

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 29, 1916.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H.M. The King  
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

### MR. HARRY BLAIR AGAIN.

Mr. H. M. Blair, the dismissed and discredited secretary of the Provincial Department of Public Works, is not a successful bluffer. Every statement he has made, whether in the form of information conveyed to the opposition or in the newspaper organs of that party, by "solemn declarations," by newspaper letters or by the cheap blustering methods of the Carter-Veniot crowd, has been repudiated and it need only be said of him that in the report of the commissioner who investigated the irregularities which cost Blair his position that gentleman said Blair and a close friend were "trying to outdistance each other in their disregard of the truth."

It now transpires that in the sweet by and by when the last vestige of intelligence has departed from the people of this province and the Carter-Veniot party is placed in control of the New Brunswick treasury Mr. Blair is to have his old position back again. That development answers The Standard's question as to the remuneration he was to receive for the supply of "gas bombs" to the gentlemen in charge of the opposition campaign.

In Saturday morning's Standard a statement was published to the effect that there was a doubt in the minds of many people whether the money realized from that \$5,000 note ever went into the York County election fund. Early this morning the editor of The Standard received a letter from Mr. Blair in which that gentleman declared he had full details concerning the use of the money, asked if The Standard desired to publish it and threatened to use the information in the Telegraph.

In reply it is only necessary to say that Mr. Blair has no information which the members of the Clarke Government, their supporters or Mr. Blair, himself, should realize that fact by now as the people of the Province have already realized it. The former secretary of the Public Works Department has shot his bolt. Convicted by the Teed investigation as an unfaithful and corrupt servant of the New Brunswick Government all the pitiful cheap bluff he can now make will not serve to rehabilitate him in public esteem. Mr. Blair was a Conservative but since his dismissal from the Government employ for corrupt practices he has taken himself and his "gas bombs" to the Carter-Veniot camp. His action is simply a political application of the natural law that "water will find its level."

### DR. SMITH'S ADDRESS.

If the address submitted to the electors of Westmorland by Dr. E. A. Smith is remarkable for any one quality, it is for his absolute ignorance of matters affecting the financial situation of this province. This ignorance might be ludicrous were it not for the fact that it has rendered the Sheldrake dentist an easy victim to the wiles of the unscrupulous organizers of the opposition party who, trading upon his lack of knowledge have made him responsible for many misstatements.

In the first place he has told the electors of Westmorland that the "increase in the bonded debt since this Government has been in power amounts to over ten million dollars." This is particularly absurd in view of the fact that the total bonded indebtedness of the province at the end of the last fiscal year, according to the Auditor General's annual statement, was but \$8,728,885.

When the late government went out of power, the bonded indebtedness of the province was \$5,363,657. On top of this, however, there were numerous overdrafts, treasury bills, general indebtedness and other floating liabilities, which brought the total amount of the provincial debt to \$7,248,192, according to the statement submitted to the Legislature by Mr. Fleming in 1908.

A little calculation discloses that the real increase in the provincial debt therefore, is but \$1,490,693, and not \$10,000,000 as Dr. Smith's managers make him declare. This increase in the permanent debt is accounted for by the new bridges that have been erected in different parts of the province, notably the new suspension bridge at St. John, the Morrissey Me-

morial bridge at Newcastle, a considerable portion of the highway bridge at Fredericton and many others.

When the present Government came into power, they announced their intention of keeping the ordinary expenditure within the limits of the ordinary revenue, and not continuing the practice of their predecessors of spending just whatever amount they liked, whether they had it or not, and when they were short at the end of the year making up the shortage by another loan. The following figures will show how near the Government has come to carrying out the policy they laid down for themselves. In the year 1909 they had a credit balance of income over expenditure of \$4,444.97. In 1910 a credit balance of \$6,543.63; in 1911 there was a deficit of \$56,469.80; but in 1912 there was again a credit balance of \$8,672.79; in 1913 a credit balance of \$12,037.28; in 1914 a credit balance of \$11,454.65, and in 1915 a credit balance of \$7,446.68. So that in every year but one, the Government has had credit balances amounting altogether to \$50,818.90, as against one year's deficit of \$56,469.80, or a net deficit in the seven years of \$5,650.90 only. This is a record of which the Government may well be proud; more particularly in view of the fact that their predecessors never had a credit balance at all without having to call upon capital to make one up.

