

The Standard



Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, Canada.

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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1909.

THE UNHAPPY OPPOSITION.

The remarkable feature of the St. John county campaign, is that the Opposition speakers and writers have so little to say for their party and their cause. They have no serious criticism of the Hazen Administration, and make no pretence of defending the late Government, most of whose members are seeking restoration to office.

Mr. Robinson, Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Labllois, now in the Legislature, were members of the late administration. Mr. Jones and Mr. Farris are still active and ambitious. The opposition fight in St. John is not alone to elect Mr. Bentley. It is to get the old combination back to power. This being so, it is really wonderful to see how little the old combination has to say for itself. At first the Sun took the ground that the late Government and its misconduct was not an issue in this campaign. But when it saw that the fight on behalf of Mr. Bentley was practically made by the "buccaneers" of the old regime, the Sun gave up the contention and admitted that Mr. Robinson had the burden of the late Government on his shoulders.

Now what have these former rulers of the province to say in their own defence? Absolutely nothing. They cannot defend the Central Railway deal of \$134,000. They cannot defend the bogus financial statements made from year to year. They cannot defend the suspense accounts. They cannot defend the overdraws. They cannot defend the payments for expenses never incurred. They cannot defend their sacrifice of stumpage revenue.

In all their statements to the electors through the press or on the platform, they do not even make the pretence that they gave the province an honest or decent government when they had the chance. Yet they seek to be restored to office.

In criticizing the Hazen Administration, these former ministers and their advocates are either absolutely truthful or absolutely futile. Everything they say that is true is frivolous, and everything they charge that is important is not true.

Mr. Fleming has shown that Mr. Robinson's statement concerning last year's balance was altogether untrue. In order to make it appear that there was a deficit last year, Mr. Robinson charged to last year's account this year for work done this year.

The criticism of the school board reduction is lost because every father of a family in any audience bought the books and knows that he gets them 40 per cent. cheaper.

The complaints against the Highway Act have revealed the fact that the councillors opposing the Government have deliberately obstructed its operation.

The opposition is left without argument. It is losing the support of the Liberal press. It is losing the sympathy of former friends in every parish. Government committees are swelled by defections from the ranks of the other party.

And the reason is that there is no cause on the opposition side that can claim support.

POLITICS AND THE COMPENSATION ACT.

When Mr. Hazen prepared the workmen's compensation act, there were plenty to tell him that it was politics. He was told that such legislation never brought a public man the thanks or support of those he sought to benefit. This was untrue as history and as policy, and it would not be good argument against the act if it were true. Mr. Hazen had promised such satisfaction, and his pledge was accepted in good faith by those whom it most concerned, and it was made good. And the labor organizations have expressed in the most direct and emphatic way, by formal resolution, their appreciation of the course of the Government.

They did not wait for an election. They did not wait to be asked, but promptly and unanimously made their declaration. These resolutions must have been supported by many who have never yet voted for friends in the present Government. But they know when a valuable course has been taken and a valuable service rendered, and they show it.

The men are doing more than pass resolutions. They intend that the Government shall suffer for keep its pledges and doing a service to working men. The attitude of the Milford men was shown in the ward of Saturday. It is not to be supposed that the sensation act is the only reason why the people in community are rallying so strongly to the support of the Government. They have the same interest as others in supporting good government and in showing fair play to the ministry doing its duty. But they have a special interest in this particular measure, and they are of their own personal knowledge about Mr. Hazen's fidelity to the pledge he gave to them and their co-workers. They are able to show at this time, and it was the suggestion that legislation in the form of labor is not appreciated by those who ask for it and therefore is bad politics.

JOHN COUNCIL AND THE HIGHWAY ACT.

Those St. John county councillors who now complain because St. John county was not exempted from the operation of the Highway Act, have their answer in a statement made by Mr. Hazen on Saturday evening.

The original draft of the bill was sent to the Municipal Council of St. John for suggestion and amendment. It was considered by the council and a few amendments were made in the petition to the council sent to the Government.

The council did not ask that St. John county be exempted from the operation of the Highway Act. The proposition was neither suggested nor suggested. Mr. Hazen produced the petition

and showed that there was not a word in it about leaving the St. John road law as it then stood.

That was the time for councillors to ask for exemption from the operation of the act. But those who now complain that this was not done were then dumb.

Their opposition today is purely political and they have been supporting it by obstructing the repairs to the highways.

JOHN CALVIN.

