

was possible for a government to do with the expenditure of something like \$2,000,000. In the County of Carleton where Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Gregory's particular friend, was contesting the election against the government the only reason for his opposition was that the government would not consent to embark on this same description of railway legislation as he had already referred to. