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JOHN P. PATTERSON, Manager.

The News.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEB. 14, 1905.

LIBERALS LEAD

With less than fifty votes between them and victory the Liberal ticket took the field in Sunbury County Saturday under highly encouraging auspices. The candidates chosen by a convention unusual in size and marked by a hearty fighting spirit were both good men, who enjoy the acquaintance and esteem of practically every elector in the constituency which is their home and in the interests of which their personal interests are intimately concerned.

Dr. Peake is a young man of excellent ability, who signalled his entrance into the political field five years ago by running only 53 votes behind the leader of the Opposition, who at that time had deluded a large part of the electorate into the belief that the contest was to end with his assumption of the office of Premier. Since then Dr. Peake, stimulated rather than discouraged by the result, has worked hard and constantly stands immeasurably stronger with the people than when as a young and unknown candidate he first sought their franchise. His running mate, Mr. Thurott, is a farmer with commercial interests which have brought him into personal and business association with every elector in Sunbury. Probably no man in the county has a larger acquaintance and more friends than he. Together, the two make a team that will give Mr. Hazen and Glasier the fight of their lives—a fight which, if the Liberal workers of the constituency are not too confident, will add two more to Premier Robinson's following in the next House and will leave Mr. Hazen free to indulge his ambition to enter federal politics.

The nomination of the Liberal ticket in Sunbury fills the last gap in the ranks of the Government candidates throughout the province, while the Opposition are still in frantic search for leaders of foreign birth in Madawaska and Restigouche. In Gloucester also there are signs of Opposition distinction, and it is doubtful if nomination day finds any regular Opposition standard bearers in the field there. As the campaign starts a row, three weeks from election day, the battle is practically won. From every constituency now held by the Government come confident reports, from places where the fight was desperate in 1895 come assurances of victory and even such an Opposition stronghold as Northumberland gives unmistakable evidence of preparation for a landslide.

There never has been, outside the imagination of Opposition leaders excited by recent changes in government personnel, any reason for expecting other than a repetition of the results of 1895. A government so strongly entrenched as this cannot be overturned in a time of prosperity, and the potent reasons, such as the Opposition have uttered failed to advance. As will be noted elsewhere in a detailed study of the opposition plans, Mr. Hazen has been unable to suggest one progressive change, one reasonable and business-like improvement in the Government's policy, and the ground which has been offered the people upon which to pass a verdict adverse to the Government is composed of vague general charges and the present management of the provincial finances, charges which they dare not make in a time of prosperity, and which they are unwilling to submit to impartial arbitration of expert accountants. This, and the silly misrepresentation regarding school books, the Central Railway and the International Railway, hardly provide force enough for the overthrow of a government whose present strength, compared with the opposition, is four to one.

The people will judge, and rightly, that a government which has held power for a quarter of a century, and in that time has given cause for not one definite charge of misfeasance, though constantly under the searchlight, and which has never been shown to be guilty of a single misdeed, and that an opposition which in the same time has been unable to frame a policy containing one new progressive feature has little claim for promotion.

MORE SCHOOL BOOK DECEIT

The evening opposition organ publishes a tabular statement to show that the school reader in use in Nova Scotia cost fifty cents less, instead of more, than the aggregate price of the new Brunswick readers.

The method by which this result is reached is both simple and characteristic. The list is left incomplete. One of the readers which Nova Scotian children are compelled to use, if they reach as high as the seventh grade is omitted in the calculation. In Nova Scotia they have, all told, nine readers, including primers. The Times, used in the seventh and eighth grades, gives only eight, which contain about the same amount of matter, and even fewer pages, than the two primers and five readers which make up the full list in New Brunswick.

The petty deception of 'The Times' statement is characteristic of the major part of the opposition campaign. The criticism of the government's financial methods, crown land policy and railway policy is based upon similar misrepresentations; but in nothing have these unfair and misleading tactics been so frequent and obvious as in the opposition treatment of the school book question.