The Calvin anniversary has set historians and theologians discussing his life and character and the significance of his work. Out of these discussions, some of them acute and some comprehensive, one gathers that the man himself was not in his lifetime and has not been since, much in evidence. In Geneva he was for a few years a man of dominant influence, and for a time Geneva was the centre of influence in the Protestant movement. But the name of Calvin suggests no personality so clear and outstanding as Luther. It did not come in his way to face and fight rulers and potentates. From a position of comparative personal security, in a more serene atmosphere than his contemporaries breathed, he was able to prepare his treatises on doctrine and polity which were the bulwark and the creed of Protestantism through the days when written creeds and systems of theology meant more than they ever will hereafter. Calvinism was greater than Calvin in church history. The tragedy of Servetus is unfortunately the best known episode in the life of Calvin. It is not the story which his friends would like best to recall. Perhaps there are in the life of Luther after he had temporal power on his side incidents equally unpleasant to remember. Luther's controversy with Zwingli indicated a spirit no more tolerant than Calvin's. Toleration was in fact an art not then acquired. But it is the good fortune of Luther to be best remembered by earlier incidents. His "here stand I" is a part of his biography which every one knows. But there are no such spectacular incidents in the life of Calvin that are known to the world. But on the other hand, there is no doctrinal statement like that of the Institutes connected with the name of Luther. Calvin belonged to the school of constructive theologians, and it is Calvin the teacher, whose anniversary is celebrated.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL SCANDAL.

The Winnipeg Telegram, which has good opportunity to know about the Red River section of the Transcontinental, offers this interesting statement concerning Mr. Lumsden's resignation:—

"It is worth while to note too that it was after examining the very part of the works in which Major Hodgins charged improper expenditures, just before he resigned, that Chief Engineer Lumsden abruptly quit the service of the commission.

"What dreadful story of waste and favoritism does this explanation contain that induces the Government to remain silent when there is grave peril in continued silence? This is the fair construction to place on the extraordinary situation which has developed.

"The special board of arbitration, appointed by the commission, evidently has found that much of the excess between the primary estimate of \$28,000 per mile and the final cost of \$128,000, which the board discovered had been expended on the section, is represented in overcharges by contractors and bills incurred by political friends."

"When the contractors discovered that the board would report that they had received overcharges on classifications, they complained that the board had been hasty in its investigation and appealed to the Government and the commission for a re-examination.

"Then comes Lumsden's resignation. Obviously, the complaints of the contractors had weight with those 'higher up' and evidently Chief Engineer Lumsden refused to revise his judgment at the request of the politicians who are directing the National Transcontinental Railway Building Commission."

AN EXPENSIVE ECONOMIST.

Mr. E. H. McAlpine has discovered a reason why Mr. Mosher should be defeated. Mr. Hazen, on behalf of the province, cabled a message to Hon. Joseph Chamberlain on his birthday. As spokesman for the Opposition, Mr. McAlpine objects to this expenditure, which he told the people of Fairville would be thirty dollars. The complaint met with a cold response even for a party meeting. Mr. Chamberlain's great services to the Empire are recognized in every Canadian community, and now when infirmity has forced him to withdraw from political activity, a kindly anniversary message from the British people over the seas is doubly welcome. Mr. McAlpine could not mention the cost without multiplying it by five or six. No one expects him to come nearer the fact than that. The cable rate is twenty-five cents a word.

But Mr. McAlpine's consideration for the public treasury is not usually so tender. He has himself derived a large part of his professional income from this source. According to the statement of the Auditor General of Canada, Mr. McAlpine has received in the last six years from the Dominion treasury, no less than \$16,270.03, an average of \$2,711.67 a year. The score runs from \$750 to \$7,500 a year.

The amounts which Mr. McAlpine may have drawn from the Provincial treasury added to this would make an interesting total.

MR. COPP'S NOISY SILENCE.

Mr. Copp is discussing many things of which he seems to know nothing. But he cannot be induced to explain a matter whereof he should have knowledge. Mr. Copp has been asked what he did for the \$1,425 he got out of the Central Railway. The Royal Commissioners had him as a witness and gathered from his evidence that he did no work of any value. They also report that no accounts or vouchers were filed. Mr. Copp is again invited to explain what he did for this money which came out of the Provincial treasury. He made a great deal of noise at Fairville and doubtless also at St. Martins. Most of the things he said were not so, and it would be a good thing if he would give the exact facts about his \$1,425. Then we should understand better why Mr. Copp would like to have his old friends—the buccaneers as the Sun calls them—back in power.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Mr. Chamberlain, in illness and retirement, is a larger figure in the British Empire than the statesmen in control. He has not been permitted to continue the great campaign which almost alone among British statesmen he began many years ago. It was necessary for him to abandon an important cabinet position that he might take up the tariff reform and Imperial preference movement as an independent member. He has lived to see the chief and the majority of the leaders in his own party supporters of the Chamberlain programme. This will be the issue in the next general election campaign, as it has been in a majority of the by-elections. On this issue the Conservatives are likely to carry the country, when the next parliament is elected. Mr. Chamberlain may not live to see it, but it is the hope of his friends that he shall. At least he has lived long enough to see that victory is awaiting his cause when the battle is joined.

