

ATTORNEY-GENERAL BAXTER MAKES STRONG PRONOUNCEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROHIBITION POLICY AT ST. JOHN COUNTY CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1).
stood today the closest of personal friends on most intimate associations. He believed he wouldn't want to represent the county if the electors saw fit to elect another. "But we are going to Frederickton, gentlemen, and we are going together," added Hon. Mr. Baxter significantly.

An Open Convention.
He and his colleagues had purposely called an open convention of the electors so that any who desired to express their opinions as to the choice of candidates might be heard and he was sure that the result of the nomination was most gratifying both to Mr. Carson and himself. The unanimity which prevailed at the convention was most gratifying.

A Policy of Misrepresentation.
The policy of the opposition party so far was a policy that has been very largely one of misrepresentation. That policy met with a decisive answer when it was attempted in the County of Carleton as it had resulted in the triumphant return of Hon. Mr. Smith and his colleague, Mayor Sutton, an everlasting answer to Carter and Carvell, and a lesson to Messrs. Foster and Robinson, who were of better instincts and who ought not to associate themselves with such unclean methods of political warfare. Government To Discuss Issues Fairly and Squarely.

This government proposed to discuss the issues fairly and squarely. They asked to be elected to power on their own record, not because the old administration had been a failure. But it became necessary to make comparisons at times when the people who had made a mess ask to be entrusted with the reins of power again. He felt it was fair for the electors to say to the candidates who supported the old administration, "you do so and so and you failed to do so and so, tell us why."

Mr. Sweeney's Case.
The opposition party had nominated members of the old administration. In Westmorland among others they had nominated Mr. Sweeney, a gentleman with whom he had no personal quarrel. Mr. Sweeney was formerly surveyor-general, "now known as minister of lands and mines, and it was only natural that if the opposition party were successful, Mr. Sweeney would expect to be placed in charge of the department of which he had been formerly the head. Without going into the details, this government had collected nearly twice as much in territorial revenue during the past eight years than did the governments under the leadership of Tweedie, Pugsley and Robinson for the eight years prior to 1908 and they collected this amount from the same source, but the exportation returns of timber as gathered from the custom houses showed that as much timber went out of the province in the period under the old government as under the same period under this administration, while there was internal evidence to show that there was as much used in the province during those periods. Why had there not been an equal collection? Where did the money go? It must have remained in the pockets of those men who ought to have paid it into the province. They may have assisted their political friends, but the province did not get the money. This government was entitled to credit from the people of New Brunswick for having collected a revenue averaging about a quarter of a million of dollars a year.

Foster's Ignorance.
Mr. Foster had undertaken to be a financial critic. He had declared that this government was wasteful and was increasing the public debt. He was prepared to go through the items of expenditures with Mr. Foster and to point out to him that this government had expended greater amounts on needed services than under the old government. The large expenditures on roads, on ordinary bridges, on agriculture, on education, the increased expenditure in connection with the Provincial Hospital, the expenditure in connection with the Jordan Sanatorium, a most beneficial institution, which was not in existence under the old government, were absolutely justified and Mr. Foster knew it well. This government had done all these things and many more. They had cut down the price of school books, a matter which was most important to every family in the province, and despite the increased expenditure in every direction they had been able to keep the ordinary expenditures within the ordinary revenue. He noticed that Mr. Foster was not very clear in his financial statement, and if any one had any doubt about it he (Baxter) would give them the opportunity to see for himself where Mr. Foster had gone astray. He had brought with him a copy of the Royal Gazette containing the report of the auditor-general on the finances of the province, showing the ordinary revenue for 1916 in plain figures to be \$1,580,531.26, and the ordinary revenue expenditure on the other side of the account to be \$1,568,454.07, a surplus of \$12,077.19. How did Mr. Foster deal with that statement? He had stated that the ordinary expenditure was \$1,580,531.26 and the ordinary revenue was \$1,568,454.07. Foster Got Mixed.

In other words though the total ordinary revenue and the total ordinary expenditure were published in plain figures at the amount he (Baxter) had quoted, Mr. Foster got them mixed and he stated the revenue as the expenditure. As to Mr. Foster's action, one had three guesses. Was Mr. Foster in too much of a hurry and made this mistake? If such was the case, he (Baxter) would suggest that before Mr. Foster goes into public life he ought to school himself so that he would not make mistakes that might mislead the people. Or had Mr. Foster done it on purpose? He did not care to think that of Mr. Foster. He had a higher regard for him (Foster). The only third guess was that Mr. Foster did not know enough to distinguish one from the other. He (Baxter) did not believe that. There was not one of the three chances that was creditable to Mr. Foster, and yet he was one of the gentlemen who aspired to the leadership of the party, and if Mr. Carter would allow him he would be willing to be provincial secretary. He (Baxter) asked for fair play and clean, honest methods in the discussion of public affairs.