When Mr. Hazen or any of his supporting speakers or papers assert that New Brunswick school book prices are twice or three times as high as they should be, and promise to reduce them by 50 per cent. pointing in proof of their statements to the prevalent prices in Ontario, they are deliberately falsifying the facts. They know the comparative prices for the present Ontario prices are for this year only and were caused by a change in the whole system which will make the books now in use obsolete next year, compelling the publishers with large stocks on hand to unload them far below the cost of manufacture. Next year when the new system goes into effect Ontario prices will naturally increase though to what extent not even the Ontario authorities know today. But though they know this, Mr. Hazen and his organs continue to make this comparison the foundation of their campaign, and charge of extortion and graft.

Save in the instance quoted above no opposition paper has ventured to compare New Brunswick prices with those of any other province, and the very plain reason that school books are cheaper in New Brunswick than anywhere else in Canada. As has been shown in the Sun by bona fide and correct comparative statements, New Brunswick school books, readers included, cost considerably less than in any other province of Canada. The books in most common use—arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, algebra, and the like—cost from 25 to 30 per cent. less in Nova Scotia, \$7.05, in Prince Edward Island \$7.22, in Quebec \$8.13 and in Manitoba \$8.13.

But because the books are cheaper in this province than anywhere else it does not necessarily follow that they are as cheap as they can be made to find out if there is any way of lightening the expense upon New Brunswick parents the government proposes to have the immediate effect of a well-informed and unprejudiced committee to go thoroughly into the matter to see if the New Brunswick school books are as cheap as they should be, and to see if in any practical and fair way they can be made cheaper without injuring their quality.

Mr. Peake is a young man of excellent ability, who signalled his entrance into the political field five years ago by running only 53 votes behind the leader of the Opposition, who at that time had deluded a large part of the electorate into the belief that the contest was to end with his assumption of the office of Premier. Since then Dr. Peake, stimulated rather than discouraged by the result, has worked hard and constantly stands immeasurably stronger with the people than when as a young and unknown candidate he first sought their franchise. His running mate, Mr. Thurott, is a farmer with commercial interests which have brought him into personal and business association with every elector in Sunbury. Probably no man in the county has a larger acquaintance and more friends than he. Together, the two make a team that will give Mr. Hazen and Glasier the fight of their lives—a fight which, if the Liberal workers of the constituency are not too confident, will add two more to Premier Robinson's following in the next House and will leave Mr. Hazen free to indulge his ambition to enter federal politics.

A BURDEN REMOVED

The early amendment of the postal regulation imposing prohibitory rates upon the passage of newspapers and periodicals to and from the Canadian border line almost atones for its passage. The only reasonable excuse for the government's delay in making this amendment is the admitted desirability of preventing the influx of bogus advertising literature under the guise of legitimate newspapers and magazines. The alleged "protection" of American ideas in Canada was a bit of absurdity, the only value of which was to cover up the provincialism of the few upper Canadian publishers and business men who felt the American competition, and the laxness of department officials who allowed the passage of such literature. The amendment, however, has been a burden removed from the shoulders of the Canadian press, and it is doubtful if nomination day finds any regular Opposition standard bearers in the field there. As the campaign starts a row, three weeks from election day, the battle is practically won. From every constituency now held by the Government come confident reports, from places where the fight was desperate in 1895 come assurances of victory and even such an Opposition stronghold as Northumberland gives unmistakable evidence of preparation for a landslide.

There never has been, outside the imagination of Opposition leaders excited by recent changes in government personnel, any reason for expecting other than a repetition of the results of 1895. A government so strongly entrenched as this cannot be overturned in a time of prosperity, and the potent reasons, such as the Opposition have uttered failed to advance. As will be noted elsewhere in a detailed study of the opposition plans, Mr. Hazen has been unable to suggest one progressive change, one reasonable and business-like improvement in the Government's policy, and the ground which has been offered the people upon which to pass a verdict adverse to the Government is composed of vague general charges and the present management of the provincial finances, charges which they dare not make in a time of prosperity, and which they are unwilling to submit to impartial arbitration of expert accountants. This, and the silly misrepresentation regarding school books, the Central Railway and the International Railway, hardly provide force enough for the overthrow of a government whose present strength, compared with the opposition, is four to one.

