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THE OBSERVER

Fred. H. Stevens, Editor and Managing Director.
Advertising Rates made known on application.
Published by The Observer Limited
Hamilton, New Brunswick

Terms of Subscription: The OBSERVER is \$1.00 per year, 7 months in advance. The paper will be sent to subscribers, as long as it is ordered, and each subscriber will be notified when the time to which he has paid is ended.

Vol. VI. DEC. 24, 1914 No. 28

A very Merry Christmas to Every Reader of this Paper! While we in Canada make the most of the holiday we cannot enjoy it to the full while our hearts are burdened with sorrow because of the heart-rending cruelties of war. Little doubt there are more aching hearts, more suffering fellowmen than at any Christmas-tide the world has yet seen. "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" seems a mockery, yet wounded suffering, broken-hearted, man can still have peace for his soul.

The poet Longfellow sang of Christmas during the American Civil War and cried: "Then in despair I bowed my head: 'There is no Peace on Earth,' I said."

THE "NEW" GOVERNMENT

The retirement of J. K. Fleming to private life—the direct result of the Dugal charges proved by F. B. Carvell—made necessary the formation of a new provincial government. After considerable delay Hon. George J. Clarke of St. Stephen, formerly attorney-general, being called on by Gov. Wood, rallied round him all of Fleming's former colleagues, each of them retaining his office, and to fill the place of Fleming he took upon himself the duties of premier and minister of mines and lands. To complete the outfit he took on board the ship of state one J. B. M. Baxter of St. John, best known to Carleton county people as the honest man who restored to the Valley Railway funds \$500 just in time to escape being caught with the goods.

Mr. Baxter is a lawyer of acknowledged ability which could have been better employed than in framing such an iniquitous measure as the "Foreshore's Bill" which it was attempted to smuggle through the Legislature last winter. This measure would have deprived every land owner in the province owning property on any lake or river of all his rights to the shores, and would have adversely affected hundreds of property holders in Carleton county. The bill passed its first reading, but when discovered by E. S. Carter and disclosed in Opposition newspapers it was never heard of again from the government, although the man Fleming was the one who introduced it. No one has ever claimed the fatherhood of the iniquitous bill, but Mr. Baxter is blamed and has never denied it. Mr. Baxter is now attorney-general.

The new government is the old government minus Fleming, plus Baxter.

The "new" government claims they knew nothing of Fleming's harvest of boodle among the lumbermen. If this is true they

are altogether too innocent and ignorant to handle the affairs of the province.

They are, however, equally guilty with Fleming, so far as the Valley Railway manipulations go. It was they who sanctioned the second railway loan, they who stifled investigation by not bringing forth the railway books, they who assisted in making A. R. Gould of Aroostook Co. a millionaire at the expense of the people of this province.

The "new" government has all the sins of Fleming and itself to answer for. It also has the province to save from the bankruptcy it is on the verge of. It has its work cut out.

The first act of this outfit was to spring two by-elections at a time of all the year, when people expect peace and good feeling. The elections are called in the briefest space of time the law allows. Possibly they hoped the members would be allowed to take their seats by default, but in the view of what has been revealed, the Province from one end to the other would feel that Carleton county and St. John county would be recreant to a sacred duty if they permitted two more Fleming-followers to enter Legislature without a dissenting voice.

THE ELECTION

Liberals cannot properly let this by-election go by default. Independent voters of all classes do not desire to miss the opportunity to register their protest against the unparalleled carnival of graft and plunder that has been unveiled through the Dugal charges. The shameless maladministration of affairs has brought the province to a point of bankruptcy. We have J. K. Fleming discredited, disqualified, down and out of politics, nominated by "arrangement" for the federal parliament. For some obscure, but doubtless satisfying reason we see B. F. Smith giving way to him and making a try for the Legislature. The "arrangement" was a cut-and-dried affair. The party that nominated Smith is still loyal and "true" to Fleming. What is the meaning of it all? Is Smith the man selected by that party to continue Fleming's corrupt work?

Independent voters see the need of an opposing candidate, and such a candidate will be ready for the hustings. With only two men on the Opposition benches, see what a mess of graft and mismanagement has been uncovered! Let there then be two others elected to strengthen this Opposition, which is weak only in numbers. Independent voters must in all decency vote against, not for, a continuation of Flemingism. There will be a contest in Carleton. But so far as the Opposition is concerned it must be clean. It must be clean—for surely graft and corruption has run its full course in New Brunswick. It must go no further. The Opposition candidate must be a man pledged to keep strictly within the election law, and pledged against graft anywhere and everywhere. There must not be a dollar or a drop of rum for voters, not a free dinner, not a sou-baabee for anything but the legitimate expenses.

THE GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE

B. F. Smith, twice elected to the Legislature and twice defeated in federal contests, is again seeking election to the Legislature. Since his first political activities he has gained prominence in the public eye as president of The Canada-West India Company, and as a lumberman. In the latter role his most notorious operations were carried on, illegally, on the Tobique Indian Reserve. He now seeks further prominence as the man to succeed J. K. Fleming, who, for some

GILLETT'S LYE EATS DIRT



reason or other, has seen fit to vacate his seat in the house.

Before the people of Carleton vote for Mr. Smith they want to know what his present attitude is, why he is in this contest. Two weeks ago a correspondent asked Mr. Smith a few questions through The Observer. The questions are hereto appended, they will be read by 2000 voters, and when Mr. Smith steps on the public platform he will have a good opportunity to answer them:

1. Do you approve of J. K. Fleming's taking the two thousand dollars from Contractor Kennedy? Had you been in Mr. Fleming's place would you have done otherwise?
2. Do you approve of Mr. Fleming's sanction to Berry's transactions? Were you a member would you protest in the house against such transactions as have been unearthed?
3. Are you still, as you are reckoned, a colleague and supporter of J. K. Fleming? Do you believe him a fit person to represent the county?
4. Will you give the reason why you resigned the Federal leadership of the party without consulting a representative body of the party?
5. Do you believe in clean elections—if so will you define what you mean by a clean election?

Independent voters are called to Woodstock on Saturday, to nominate a candidate to oppose B. F. Smith in the by-election of Jan. 7. It is expected many Liberals will gather in connection; but every thoroughly independent voter and every Conservative who is desirous of improving the political situation at Fredericton should attend. This should be a convention of people, not of party.

Watch how a Fleming campaign funds works!

"There is nothing in the Report of the Royal Commission," you say? Then why are we plunged into an election?

"Fleming is exonerated" exclaimed the Tory papers. Then why did he resign the Premiership and his seat in the House?

Why did J. K. Fleming resign the Premiership?

Why did B. F. Smith resign his chance for the Federal nomination to make a try for a seat in the Legislature? Merely for love of Fleming for whom he has no love?

The "new" government is the old one minus Fleming and plus Baxter, the man who distinguished himself for honesty by

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returning his share of the spoils just in time to escape being with the goods.

What was the price or promise that induced B. F. Smith to enter this election?

B. F. Smith is not lumbering on the Tobique Reserve this year. He found during his operation there in 1912 that the stumpage came too high.

The lumbermen, so they testified, paid into Fleming's campaign fund money amounting to upwards of \$100,000. The lid will be pried off the treasure-box for these two elections. Otherwise what is the fund for?

Come, Mr. Teed, get busy with the keys of that safety-deposit box! 'Twas for occasions like this that the money was collected.

If the other members of the government knew nothing of Fleming's nefarious boodling do they know enough to govern this province?

War time, Christmas time, election time? "That's a Christmas mixture" for fair. The holiday is welcome. The other conditions are forced upon us, but we must meet them like fighting men.

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