The Valley Railway.
Mr. Foster was greatly concerned about the public debt and he had a perfect right to object to the debt if he wished to. But his party had not opposed the construction of the St. John Valley Railway in the house, while they stated in their platform that they would build the railway farther than this government proposed to do. People who undertook to do that could not complain of the amount of the debt that had been created because of the construction of this railway. Therefore it was not within Mr. Foster's mouth to make complaint in regard to the increase of the debt in this connection. He wished that Mr. Foster would go through items of the public debt and put his finger on those items which he objected to.

Splendid Moncton Bridge.
He would like him to go to the city of Moncton and to get his friends, Robinson and Sweeney, on the platform and point to the magnificent new bridge in that city and say, "I object to the expenditure for that bridge because it is not in the public interest." The city of Moncton was the proper place for his friend, Mr. Foster, to make such a statement, if he would, but not at a meeting in one of the smaller sections of this county. The old bridge across the Petitcodiac river was in a dilapidated and dangerous condition and this government had replaced it with a magnificent structure that met the needs of the people.

He would lend Mr. Foster a ball in Lancaster. He wanted him to stand up in the Temperance Hall in Fairville, to face the main street and to point his left hand at the new bridge over the Reversible Falls and say, "that is a crying shame. It is a disgrace to borrow \$450,000 to spend on such a structure." He wanted Mr. Foster to take that stand in the parish of Lancaster or let him come over to a meeting in the city of St. John and object to that expenditure there. There were other bridges in the province which were just as necessary as

the structures he had mentioned. The stand of the government party was that the province of New Brunswick is not an alms-house, nor a bankrupt, but is fairly wealthy and can afford to borrow money for useful needed public improvements, and they were going to do it where the needs exist and give the people the services they desired.

St. John Bridges.
In 1912 there had been expended by the present government on ordinary bridges in St. John county nearly \$7,600 of which amount \$3,850 was expended on the Suspension bridge, leaving about \$3,750 on the ordinary bridges in the other sections of the county. The government expended \$5,870 in 1913 on ordinary bridges, \$6,344 in 1914, \$7,368 in 1915, and \$10,714 in 1916. They proposed to get ahead of the bridges in St. John county and make every highway safe for traffic. There was more to be done yet, but it was wonderful what progress had been made since 1908 when the roads and bridges from one end of the county to the other, yes, from one end of the province to the other, were rotting down and falling down notwithstanding the large over-drafts and over-expenditures in the public works department of the government which had been in power prior to 1908.

The Road Expenditures.
He also wished to say a few words about roads. This government had expended \$6,250 on roads in St. John in 1912, \$8,324 in 1913, \$8,439 in 1914, \$13,376 in 1915, and the magnificent sum of \$16,483 in 1916. Taking these large expenditures into consideration, he thought that the electors of St. John county would come to the conclusion that Mr. Carson and himself had not been by any means idle in their behalf and had got for the county a good and fair share of the road money which had been expended in the province.

The Opposition's Policy is Limit of Absurdity.
The Attorney-General then referred to the improvements in the roads, mentioning the various roads of the county, and said that while much had been accomplished it was the intention to do more to improve the highways. He outlined the various advanced provisions of Hon. Mr. Smith's new road policy and contrasted it with the policy of the opposition party to spend a million dollars for permanent highways throughout the province. The limit of absurdity had been reached in the opposition's scheme to borrow a million dollars to construct a permanent concrete highway throughout the province. Judging by the figures of the cost of the permanent work received in tenders made to this government for the Marsh Road work, only seventy-five or eighty miles at the most could be constructed from an expenditure of a million dollars. How far would the people of New Brunswick be satisfied with a policy that would give one section of the province seventy-five or eighty miles of roads and leave the rest of the province without a single vestige of new roads? Under this government's advanced policy it was proposed to spend the money to prevent the roads from getting bad instead of waiting until the roads had become worn out. Which was the platform which would appeal to the people of New Brunswick—the wasteful proposition of the opposition to spend a million dollars on seventy-five or eighty miles, or the progressive measure of this government to keep

the roads of New Brunswick in good condition and to accomplish that result without adding one cent to the permanent debt of the province? There could be no doubt as to which policy the electors of the province would approve of.

He did not propose to discuss all the issues presented in the campaign on this occasion, but he would say that the policies of the government for every department were absolutely constructive.

