

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1912.

THE GOVERNMENT RECORD.

The Telegraph is very much disturbed lest the Government should appeal to the people on the record of their predecessors rather than on their own record since 1908. The chief organ of the Opposition need have no fear on that point. The clean and honest records of the Haysen and Flemming Administrations offer such a strong contrast to the corruption of the Tweedie-Pugsley-Robinson combination that no one but a hide-bound partisan would for a moment think of returning to the days when only half of the stumpage was collected and more than half of the public works expenditures, which should have been charged to ordinary revenue, were added to the permanent debt of the Province.

The Telegraph would have it believed that the old Government were turned out of power because they failed to give the people good roads and makes the untruthful assertion that there has been no improvement in the condition of the roads under the present Administration. The failure of the old Government to give good roads was only one reason for the popular revolt against them. The people had learned something of the wretched administration of the Public Works and Crown Land Departments and had tired of the rottenness that pervaded every department of the old Government. Although still ignorant of the details of the Central Railway fraud, the people recognized enough of the loose methods under which this enterprise was under-taken and carried on by the old Government to convince them that the time for a change had arrived.

The new Government elected in March, 1908, were thoroughly familiar with the methods of the old Administration. They had knowledge of the existence of suspense accounts and were acquainted with the fact that a very considerable portion of the expenditures of various departments instead of passing directly through the Receiver General was paid out of accounts kept in the name of the Deputy-Commissioner of the Department for the purpose of preventing the people from knowing the exact financial condition of the Province. Immediately on taking office the present Government wiped out this extraordinary condition of affairs and inaugurated a plan by which a complete check could be exercised over all receipts and expenditures. From a condition worse than chaos, under which dishonesty of any kind might easily be practiced, and as a matter of fact was practiced in more than one instance, order has been brought about, and a careful accounting is now required for every dollar spent, no matter what the department may be.

The Telegraph would imply that the Government have lost the confidence of the people because of their record. Nothing could be further from the fact. The people of this Province today are at one with the Flemming Government. Under Mr. Haysen corruption and misgovernment disappeared. There was an honest collection of the revenue hitherto unknown and a careful and prudent expenditure of all public moneys. The same is true of the Administration of Mr. Flemming. The Opposition during the present session expended a great deal of wind in an effort to demonstrate that there had been improper expenditures in the Public Works Department and that the Government was endeavoring to conceal the particulars of these expenditures. So willing were the Government for the fullest inquiries into all these expenditures that they even opened the files of accounts to all members of the Legislature for expenditure from the end of the fiscal year to the opening of the Legislature, affording facilities for examination that the Legislature had never asked for nor had been granted in previous years, while the Public Accounts Committee, upon which the Opposition are well represented, had the complete accounts for every dollar expended during the fiscal year with all the vouchers before them. This does not look like concealment. When it is stated that the Government attempted to choke off investigation into the Public Works expenditure the persons making the charge are guilty of malicious misrepresentation. Under the Telegraph for the Telegraph its references to the Government have been so unfair and unjust that no one will heed a statement that is so far from the facts.

The members of the Opposition have always displayed unusual warmth when the stumpage collections of the previous Government are compared with those of the present Administration. To have more than doubled the revenues from this source in four years is an achievement of which any Government might well be proud, particularly when it has been demonstrated to a conclusion that no more lumber is cut in the Province today than when the collections were only half what they are now. The Opposition have tried in a dozen different ways to disprove the statement made by the Government regarding the cause of the increased territorial revenue. But the facts and figures produced by the Government are so convincing that he who runs may read. The real fact is that the present Administration have made an honest attempt to get all the stumpage due the Province, while the old Government, because of their alliance with the lumbermen, practically permitted many of them to make out their own bills by holding the Government officials in subject subjection and this with the full knowledge of the Surveyor General.