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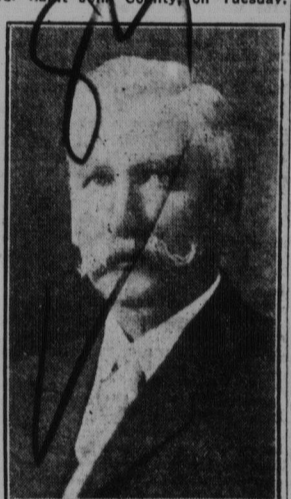
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To the Electors of Saint John County

Having been unanimously nominated by the Local Government Party as their Candidate in election to be held for Saint John County, on Tuesday,



July 20, I solicit your votes as electors desirous of Honest Government for the people, irrespective of party lines.

I have the honor to be,
Yours truly,
J. P. MOSHER.

TEMPERANCE MASS MEETING E.D.C. GROUNDS

Despite the fact that threatening weather prevailed, an immense crowd was present at the temperance mass meeting conducted by the Every Day Club on their own grounds yesterday afternoon. The weather looked so threatening that it was decided to postpone the meeting, but at the last moment Mr. Belding, president of the club, decided to hold the meeting and forthwith he telephoned to those in charge of the affair, announcing his decision.

The members of the Junior Temple of Honor and Temperance, of Carleton and Fairville, assembled at the Temple of Honor Hall, Main street, and headed by the Every Day Club and drum band they marched in procession like well trained soldiers, to the grounds. Those in charge of the parade were Messrs. S. E. Logan and Edgar Campbell, Dr. J. H. Gray, of Fairville, and Rev. W. R. Robinson, of West End. On reaching the grounds they marched round once, and then took seats in the grandstand. The cadets were highly complimented by the spectators on their excellent appearance as they marched by.

In front of the grandstand a temporary platform had been erected. Mr. A. Belding presided, and Rev. Dr. H. B. Belding, of the University of Chicago, Rev. L. A. McLean, Rev. S. W. Anthony and Rev. Geo. Thus also occupied seats on the platform. The Every Day Club band, the orchestra and choir were also in attendance, and rendered pleasing music. Selected hymns sung by the choir were very sweetly rendered.

Rev. Dr. H. Belding, who is a native of New Brunswick, was the speaker of the day. His address was listened to with great attention and his pleasing episodes were also highly enjoyed. The speaker referred to the great wave of temperance which had already swept over the United States and was fast sweeping over Canada. He stated that already all the corporations in the United States have

"Why should St. John refuse to support the amendment? The Government itself could get along without this seat. It would have the same majority as before if Mr. Mosher were not elected—and the majority is large. But the Government naturally desires a majority in support of the amendment, and the country will surely be better represented by a member who will assist the Government in doing its best for the people, than one like Mr. Lowell, who seems disposed to make the work here as difficult as possible."—Hon. J. D. Hazen at Fairville, Thursday night.

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PREMIER ROBINSON MADE BAD LAW MUCH WORSE.
(Telegraph, March 5, 1908.)
"The Robinson Government made a bad (highway) law worse by introducing petty politics into its administration."

refused to employ men of intemperate habits even if they are competent otherwise, and he strongly advised his hearers to evade the use of liquors lest they become habitual drunkards. He made particular reference to the boys, whom he advised to enjoy themselves in good clean sport during their leisure time. In the course of his remarks he stated that he much more preferred seeing a boy with a rather lively spirit rather than one so mild that "butter wouldn't melt in his mouth." In concluding his discourse he congratulated the members of the club on the good work they had done in the past and wished them Godspeed in carrying out the good work in the future.

Mr. Belding in a neat speech thanked the speaker and all those who participated in the demonstration, for the excellent service they had rendered. The meeting was then brought to a close with the singing of the doxology.

WEDDINGS

Longmire-Greaves.
Annapolis Royal, N. S., July 8.—A pretty home wedding took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Russell Longmire, on Wednesday, when their daughter, Miss Gertrude was united in marriage to William Augustus Greaves, of Boston. Presently at eight o'clock the bride entered the drawing room leaning on the arm of her father, by whom she was given away. The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of friends and relatives of the contracting parties, was performed by Rev. William T. Suckling, B. A., of Grandville, the double ring service being used. The house was prettily decorated with potted plants and cut flowers, and the nuptial knot was tied under an arch of evergreen and snowballs. The bride, who was unattended, was becomingly attired in white silk with overdress of Amaranthus, wearing the conventional veil and carrying a bouquet of spring flowers. After the ceremony a wedding reception was held. The numerous useful and valuable gifts received by the bride testified to the universal esteem in which she was held. The happy couple will in future reside in Boston.

BIRTHS

Bardeley.—At their residence, 24 Adelaide Street, on July 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. John B. Bardeley, a daughter.

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WM. DOWNIE,
General Superintendent,
Atlantic Division, C. P. R.
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