The Crown Lands.
In the administration of the crown lands this government had doubled the revenue during the past eight years. Was it any wonder then why the opposition were afraid to trust themselves with the conduct of the crown lands and proposed to hand them over to a commission? Could a commission improve on this government's record in doubling the territorial revenue. Under the new policy for the classification of the crown lands an expert had been secured to report on the growth, quality and extent of the timber and to test the soil so as to be in a position to tell a man whether it was better to grow timber on the land or to use it for agriculture. He realized, as the electors would realize, that it was impossible to do anything without knowledge. A lawyer or a doctor could not practice his profession successfully without first acquiring the necessary knowledge. In the same way the province could not attempt to administer the crown lands in the best manner without first finding out what it possessed

and where the lands were located. He would not like to rank himself among men whose ideas were so limited that they had to confess to the people of the province their inability to manage their affairs and that they had to bring in other men to do the business that the people had elected them to do.

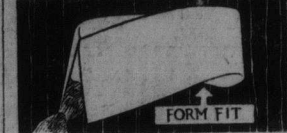
Gave Workmen Advanced Legislation.
Hon. Mr. Baxter said that he need say nothing about the splendid success that the premier had made of the agricultural department, nor of Hon. Mr. Murray's advanced measure to settle the returned soldiers who wished to go there on the farms of the province, neither need he deal on this occasion with the fishing and mining of the province.

An Administration For All Classes.
This government was not an administration for one section of the people. They tried to give the lumbermen of the province a square deal and to make them pay to the province what was right for them to pay. They tried to give the farmer the help he should have. They had enabled him to form agricultural societies and had established agricultural colleges for his education. This government was helping not only the farmer but all the people of the province. They were giving what he believed was fairly generous aid to the roads, they had helped the parents by assisting in the education of their children in giving them cheaper school books, and he hoped that they would be able to go even farther in this matter than they had done. Only last year the

government had given the workmen a most advanced measure and now if a workman is killed or injured while in the course of his employment, it does not matter whether it was the fault of a fellow workman or a defect in the machinery, the employer must make good what the workman has lost either to his widow, if he is killed, or himself in case of injury.

Hon. Mr. Baxter then discussed the prohibition measure and closed a strong address by appealing for the support of the electors for his colleague and himself.

Short but forcible addresses were made by Captain Carson, Mr. Fox, McAfee, Moore, Commissioner Wigmore, Coun. O'Brien, Coun. Golding and other active county workers.



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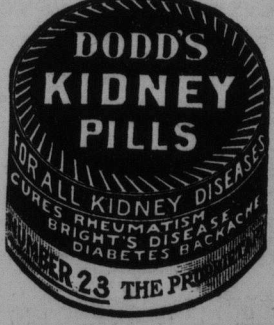
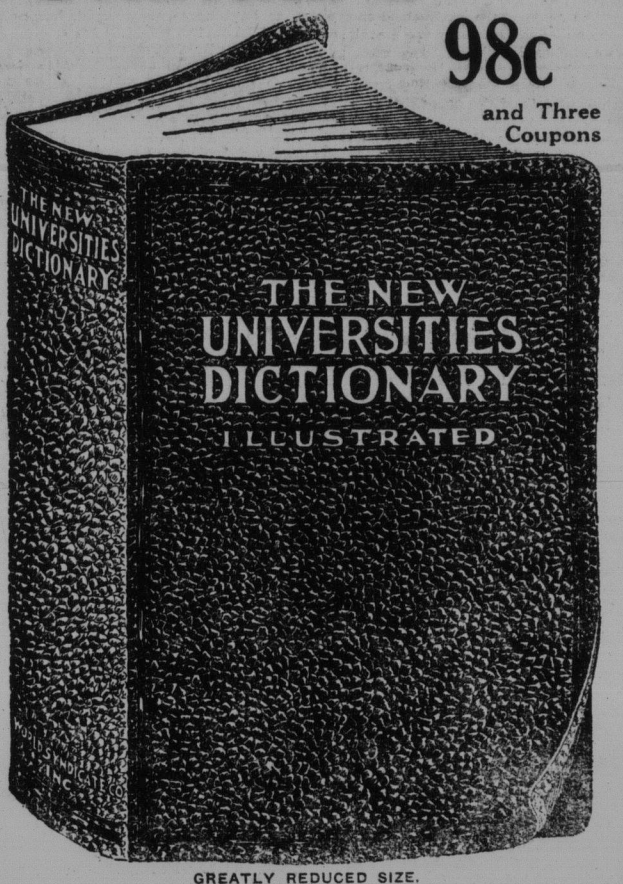
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