During the same period the Government has received some \$523,000 from sales of Crown land, receipts from renewals of timber limits, and other like sources, which they have set aside for the redemption of debentures as they become due. Had this \$523,000 come into the hands of the late government the whole lot of it would have been dumped into ordinary revenue and spent without a moment's hesitation. The reports of the Auditor General show that the late government never kept within their income by thousands upon thousands of dollars, year after year, but on the contrary, they paid away large sums, which should have been provided out of ordinary revenue, out of borrowed money which they bonded.

Dr. Smith declares that the Crown lands must be protected and preserved so that the province can obtain all the revenue possible from the lumber cut. When his political friends were in power they used to say the same thing, and they carried out their professions by allowing their political supporters to deprive the province annually of a very large amount of revenue to which it was entitled. This is shown by the fact that within a year or so after the present Government came into power and "compelled every lumberman to pay for every thousand feet of lumber that he cut," to quote Dr. Smith's own words, the receipts from stumpage went up from \$180,133 to \$246,742, and by continuing the practice of making "every lumberman pay for every thousand feet he cut" the stumpage returns now amount to upwards of \$423,000 a year. Any way, the amount received from stumpage during the seven years the present Government has been in power is in round figures \$1,500,000 more than that received in the last seven years of the old government.

Does Dr. Smith suppose that the non-partisan commission which he says his party proposes to create "when they come into power," will be able to do any better than this? Past experience has taught the public that the opposition party cannot conduct any public business in a non-partisan manner, and the public knows enough of that party to be perfectly sure that no commission appointed by them would be allowed to remain non-partisan for very long, but would be turned into a machine for promoting the party's interests.

The present Government has every intention of seeing to it that "the Crown lands are protected and preserved" and that is why they are having a thorough survey and classification made of them to know just "where they are at." The late government talked about having this done, but they let it go at talk. This Government is one that does things, and does not stop at talking about them.

Pugley and Tweedie Refunds. Replying to the matter of refunds made so much of by Carvell Mr. Smith pointed out that when the Hazen government came in in 1908 Pugley had nearly \$5,000 of the people's money in his pocket, and only

Dr. Smith further says that every man should be protected from monopoly and undue interference of capital. One of the very first acts of the present Government, after coming into power, was to appoint a Public Utilities Commission for the express purpose of protecting the people from monopolists. Dr. Smith's political friends, when they were in power, might have done the same thing had they so wished, but instead of protecting the public from the monopolists they chose to protect the monopolists themselves. What greater curse was ever put on the people of this province than the monopoly known as the School-Book Ring, for example?

Dr. Smith may be a well-meaning man, and he is no doubt an honest man, but he must fall in with his party, which is neither of these things; but if he is sincere in his professed desire for "pure politics," how does he reconcile the infamous and contemptible campaign of abuse and slander which he is allowing his party managers to carry out in his name and on his behalf, with his professions? Never in any political campaign that has ever taken place in this province has either party descended to such mean and low-down canvasses as those now being used by the opposition in Westmorland. Either Dr. Smith is fully aware of the nature of these canvasses, and is willing to take advantage of them, and thus stamp them with his approval; or, if he is not aware of their nature, it shows how ill-informed he is on political matters generally.

The programme which Dr. Smith's managers have prepared for him, and to which he has subscribed, is nothing but a cheap bit of clap-trap designed to catch the less informed portion of the electorate. Intelligent men see through it and treat it for just what it is worth, as will be demonstrated on Tuesday.

### CARVELL IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE PAST FORGOTTEN

Continued from page 2.

ment party were delighted with the outcome of the meeting, the result only proving what was known before that Carvell was afraid to meet B. P. Smith on fair terms at Sackville Thursday night.

### Carvell Repeats Slanders.

Carvell, as previously stated, simply repeated the slanders and misstatements that have been proclaimed by the opposition. He took up the Dugal charges, taking credit for drafting the charges and alleging that he had proven that Fleming got \$75,000 from the lumbermen for a campaign fund. He discussed the Valley Railway and said it was not to be built beyond Centreville. The affidavits of H. M. Blair occupied considerable part of the speech. In regard to the potatoes he said B. P. Smith received a commission of ten cents per barrel but failed to mention any expense incurred by the purchaser in connection with the transaction, alleging he got \$4.50 as a profit. If there was nothing wrong with the transaction, he asked why Commissioner Chandler was not allowed to investigate it. Carvell told some of the things his party would do if put back to power. They would get rid of patronage, give the roads back to the people, take the timber land out of politics and put them in the hands of an independent commission. They would build permanent roads, borrowing a million to start the work.