Because of an honest collection of the revenue the present Government have been enabled to expend out of the ordinary revenues of the Province about \$24,000 a year more on roads and bridges than their predecessors spent after adding three-quarters of a million to the permanent debt of the Province. They have spent more for education and have been able to provide pensions to school teachers who have spent their lives educating the youth of the country. Agriculture has not been neglected, but more than double the amount assigned for that purpose is now available for improving the conditions of the rural population of the country. What is more to the point is that the conditions have been improved and an interest is now being displayed in all classes of farming never before known in the history of the Province.

There is not a single Department of the Government that has not been benefited by the increased collections of the revenue. Briefly, the Government have collected a much larger revenue from the natural resources of the country than their predecessors. It has been expended in furthering education, improving the Public Works of the country and for the development of agriculture. Suspense accounts have been abolished and all payments are now properly vouchered for. No one can get money from the public treasury without having performed the service charged for. This is the record of the present Government so far as the general business of the Province is concerned. It is a record of which any Government might be proud to lay before the people seeking

their support. There is certainly nothing in it to be ashamed of as the Telegraph would imply.

In addition to having performed these services the Government have made for themselves a splendid record for progressiveness. They have provided for the construction of the Valley Railway, which will open up one of the finest sections of the Province and greatly improve trade conditions at St. John. They have also provided for the full development of the coal areas of Queens and Sunbury counties and have inaugurated a policy under which the deserted farms of the country will again be populated. The four years of the present Administration have been years of progress, years when New Brunswick has made greater headway than in the past two decades. In the next five years as a direct result of this policy the Province will experience a development far beyond the hopes of the most sanguine and which no sneers of the Telegraph can prevent.

FORESTRY THAT WAS DESTRUCTIVE.

The last echo of Cornell University's brief and disastrous venture into scientific forestry in the Adirondacks comes with a decision by the United States Court of Appeals, which affirms the decisions of the lower courts requiring the reconveying of the land to the state and incidentally, abrogating a contract the school had made with the Brooklyn Cooperage Company. A history of this venture is interesting.

In 1898 the Legislature authorized the purchase of 30,000 acres of land near Upper Saranac Lake on which to establish a school of forestry. The land cost \$165,000 and appropriations were made for buildings, salaries, etc. Dr. B. F. Fernow, who had been head of the Federal Bureau of Forestry, was made director of the school, which became a part of Cornell University. After two years Dr. Fernow decided that the interests of the school demanded the conversion of the tract into a spruce forest.

The land was covered chiefly with hardwood. He tried to get lumber companies to buy his cuttings of hardwood, and at last induced the Brooklyn Cooperage Company to take the hardwood off the lands. The company spent \$350,000 building a wood alcohol mill, a stove mill and five miles of railroad. The contract was to run for fifteen years. The company ran behind because of increase in labor costs, but the school grew little spruces and in five years had 1,000,000 of them ready for transplanting. The summer residents near Saranac objected to Dr. Fernow's methods because all trees were cleared away wherever the foresters worked, making bare hill-sides and increasing fire risks where resinous trees were substituted for hardwoods.

The crisis came when Governor Odell in 1904 vetoed the bill appropriating money for the support of the school. That veto practically ended the life of the institution, but for a year thereafter word was delivered to the Brooklyn company. That concern subsequently sued to force a continuation of the deliveries.

The starting of the forestry school was generally approved. Everyone believed that a splendid beginning had been made through it in scientific forestry. When it was discovered that trees were being destroyed, sentiment changed. It was asked why it was necessary, with such great denuded tracts in the Adirondacks, to cut down good forests ruthlessly in order that new trees could be planted. If the school had to replant spruce on a big scale, instead of destroying the hardwood tract, it could have gone upon the denuded lands.

NEW SWISS INSURANCE.

The Swiss Government's bill for a system of state accident and sickness insurance has been made a law by a referendum vote of 255,027 to 258,094. It gives the State a monopoly of accident insurance and applies to the workers of the nation generally. The Government contributes a subsidy fund, and payments must be made by both the employers and the insured, but the employers are made responsible for the payments of employees, which, of course, will be deducted from wages.