The people will judge, and rightly, that a government which has held power for a quarter of a century, and in that time has given cause for not one definite charge of misfeasance, though constantly under the searchlight, and which has never been shown to be guilty of a single misdeed, and that an opposition which in the same time has been unable to frame a policy containing one new progressive feature has little claim for promotion.

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eral) polled 4,683 and Mr. Powell (Conservative), 3,747. A Liberal majority of 946. In other words, the Liberal vote cast increased from 4,064 to 4,683 and the Conservative vote from 3,546 to 3,747, a net Liberal gain under the secret ballot of 438 majority.

In Moncton city the comparison is equally favorable to the Liberals. Under the secret Dominion ballot Mr. Emmerson polled 1,245 and Powell 857, or 688 Liberal majority.

The opposition must find better ground for boasting than the secret ballot if they would convince the people that the present government majority of thirty-five seats in the legislature is not to be transformed into a Conservative majority.

ONE PARTY AND PURITY.

"And further resolved that the Government party in Kings county is pledged hereby to adhere strictly to the principles of purity in this election without reference to any agreement or understanding with the Opposition party."

Ignoring this strong and creditable resolution passed by the committee representing the Kings County Liberals, pledging that they will conduct an absolutely clean election regardless of the methods of their opponents, the local government organs yesterday published the report of yesterday's conference at Hampton under headlines declaring "Government against clean election in Kings," and "Government opposes plan for clean election in Kings." In its editorial comment the Telegraph intimated that "the government committee had been told that the party must avoid any question of money and liquor in the coming campaign. The Times, while making no mention of the foregoing resolution in its news columns, says editorially that "they (the government committee) were playing wifely in Kings, no matter what they regarded as a clever political trick, and to give it the appearance of good faith they issued a declaration of the effect that, regardless of the method of the opposition, they would run a pure election. This is pure humbug."

The malicious misrepresentation of this must be apparent even to the most partisan readers. The government committee is not a party, it is a group of individuals, and it is not to be supposed that they would so deliberately and so openly betray the trust of the people. The government committee is not a party, it is a group of individuals, and it is not to be supposed that they would so deliberately and so openly betray the trust of the people.

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CLEAN POLITICS IN KINGS

Notwithstanding the failure of the conference between committees representing the two parties at Hampton yesterday to frame a mutual agreement for a pure election, the Liberals of Kings through their authorized committee, pledged to conduct a clean campaign regardless of the methods of their opponents. In taking this stand the Liberal committee, while accepting the government's pledge to run a "practical" election, made an appeal to the honesty and fair play of the community which, we are confident, will be met with an enthusiastic response. The Liberal committee is not a party, it is a group of individuals, and it is not to be supposed that they would so deliberately and so openly betray the trust of the people.

There is no county in the province where the opposition have made such desperate efforts to procure the election of a Conservative majority. It is unnecessary to recall the shameful canvasses they have used in that county in former elections. Canvasses of this kind are not only disgraceful to the credit of the people of Queens and of the province, but they have been wholly unsuccessful. The opposition, instead of gaining strength in Queens, have been steadily losing.

This can be easily shown by the figures of recent elections. Mr. Woods, who is a candidate for Queens at the coming election, was defeated in 1899. On that occasion, the Hon. Mr. Farris defeated him by a majority of 128. At the general election of 1903, Mr. Farris was again elected, and was defeated by the Hon. Mr. Farris by a majority of 385 over the previous figures. The Liberal committee is not a party, it is a group of individuals, and it is not to be supposed that they would so deliberately and so openly betray the trust of the people.

At the conference, the Liberals, believing that the Conservatives had accumulated a large campaign fund and had already used some of it for the purpose of procuring the election of a Conservative majority, made an appeal to the honesty and fair play of the community which, we are confident, will be met with an enthusiastic response. The Liberal committee is not a party, it is a group of individuals, and it is not to be supposed that they would so deliberately and so openly betray the trust of the people.

