

GROSS WASTE OF PROVINCE'S FUNDS CHARGE

Government Policies Sharply Criticised in Hampton Nomination Speeches.

ELECTORS HEAR EIGHT CANDIDATES

Farmers and Opposition Speakers Give Gov't Representatives Interesting Time.

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. Wetmore had spoken about the Elaine. In 1905 there wasn't a wharf on the river that wasn't so rotten it was falling to pieces. The late government left them all in good repair, and under the present crowd they had been let go again, and in trying to load, boats are in danger of being wrecked up. Mr. Wetmore had been talking about the good government that the Liberals were giving in Nova Scotia. What has that to do with the people of New Brunswick? What is wanted is good government here, and it can't be got as long as the Foster administration is in control.

Look how they are spending more. There is the boulevard at Bochesau, cost \$143,000, was built last year and is already going to pieces. That is the only stretch of so-called permanent road they have ever built, and just how permanent it can be seen by the amount of repairs that are being put on it already. It was said Premier Foster was doing the best, no man could do his best with a bunch of foolsers round him all the time like the premier has. His party ticket could only boast two candidates in all the large county of Kings, that was a pretty nice thing for such a great government. They were trying to catch a farmer, but he (Jones) felt that the farmers were too wary to be caught like that.

The Crown Lands

The most valuable provincial asset is the Crown Lands, and with the present price being paid for lumber, the rate of stumpage is much too low. The Opposition last session brought forward a resolution to increase it to \$1 and the Minister, Dr. Smith, was agreeable, but the lumber kings, the multi-millionaires got hold of the premier and told him that would not do at all. The farmers of Kings county know very well what lumber is worth in that county, and it is nothing to the lumber that is got out of the forest. The big lumber that is got from the northern part of the province is worth much more than the local quality, and if stumpage were collected on a proper basis, there would be no need to borrow in bonds.

Before he concluded he would like to say a few words about Mr. E. S. Carter, who, when the government convention was called, was not named as a candidate. He (Jones) had hoped that there would be no third party put in nomination, so that the two old parties could fight it out again—was it any wonder Carter was anxious to keep the Foster government in power? Look at the public offices Carter holds. He holds six jobs already, director of the St. John and Quebec Railway, secretary of the same company at \$2,500 a year, and \$4,000 expenses; secretary to the premier at another good salary, inspector of roads for Kings county, salary as published; manager of the Government Garage at St. John and organizer for the Liberal party. That is six jobs already, and it is said that Mr. R. W. L. Tibbitts, King's printer, was to be superannuated and Carter given that job also. In conclusion he urged them all to vote for the Opposition candidates on the 24th.

W. H. Huggard

W. H. Huggard, the last of the Farmer candidates, then took the stand, and said that he had been accused of being in league with the Liberal party. He wished to say emphatically that there was nothing to it. He took the stand with the Farmers and would sink or swim with them. He had listened to the Government and Opposition speakers and it reminded him of Satan rebuking sin. They both belonged to the spendthrift class, one lot spent money on the Valley Railway, and the other went to business, no it is going to spend on Hydro Electric. Each complains of the other, and the farmers couldn't do worse than either. Both made a great song of what they had done for the roads, but the only difference he could see in the roads was that under the former government a man had to go from side to side, and nowadays he bumped up and down. You got a job either way. He had been asked: What would the farmers do? Well, what did they do about the train service to St. John? They had shown what they could do then and when they got to Fredericton they would show better.

Hon. J. A. Murray

Hon. J. A. Murray was the last speaker and he got a splendid reception. He said that like Mr. Jones it was the fourth time he had appeared there under similar circumstances. He saw no reason whatever that would lead him to expect any different result. Some people had been making very free with his name and criticizing his record, and had not the least reason to do it. It would stand as much investigation as most men's. When certain matters were under discussion in the House some time ago, one member of the Government had stood in his place and given him (Murray) an absolutely clean sheet. If he (Murray) did not feel that he was absolutely entitled to a clean sheet, he would not be there before them then.