In one respect the new law is different from any other in any land—the insurance policies cover accidents occurring at any time, not merely when the insured are at work. Another feature, which has excited much opposition, is the provision for insuring foreign workers in Switzerland on the same terms as the Swiss. For sickness insurance, women are placed on the same level with men or given a slight advantage, the Government's contribution to their premiums being a little more than to the men's insurance.

The working of this radical law should be carefully watched by those who are interested either in the question of state insurance or in accident compensation. The latter question is a pressing one everywhere.

EXPRESS RATES FIXED BY LAW.

The Interstate Commerce Committee of the United States has favorably reported to the House of Representatives a bill fixing express rates by law and compelling express companies to interchange business with the post office. The rates apply to packages of eleven pounds or under, and the maximum charge per pound is twelve cents where the distance is more than two thousand miles; the rates are reduced as the distance decreases until a flat rate of two cents per pound is fixed where the distance is not more than 250 miles.

The bill provides for the acceptance of a parcel by the express companies which is to be carried part way by their agents and then turned over to the postal authorities for delivery on a rural free-mail delivery route, and the man on the rural free mail delivery route may give a package to the carrier with instructions for him to forward it by express. The express rate being fixed by law, the sender will know what the tolls of the company will be, just as he knows what the Government will require in postage stamps.

Current Comment

(Thomasville Press.)

We would be very glad if someone in each town or settlement in Thomas county would send us the news from their respective localities each week. But we want news that is news. If a cat jumps over a fence or a dog crosses a road or if a frog falls off a ditch bank, a snake bites a rabbit and an owl hoots, or if Mr. Jinks crosses the road from his store to his residence, or if Miss Sarah Rusebody breaks her clothes line, and so forth, why, talk this among yourselves.

(Vancouver Sun.)

A city is as clean as its back yards and vacant lots. The captivating weather of recent weeks has set Vancouver's inhabitants working at the adorning and embellishment of their front yards. In the spring a city dweller's fancy gently turns to thoughts of beautifying his front yard. His back yard is very often neglected.

(London Advertiser.)

American coals have been recently carried to Newcastle and Scotch and Irish potatoes to the United States and Canada. Stranger things have happened, but not often.

(Mail and Empire.)

A bottle of whiskey is dangerous enough in itself without being associated with an automobile. The chemical union means disaster and death.

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THE SONS OF ST. GEORGE HEARD ELOQUENT SERMON

Continued from page 3.
And now, thank God, we can still look up to England's throne with unabated loyalty, pride and affection, for George V., who wields the sceptre of sovereignty as a constitutional monarch, is following in his illustrious father's footsteps and upholding the noblest and highest traditions of British sovereignty.

As an expression in words of what we feel so deeply in our hearts, we shall welcome the opportunity at the close of my sermon, in lifting to heaven the nation's prayer:
"God save and bless our gracious King."

Of the British Empire also, I need say but little. In every sense it is the most wonderful of all great empires the world has seen; the most marvelous aggregation of peoples, races, creeds, colors and languages. It encircles the globe, forming a part of each of the continents, upon its dominions the sun never sets. These are the facts, simple, though tremendously significant facts.

But, my brethren, loyalty to the King, loyalty to this Empire, means to every Englishman a full realization of our responsibilities as subjects and citizens.

Citizenship is in itself a subject so great that it cannot be dealt with in a few sentences; therefore I must content myself with commending it to the most earnest consideration of every Englishman here.
There is a watch and ward which we ought to keep in these growing times of ours. A change has been gradually and insidiously working its way into our modern civilization. Read your own history and compare it with the history which is now in making, and you will find that in ancient civilization the individual was subordinate to the state, while unquestionably today the tendency is to subordinate the state to the individual. The heroes of antiquity were the men and women who sacrificed themselves unreservedly for the public good, who served and honored the state, for in it alone it need be, died for it. How often today do we listen to harangues delivered from political platforms of one party or of the other, in which politicians seek to capture the electorate, by holding up before their eager eyes, the hope of gain for themselves. It often seems that the ambition of modern civilization is not to serve the state, but to subvert it, and that the franchise is the instrument by which the squeezing process is effected.