### Mr. Smith Replies.

B. Frank Smith on rising to reply was given a fine reception. He congratulated the people of Westmorland on having the portfolio of public works offered them, and then proceeded to contrast the methods of the present government with the old administration. "By their fruits ye shall know them," he said in reference to Carvell's appeal not to refer to the past. Mr. Smith went into the patriotic purchase fully and explained the transaction to the satisfaction of all. He told of having been asked by the secretary of agriculture to take a contract to supply half the quantity, purchasing from the farmers at \$1.00 per barrel and getting ten cents per barrel commission. Smith showed that it cost him five cents per barrel for loading and shipping potatoes, and the amount he refunded for potatoes culled and rejected amounted to about 5 1/2 cents per barrel. He had therefore done the government a service without any recompense.

### Carvell Defied.

He dared Carvell to repeat the statement he was alleged to have made at Shediac that he, Smith, was guilty of theft in connection with this potato transaction. If he dared say that he would have him in the courts as quickly as he could get him there. Although repeatedly asked if he would make such a statement Carvell was silent and never hinted at his reply. Mr. Smith took up the Fleming charges and read the findings of the Royal Commission. He declared Mr. Fleming had done more for the province of New Brunswick in one year than Carvell had done in all his life.

Pugley and Tweedie Refunds. Replying to the matter of refunds made so much of by Carvell Mr. Smith pointed out that when the Hazen government came in in 1908 Pugley had nearly \$5,000 of the people's money in his pocket, and only

### Little Benny's Note Book

Me and pop and ma was in the seting room after suppr yestid-day, and all of a suddin ma looked at pop and sed, O, deer ma, I forgot to tell you.

Deer me also, some horribil calamity must of happened, sed pop. O, deer, sed ma.

Is it as bad as that, wat happened, did one of the goldfish have a fit, sed pop.

I shoold of told you as soon as you came home, sed ma. Yes, it was very thawless of you to spare me a little suffering, sed pop.

Yes, it was thawless of me, I admitt, sed ma. This sispents is awfull, sed pop, you dont meen to tell me the canary has got a cold in the hed.

O deer, O deer, sed ma. Ware have I herd those words before, quick, woman, the truth, I demand to no how many were injured.

O, mersy, O deer, wen you find out you wont feel like making sutch a jock out of it, youll see the serious side of it wen you find out, sed ma.

Well hooz fault is it that Im not finding out, Mrs. William R. Pott-see fault, thats hooz, she who beats about the bush will go to the wall wents to awffin, sed pop.

But how did I go you were going to sit on it, youve never sat on that one before, sed ma.

The doose you say, wat do you meen, wat did I sit on, sed pop. Wy, that chair, your sitting on it now, sed ma, I varnished it this aftimoon.

Ding slam it to tongue tied blazes, sed pop. And he jumped up and looked at the back of himself and if you didnt want to look at the chair to see weather it had bin varnished, all you had to do was look at pop.

I told you you woodnt think it was so funny, sed ma. Warent you clever, warent you clever, sed pop. And he went out of the room still looking eround at the back of him and saying, Dubble dash bang it all.

refuted after he found his friends went out of office. Ex-Premier Tweedie, he said, also had to refund nearly \$14,000 belonging to the people of the province, and neither of the present government was now collecting almost double the amount the old government did, yet Carvell said in the legislature and allowed such a condition of things to go under the old government.

### Two-Priced Bridges.

He touched upon the two priced bridges and showed that Carvell was the chairman of the investigating committee and shut evidence that would have been of an incriminating character. Mr. Smith referred to Carvell's methods of preaching his own purity and attributing everything that vile and corrupt to his political opponents.

### Carvell Never Elected M. P.

He recalled the federal election of 1911, and charged Carvell with occupying the seat in parliament to which he (Smith) had been elected by the

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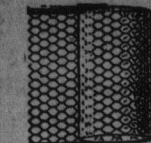
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