

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1917

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THE WAR SITUATION

The German submarine campaign does not justify German expectations. Less than ninety vessels have been sunk, and the daily number has decreased instead of increasing from day to day. On one steamer reported sunk on Saturday were thirty Americans. That they were saved does not alter the case, if the vessel was sunk without warning. In any case Britain is not to be starved, and the probability grows that the United States will soon declare war, for if Germany continues her policy it is only a question of time when President Wilson will be forced to act. American trade interests are growing very restive over the enforced idleness of the merchant fleet, and the sentiment hostile to Germany is certain to grow as the days pass. While Ambassador Gerard has left Germany, many other Americans are in that country, and are said to be having difficulty in getting passports. The growing irritation in American circles bodes ill for the future. Last night's cables brought news of further British success on the Somme, and in Mesopotamia, where the fall of Kut is only a matter of a short time. While operations in the field are subordinate in public interest and importance to the submarine campaign at the present time, it is worthy of note that Gen. Castelnau, chief of the French military delegation, at a conference in Petrograd, said last week:

"I can say that each day we are coming nearer to the realization of our objects. The brave Russian army, which has assumed a formidable task, the gallant Italian troops, and finally, the Anglo-French forces, which are increasing in number, constitute the best guarantee of our final victory which hereafter will come promptly. In the meantime the military power of the Allies remains unshakable. The Germans have procured success only on secondary fronts. With regard to the principal fronts, on which decisive action will occur, our enemies have shown themselves powerless to obtain any serious results."

THE CAMPAIGN

The opposition party has strong candidates in twelve constituencies. Gloucester convention is called for tomorrow, and tickets are yet to be nominated in Charlotte, Northumberland, Queens and St. John City. Very successful opposition conventions were held in York and Carleton counties on Saturday, and in each of these constituencies good men were nominated. The outlook in York county is better than for years, and the strong men who have been selected to run there have by their action cheered the friends of better government all over the province. That Hon. W. P. Jones has consented to lead the ticket in Carleton county, with Mr. George W. Upham, and Mr. Andrew McLean as his colleagues is a guarantee of a battle royal, in which Hon. B. Frank Smith will find it most difficult to rally his forces than in the by-election.

Mr. W. E. Foster, leader of the opposition, delivered an important and inspiring address in St. Martins on Saturday evening, when he and Mr. A. F. Bentley were given a fine reception. All over the province the opposition is lining up for a vigorous campaign, and as county after county is heard from it grows more and more clear that from the candidates chosen it will be possible, in the event of victory, to select a cabinet of clean and able men, to extricate the province from the very undesirable situation into which it has been plunged by putting in practice for years past the Flemington conception of public duty and responsibility.

The attempt made by the government press and speakers to convey the impression that there is a very dangerous "old gang" trying to climb back into power is not impressive. Mr. Foster very properly recalls the statement made by Hon. Mr. Baxter, in a speech at Bath, in which he said regarding a certain matter, as reported in the Standard, that he "would be willing to accept the judgment of the Hon. C. W. Robinson, Hon. W. P. Jones and Hon. F. J. Sweeney, who, in his opinion, were gentlemen of honor." These gentlemen of honor are now doing their utmost to restore honor to the public life of New Brunswick, and because of this fact they are assailed and vilified by the government press. At New Brunswick on Saturday night Mr. E. S. Carter directed attention to the charges made by Hon. H. F. McLeod in 1912. We quote from the report:

"Mr. Carter then read the text of the letter dictated by Hon. Mr. McLeod in February, 1912, telling in detail of the raising of \$187,000 for the campaign of 1912. In that letter McLeod charges that Flemington got \$100,000 from Gould, \$10,000 from MacKenzie and Mann, \$8,000 from the Maritime Dredging Company—all in addition to the timber grant which Mr. McLeod said amounted to \$100,000. This made \$287,000 in all, and McLeod said the campaign expenses were 'only \$76,000.' The McLeod letter was intended to make Flemington contribute toward the payment of an election note of \$6,000 which had been made because of his promise to contribute to the Guthrie election."

It is not surprising that the government press and speakers are much more

deeply interested in what they allege transpired prior to 1908, rather than in the exposures made since 1912.

The opposition candidates in York county, in their card to the electors, deal with another phase of the situation, linking up Premier Murray and his government with the Flemington group. They say:

"The administration in charge of the affairs of this province since 1912 has been convicted of the gravest wrong doing. The Hon. J. K. Flemington while premier was found guilty of extorting money from a contractor and of stamping with his approval the collecting of large sums for grossly improper purposes from the holders of crown land licenses. The Hon. J. A. Murray, the premier, supported in the legislature a resolution expressing approval of the conduct of Mr. Flemington after a royal commission appointed by this government had found him guilty. And now the same Mr. Murray in the manifesto which he has issued to the people of the province brazenly states that he will, if elected, attempt to follow in the same footsteps."