Brothers of St. George, I plead with you, to be true to the old motto, "In our own Dominion of Canada at least, a return to something like the ancient spirit of disinterested citizenship."

Remember the God-given mission of the English race, and remember your duty as Englishmen, towards carrying out this mission.
"Here and here did England help me!"

How can I help England? This is a noble motto for us all, and let our answer be, "by doing all we can by word and deed to strengthen the ties which bind our Canada to the Old Land which is the mother of us all. Remember, too, that as an Empire is, after all, no more than a collection of individuals, there can be no great empire when the individuals composing it are grasping and self-seeking and that therefore, it is upon the moral qualities of the men and women of Greater Britain, that the dignity and the glory of the British Empire under God, depend.

III. Loyalty to the Flag.
What a world of pathos, inspiration and incentive lies in a national flag. It is the emblem of a nation's struggles, sacrifice and glory. It is a sacred thing and as sacred, it should be treated as such. If this is true of national flags in general, much more is it true of the flag which stands for the British rule, the Union Jack of Britain. Picture, my brothers, the flag of our Empire floating before you, and as you gaze upon its majestic folds, think of the centuries of story, of which it is the exponent. Think of the meaning of the cross. Think of the glorious union of the three crosses, which tell the world that wherever they may be, the Englishman, the Scotchman, and the Irishman stand shoulder to shoulder as compatriots and as brothers. Think of the gallant heroes of the flag and their glorious deeds. Think that whosoever in all the world, the banner of the British Empire is raised, there is found justice, equality, freedom and progress. Think such thoughts as these, and then say, shall we not reverence our flag as an emblem most inspiring and most holy? Shall we not teach our sons and daughters that next to the Cross of Jesus, the British flag is the emblem of our faith, our hope, our love and our devotion? And shall we not spurn every suggestion of subordination to any other flag, in any part or portion of the British Empire?

A foremost Canadian poet, himself an Englishman, appealing to brother Englishmen to help famine stricken millions in a distant portion of the Empire, speaks words which will burn in the hearts of us all today:
"Lion-blooded sons of England, breathing glory in your breath,
Up! and give you, now my brother, for a giant strife with death.
By the flag we guard unsullied,
By the God that reigns above
Rise and bind our mighty Empire with the bands of human love."

Of our own transcendent part and portion in the flag of the British Empire, we who are Englishmen, have reason to think with pride. St. George's banner is ours, with all its heritage of nobility and glory. It comes from the misty ages. This banner of England's might, The blood-red cross of brave St. George.
That burns on a field of white.
It speaks of the deathless heroes
On whose bright page encircled,
And bids Great England never forget
The glorious deeds of old.

Three crosses in concord blended
The banner of Britain's might.
But the central gem of the ensign
Is the cross of the dauntless knight.
North Bay, Ont., April 19.—John Grogan, alias McDonald, from Nova Scotia, who, with a companion, was convicted of burglarizing a North Bay hotel, was sentenced to two years in the central prison by Magistrate Weegar. Grogan has a record, having served time in the east for similar offences. His companion on this occasion, a youth of eighteen, was released on suspended sentence.

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Increased Cost of Bullets.
The cost of killing a soldier in battle is going to be appreciably increased by the rise in the market price in lead. The cartridge manufacturers who fill the British War of

flee contracts are at present supplying large orders placed some months ago at old prices, but the new contracts will be revised in connection with the price of lead which has largely increased during the last six months. "Not only the lead but the nickel casing to put it in and the brass metals have gone up," said the London manager of a well known manufacturing house. "The rise in lead has also increased the price of sporting cartridges, from 5 to 7 1/2 per cent, so that shooting partridge and pheasants will cost you more."

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