Against the Government

He and his colleagues were not allied with any other party. They appealed to the people simply in opposition to the present Government. Somebody had asked: What had he done. Well he had been head of the Agricultural Department for one thing. When he was first returned from Kings County in 1906 there was no

secretary and two dairy superintendents. He and his professor had built up a department and had left it thoroughly equipped in every respect, so much so that Dr. James, one of the Dominion agricultural authorities had described it as one of the best in the whole Dominion. He would base his record on the work he had done in the Department of Agriculture alone. Mr. Wetmore had claimed that the present Government had provided cheap lime. The cheap lime they supply turns out to be dear lime for it is less than 50 per cent as good as can be bought from private concerns. The farmers were to buy two tons of Government lime in order to get the same fertilizer value as is contained in lime bought from private producers. But supposing the Government had supplied other beneficial measures that the Government did. They bought a lime crusher and sent it all over the Province, and supplied cheap lime in that way. They brought in the clover huller which had proved so valuable to the farmers, they gave the farmers cheaper fertilizer, through co-operation buying. They established the Horticultural Department, which had practically re-created the apple industry; they had instituted elementary agricultural education in schools, passed the Prohibitory Act and sponsored other beneficial measures that time would not permit him to deal with then, in fact no government could have done much more in the time to advance the interests of agriculture than the Government of which he had been a member.

The Premier's Record

Premier Foster was appealing to the people on his record. He noticed that Mr. Wetmore had told them nothing about that. When they were appealing to the people to support them in the 1917 election, they promised they would so reduce the cost of government as would keep the expenditure within the income. How did they make out? The first year they claimed a surplus of \$30,000, but when the second came to be properly made up it was found they really had a deficit of \$134,000. On March 31st, 1917, when the late government retired, everything was all cleaned up, yet in seven months' time, at Oct. 31, the present government was behind \$233,713. At the end of the next year they were \$134,000 to the bad, and last year it was \$327,000 they were overexpended in excess of their revenue. In two years and seven months they had got into debt to the extent of \$892,000. That is how this prudent administration managed the public affairs. Yet Mr. Foster bewails the upward trend of the public debt. He was supposed to be a business man but if he applied the same sort of principle to his private business as he appeared to apply to public affairs he would be in bankruptcy in less than six months.

The Bonded Debt

When the Foster Government came into power they found the bonded debt of the province to amount to \$15,361,000. At the end of last year it was \$24,563,763. In two years and seven months the present government had added \$9,202,763 to the public debt, and there had been several bond issues since that nobody will hear of until the accounts are published. This is how that prudent administration did its business.

In the late government's time, interest charges amounted to \$351,000. Today they exceed \$531,000, so that under Mr. Foster's prudent guidance, the province is paying \$180,000 a year more for interest than before and this does not include the interest on the bonds that have been issued since the end of the last fiscal year.

Without any authority whatever, they borrowed to the extent of \$430,000, they spent \$346,000 on so-called permanent roads, and with other money which they will bond this year, they have now borrowed \$2,150,000 on road account notwithstanding all this expenditure, the greater part of the roads in the province are still almost impassable. The money had been spent recklessly and extravagantly, and with proper care and methods, much more could have been done for the money.

So urgent did the demands for money become that they resorted to

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taking money from other funds and using it for altogether improper purposes. For instance they levied on the people for \$18,000 for Patriotic Fund purposes when the whole amount the fund required was only \$400,000. That left a balance of \$18,000 which the Government took and used for their ordinary revenue, and paid their ordinary bills with it. That was deliberate misappropriation. Then so hard were they put to, that they had to put a tax on the moving picture gears, so that every child that goes to a show pays a direct tax to the Government. By this means they raised \$64,000 last year. This tax was not necessary if the Government only had the courage to deal with the situation. In July 1918, they made some new stumpage regulations, making the rate of stumpage \$2.50 per thousand on all lumber coming down the St. John River and \$4 everywhere else in the province. Their friends raised such a fuss that the Government climbed down and took a dollar off each making \$2.50 and \$3.00. With lumber at the present price stumpage should be much higher, but the Government was not to be afraid of the lumber interests. This is the first attempt to try direct taxation in New Brunswick. Their wobbly is characteristic.