THE SECRET BALLOT

The opposition are basing some of their proposed confidence regarding the next election in the operation of the secret ballot, provision enacted by the government in 1903. No longer, "will government employees at Moncton and elsewhere be herded into the polling stations and forced to vote contrary to their consciences?" As a matter of fact, a comparison of the results in the province under the secret ballot and the open ballot shows that the Liberal vote has been steadily increasing, and that the Conservative vote has been steadily decreasing. The Liberal committee is not a party, it is a group of individuals, and it is not to be supposed that they would so deliberately and so openly betray the trust of the people.

One year later, in 1904, the Dominion federal elections took place and under the secret ballot Mr. Emmerson (Liberal) polled 4,683 and Mr. Powell (Conservative), 3,747. A Liberal majority of 946. In other words, the Liberal vote cast increased from 4,064 to 4,683 and the Conservative vote from 3,546 to 3,747, a net Liberal gain under the secret ballot of 438 majority.

ing the meetings would require about \$100 more. Allowing each candidate \$5 a day for expenses incidental upon travelling over the county for a month would add less than \$800. And this total of \$800 comprises all the really necessary legitimate expenses of conducting a country campaign. Knowing, even from their own admissions, that the Conservatives have at least \$2,800 in the treasury, the Liberals believed that they had strong ground for doubting the sincerity of the purity professions put forward by the opposition committee, particularly as one member of that committee was one of the men who held up Dr. Pearson. Consequently, the government committee required that previous to any joint agreement being reached, the conditions were made publicly investigate or publicly deny the evidence which cast grave doubt upon the bona fides of their professed sincerity.

The Sun's report of the Hampton meeting indicates that the opposition committee refused to meet these conditions, and declared the negotiations off. This course is difficult to explain on creditable grounds. If the Conservatives had worked honestly, thus far, and desired to continue an honest campaign, the conditions were reasonable and easily met, and if they had been met and reasonable assurance given that the Conservatives were acting fairly and honestly, the Liberal committee would have been glad to agree to an election in Kings under the provisions of the election laws.

CHEAP SCHOOL BOOKS

If the price of school books is satisfactory, as contended by the government, why then, the government committee should have been able to explain to the public why it will appoint a school book commission? It is an open question.

It has been no contention that the price of school books in New Brunswick is satisfactory. True, the price is lower here than in any other province, with the exception of the temporary bargain sale prices in Ontario, but it by no means follows that the price is satisfactory. As a matter of fact, the only reason for the low price is the fact that the government committee has been able to secure the best quality of books at the lowest possible price, and the government proposes to find out if this condition exists, and if not, to have the price of school books in all over Canada cost more than in this province—the books in most common use—arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, algebra, and the like—cost from 25 to 30 per cent. less in Nova Scotia, \$7.05, in Prince Edward Island \$7.22, in Quebec \$8.13 and in Manitoba \$8.13.

PERSONALITIES.

If Robert Maxwell is really desirous, and we believe he is, that the campaign in this city should be conducted upon a basis of honesty and fairness, to the candidates, he will do well to bring some further influence to bear upon the local opposition papers who are so anxious to secure the election of a Conservative majority, and who are so anxious to secure the election of a Conservative majority.

TWO RECORDS CONTRASTED

The government of New Brunswick is charged with extravagance and with increasing the public debt beyond what is necessary for the well being of the province. In a pamphlet issued by the Hon. Mr. Farris, it is asserted that in the first year in which Mr. Blair had control of the finances of New Brunswick there was a deficit of \$17,000. In the second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. 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In the fifty-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the fifty-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixtieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the sixty-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the seventy-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eightieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the eighty-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninetieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the ninety-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundredth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and tenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and eleventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twelfth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirteenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and fourteenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and fifteenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and sixteenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and seventeenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and eighteenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and nineteenth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twentieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and twenty-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirtieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and thirty-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and fortieth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-first year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-second year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-third year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-fourth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-fifth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-sixth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-seventh year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-eighth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,000. In the one hundred and forty-ninth year, when Mr. Blair was in power, the deficit was \$23,00