to take action. Mr. Stephen, N. B., Feb. 13--The members of the opposition to the present government are meeting with great success in their campaign throughout the county. The government candidates, on the other hand, are not meeting with that success which they hoped. Several of their meetings have been poorly attended and last evening in a district in which there were, in all, three voters were present. Surely the prospects for the government candidates are most discouraging.

The audience was not large, and included many ladies and boys. A free trip on the railway brought with it a number from Minto and Newcastle. Colonel McLean, the first speaker, opened with a very funny story, which many would, it seemed, have preferred a continuation of, rather than his lengthy dissertation on the debt of the province. He thought Messrs. Fleming and Robinson should have met in a joint public discussion of the finances of the province. He had not advised Mr. Hazen's idea of a fair play in discussing the finances of the province. It was not British fair play, but might be the kind he had learned in Westmorland, or some other unincorporated part of the country.

Regarding the highway act, the colonel said a very large sum had been appropriated for roads. He, however, failed to explain why, such being the case, the roads all over the province were in a wretched condition, nor was the audience told why the government now propose to repeal the act.

The value of the Central railway, he said, was put at \$1,150,000 because it was for sale. He illustrated the legal maxim of "caveat emptor." From his remarks on this point, it was inferred that he did not himself place anything like that value on the Central. He did not think the opposition would have as many seats in the new house as they had in the old.

Senator King, in opening, seemed generally disposed, and in fact his speech was not of his fighting sort. He alluded in a general way that the people's money had not been squandered on the Central railway, but he failed to attempt to show how it cost so much to build it through

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