Mr. Wetmore said they passed the Prohibition law. They did not, the late Government passed it, and he (Murray) was prepared to stand behind it. Then a great fuss is being made about the Public Health Act. Nobody would be more anxious than he was to have the public health maintained, but he was not prepared to waste so much money on it when it was quite unnecessary. The office expenses in 1918 were \$25,979, and in 1919 \$27,227, with extras. Then look at the expenses that the Act was putting on each county. In Kings alone this year the amount asked for the Act was \$5,685. Mr. Keith, the Government candidate, was so disgusted that he proposed that the matter stand over, but on motion was carried to reduce the amount to \$3,000. If the amount asked from Kings was \$5,685, what large amounts must be not from other counties. The whole machinery was too cumbersome for a small province.

Their agricultural policy was cracked up on all sides. He would like Mr. Tweeddale to say just what policy was new. They had simply followed out along the lines laid down by the old Government, extended in some cases perhaps as a result of the assistance received from the Dominion Government.

They promised to take the roads out of politics. How had they done it? A short time ago a man wanted a job on the roads and applied to E. S. Carter, the supervisor of roads for Kings County. Carter's reply was that all jobs in the gift of the Government went to friends and not to opponents of the Government. That is how they took the roads out of politics. The present was the most dis-

MURRAY GIVEN HOT RECEPTION AT NEWCASTLE

(Continued from page 1)

Councillor John W. Vanderhoek of Millerton, one of the most popular men on the North Shore, who is also endorsed by labor, showed the inconstancy of the Government. He challenged Provincial Secretary Murray to contradict his assertions of the enormous growth in the public debt of the province, and quoted from the official records in support of his contentions. He exposed the broken pledges of the Government and was lustily cheered.

Charles J. Morrissey, one of Northumberland's brightest young men, closed the debate for the independent forces. He spoke of his pleasure in associating himself with labor and the farmers of the county to give Northumberland good, honest, intelligent administration. He replied effectively to Dr. McGraith's ridiculous charge. Taking up issue after issue, Mr. Morrissey showed that the Government had deceived the people and that the whole desire of the representatives here was to hold to power.

Spoke Too Long.

The Provincial Secretary, Mr. Murray, broke faith with the party managers who had arranged the terms and time for speaking. Twenty-five minutes had been allotted to the Provin-

cial Secretary, but at the expiration of this time he persisted in continuing. But he only made trouble for himself. After speaking for over forty minutes, he tried to break up the meetings at once by moving an adjournment without the courtesy of extending the customary vote of thanks to the chairman. In this he was completely frustrated by a vote of thanks, carried unanimously, which was tendered to Sheriff Cassidy, the presiding officer, on motion of Mr. Birchill, seconded by Mr. Morrissey.

Before the meeting adjourned there were loud and continued cheers for an address from Mr. Edward Tigne, who responded with a sound, practical appeal to the electorate to vote the whole ticket. He explained the labor legislation and flatly denied the statement of the Provincial Secretary that this legislation was secured by the Liberal Government. Mr. Tigne gave the credit solely to the labor forces.

TURPENTINE AND ROSIN.

Savannah, Ga., Oct. 3.—Turpentine dull 1.27 1/2 to 1.30; sales, none; receipts, \$30; shipments, 130; stock, 16,294. Rosin, firm, sales, 287; receipts, 2,573; shipments, 329; stock, 53,590.

gracefully partisan Government the province had ever known. He concluded by asking for the support of the electors for himself and colleagues.

Mr. Keith briefly replied and the proceedings terminated.

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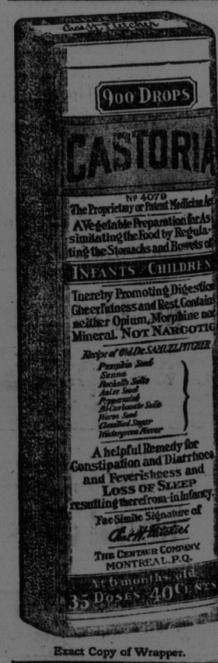
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