It is true that Mr. Flemington's name has suddenly been dropped from the headlines in the government press, but the fact that he was whitewashed with Mr. Murray's approval and support, and taken to Mr. Murray's bosom in the Carleton county by-election, establishes beyond doubt the sympathy between the two.

The St. John Globe on Saturday gave the opposition leader a fine certificate of character. It described him as a fine type of honorable and successful business man, that should be more largely represented in the legislature. But then the Globe went on to say that Mr. Foster advocated a crown land policy which should never be adopted, and that the crown lands should be administered by the government. Has the Globe forgotten the activities of Flemington, Ford and Berry? Has it forgotten what Commissioner Chandler said about the political administration of the crown lands? Commenting upon A. J. H. Stewart's operations upon crown lands without a license and without paying any stampage, the royal commissioner makes these remarks:

"The attitude taken by Mr. Stewart with respect to this subject of cutting on crown lands is apparently that it is the duty of the officers of the crown to find out if anyone is cutting on crown land and to collect the proper stampage therefor and that there is no obligation upon him as a licensee to inform the crown officers as to his operations or to trouble himself in any way as to the payment of stampage. It is very unfortunate, in my judgment, that a public representative should take this ground with respect to the matters under discussion. If an elected representative of the people—one who actually takes part in the framing of the laws passed for the protection of property belonging to the province—takes the ground that timber belonging to the crown is fair game and that anyone cutting on crown land under a license is under no obligation whatever to pay stampage unless caught red-handed and compelled to pay by the crown officers, one can hardly expect that other operators on crown lands will not follow the example. If, however, everyone operating on crown lands acts on the same principle as that followed by Mr. Stewart, the task of the officers whose duty it is to see that the law regulating timber operations on crown lands is enforced and the proper amount collected from the operators will indeed be a difficult one."

As the campaign progresses it grows more and more clear that the government has no defence, and hopes to divert attention from its own misdeeds by talking about "the old gang." The people are not deceived. The worst "gang" this province has known in its political history is now trying to get a new lease of power, and should be defeated in every constituency.

WHAT PINDER SAID

Premier Murray will not deny that his friend Pinder is a good authority to quote from, in relation to government methods, for Mr. Pinder leads the Murray ticket in York county. And Mr. Pinder, in a speech last year, said:

"Then there was the work which had been done about the legislative buildings during the last few months, in the way of painting and other repairs. Also at the gate-house of Old Government House. White lead was charged for at the rate of \$18.50, whereas \$10.85 was the real market price. The same was true of oil and other materials used. The men were all charged at \$8.00 a day, whereas some of the men told him they were paid \$2.50, and the latter was the highest wages he had been able to find had been paid. There was another rake-off, and that was what it was all through the department. On top of all these excessive charges on the repair and renovating work an additional ten per cent. was charged as well as profits."

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"There, I must resort to my first resolution."

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"O, ma'am," said he, "you are very good. I had almost resolved to go to work."

Near-sighted Woman—The boy that's worrying that cat ought to be threatened within an inch of his life.

Servant—It's your boy, ma'am.

"My boy? Tell him that if he will stop I'll give him a piece of cake."

A pretty young woman stepped into a music shop in the city the other day. She tripped up to the counter where a new clerk was assisting music, and in her sweetest tone, asked:

"Have you 'Kissed Me in the Moonlight'?"

The clerk turned, looked and said:

"It must have been the man at the other counter. I've only been here a week."

"Papa," said a small boy to his parent the other day, "are not sailors very small men?"

"No, my dear," answered the father.

"What leads you to suppose that they are so small?"

"Because," replied the young idea, "I read the other day of a sailor going to sleep in his watch!"

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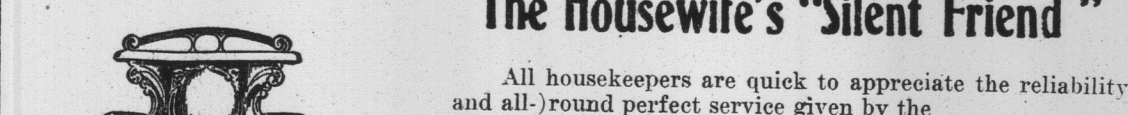
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EXPOSURE OF THE TORY NATIONALIST CAMPAIGN IN DORCHESTER ELECTION

The Chief Canvass of the Borden Ministers Was That the Liberals Wanted Canada to Do More in the War and Would Force Conscription on the People—Elected Seigny and He Will Keep Conscription Off—Mr. Blondin's Double-dealing.

