

NEW BRUNSWICK SERVES NOTICE

The result of the provincial by-election in Westmoreland, New Brunswick, on May 30th is abundant proof that the electors are fully awake to conditions surrounding the Conservative administration of that province. Hon. P. G. Mahoney, newly appointed to the cabinet as Works Commissioner, was appealing to the electors of his county for the necessary confirmation of his appointment, and entered the fight with all the confidence and assurance of success indicated by a Tory majority of 450 at the last general elections. His Liberal opponent, Dr. Ernest A. Smith of Shediac, was elected with a majority of 83. The enormous turnover, despite the fact that the whole weight of the Conservative party, provincial and Federal, was thrown into the contest and that the fight was made without regard to money or methods, carries a clear meaning—it is the death warrant of the Tory administration in New Brunswick.

Liberal Opposition Forced Exposure.

The Conservative government of New Brunswick stands discredited as the result of public exposure brought about by a determined and fearless opposition, although that opposition was numerically about as small as is recorded in the history of provincial legislatures in Canada. It consisted of only two Liberals. But, to quote the independent Ottawa Citizen, it has "exposed a legislature honey-combed with ignorance and vice and greed." It forced the resignation of Hon. J. K. Flemming, former premier, after a judicial investigation and thus awakened the whole province and the whole of Canada to the scandalous condition of affairs.

In April, 1914, Mr. L. A. Dugal, Liberal member for Madawaska, made his formal charges against Mr. Flemming and Hon. H. G. McLeod, formerly Provincial Treasurer, now member for York in the House of Commons. He charged that Mr. Flemming, through the agency of W. H. Berry, extorted money for election funds from holders of timber limits in the province. He also charged that Mr. Flemming and Mr. McLeod had in a like manner extorted money from contractors engaged in the construction of the Valley Railroad. Mr. Dugal made his charges so specific that they could not be ignored and a Royal Commission was appointed which made its report in November, 1914.

Royal Commission Found Flemming Guilty.

The finding of the Royal Commission was that some \$71,000 had actually been collected from the holders of timber licenses and that the money had actually been extorted by Berry and that Flemming was well aware that moneys were being collected for a purpose unquestionably improper." Also, they found, it was manifest that Flemming, the Premier, directed the disposition of such money when collected." In the matter of the Valley Railroad, the report of the Commission exonerated Mr. McLeod but found Flemming guilty of compelling railway contractor to pay \$2,000.

When the Commission findings were published Mr. Flemming entered a general public denial and

declared that he would resign and contest the Dominion constituency of Carleton and Victoria in opposition to Mr. F. B. Carvell. He did resign shortly after and then presented himself before a convention of the Conservatives of Carleton and Victoria and was actually given the nomination.

Fresh Exposure of Amazing Graft.

But the facts proved before the Royal Commission were only a small part of the infamous story. It was not until the recent Westmoreland by-election that the full truth became known through the publication of an affidavit made by Mr. Harry M. Blair, who until a short time ago was Deputy Minister of Public Works. Mr. Blair swore that in February, 1914, long before the Dugal charges had been made in the Legislature, Mr. H. F. McLeod became interested in an attempt to get Premier Flemming to contribute \$5,000 to pay a note for funds raised by a Conservative committee for use in the Guthrie-Scott by-election in York County. In order to protect the signers of the note and to coerce Flemming into putting up the money, Mr. McLeod dictated to Mr. Blair, in the presence of a number of others, a letter which Mr. Blair preserved. The affidavit says in part:—

"The said Hon. H. F. McLeod dictated to me, and I wrote from his dictation the following letter:—

Fredericton, N.B., February 12th, 1914. The St. John Daily Telegraph, St. John, N.B.—

I desire to make public a matter which is absolutely of public importance.

I charge that Hon. J. K. Flemming, premier of the province of New Brunswick, received from Mr. A. R. Gould, president of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company, the sum of \$100,000 previous to the general provincial election of 1912.

That this was the contribution of Mr. A. R. Gould to the provincial election fund.

That the said Hon. J. K. Flemming received the sum of \$10,000 from Sir William Mackenzie of Mackenzie and Mann.

That the said Hon. J. K. Flemming received the sum of \$9,000 from the Prudential Trust Company, of Montreal.

That the said Hon. J. K. Flemming received the sum of \$8,000 from the Maritime Dredging Company, Limited, St. John.

That the said Hon. J. K. Flemming received from the James H. Corbett & Sons, Inc., the sum of \$10,000—making a total of \$137,000, all of which was contributed for election purposes.

I also charge that there was expended in the said provincial election of 1912 in the way of campaign funds the sum of \$76,000, leaving a balance unexpended of \$61,000."

Comment on this amazing story of Tory graft in the highest places would be superfluous. Even more amazing is the fact which must not be forgotten—this J. K. Flemming, ex-Premier of New Brunswick, discredited and forced to resign office, is the man who was able to turn to his Tory friends and with the consent of Sir Robert Borden, the leader of the Conservative party, take the nomination for the Federal constituency of Carleton-Victoria to oppose Mr. F. B. Carvell, the present Liberal member.