(Halifax Chronicle.)

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 9.—Hon. Mr. Blondin's answer in the House of Commons to the accusation made against him that in the recent Dorchester by-election he told the people of St. John that if conscription came he would only have to go fourteen miles to cross the Maine border, and his further declaration that the Allison charges did not concern Canadians, because it was the money of England that was stolen, has been the one topic of discussion in Montreal and Quebec, where the circumstances are best known.

There is a widespread feeling that the affair will go much further, and that Mr. Blondin, who is being called the Jodel and Hyde of Canadian politics, should be held responsible for what is perhaps one of the most serious charges levelled against a Minister of the Crown. Blondin's Organized Campaign.

While Mr. Blondin was preparing to tell the House of Commons of his whole-

souled enthusiasm for the prosecution of the war, there is definite proof that he not only made the declarations of the St. John meeting, but he was actually urging the electors of Dorchester to vote against Lucien Cannon, the Liberal candidate, because he was in favor of participation in the war, and that the Liberal party even favored conscription, in order to win the war.

On the eve of the poll in Dorchester, Mr. Blondin and his friends circulated a newspaper bearing the date January 28th. It was published in French under the special direction of Mr. Lafamme, Mr. Blondin's secretary. On page five across three columns, there appeared the following:

"One gets it worth more than two 'will' votes." The electors of Dorchester are now well aware that they will have a Liberal government."

First the article gives full absolution to Sir Robert Borden. It says: "If the Borden government had wanted conscription it would have imposed it already. But it has declared that it does not want it."

The Phantom of Conscription.

Having canonized Sir Robert Borden, the article proceeds to liberate the phantom of conscription in Liberal clothes. It goes on:

"Is the County of Dorchester as sure as would like to see regarding the policy of the Liberal Party? Would it be more reassured if the Liberal Party were to declare that it is in favor of participation in the war, and that the Liberal party even favored conscription, in order to win the war?"

The most powerful lieutenants of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as the Hon. Frank Oliver, declared last Tuesday in the House of Commons, affirm that the Borden government has not done enough for the war, and that the Borden government must impose conscription. All the Liberal newspapers are beseeching conscription, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the chief of the Liberal party, gives no disappointment to his lieutenants and his newspapers, who promise conscription, because Sir Wilfrid Laurier knows well that these newspapers express the opinion of the majority of the Liberal party and that it is only with conscription that the Liberal party has any chance to come back to power and to wipe out the Borden government, which has not done enough for England."

How They Taught "Patriotism."

It was thus that Messrs. Blondin, Patenaude and Seigny, the canvassers of Dorchester, taught "patriotism" to the electors of Dorchester.

The editorial page contains this gem: "True, the chiefs say nothing because they hope that the Liberal party will come back to power, and when the Liberal party returns to power—if it ever does—it will impose conscription as the wish of the Liberals of all the provinces of Canada."

Read and understand—a handful of truths, there is the following:—

"At the present time there is no question of conscription. No government will take upon itself to establish conscription on a matter of the war alone can impose it. The election of Mr. Cannon will not change the government. Have a defender in the government. Elect Mr. Seigny. He will keep conscription off more surely than Mr. Cannon, if it can be kept off at all. If the Lib-

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although it was twenty below zero. He then goes on to say: "I have been wondering since if such a thing could have occurred in Ontario, and such deep interest could have been taken by the Ontario men and women as to attend a meeting twenty below zero, and with their children wait until twenty minutes past two for the speakers to arrive."

Gives Him the Lie.

Le Canada contends that Mr. Blondin, now that the Dorchester election is over, is naturally anxious to get away from the insidious insinuations he made during the campaign. It charges Mr. Blondin point blank with having lied to the House of Commons regarding his St. John speech. Mr. Blondin, it contends, is condemned first by the affidavits of the electors of St. John, secondly by the declarations of his own lieutenant, Mr. Desrochers, and thirdly by Mr. Blondin's own telegram to Sir Robert Borden. Le Canada says: "In the House of Commons, Mr. Blondin disavowed his lieutenant, Mr. Desrochers, a lawyer of Montreal, but it is undeniable that Mr. Desrochers was working for Mr. Blondin in Dorchester and was at the St. John meeting. What interest would Mr. Desrochers have in making the man he supported say things he did not say?"

St. Martins House Burned.

A dwelling house, owned by William Morrow, at St. Martins, was destroyed by fire late Friday night. The loss is estimated at about \$2,600. The house, insured for \$800 and the furniture for \$800.

General Sir Wm. Robertson, speaking at Bradford, said Britain had every reason to be thoroughly satisfied with what it had done up to date, seeing the start it had, and might look forward to the future with complete confidence, subject to the condition that "we did the right thing and did it in time."

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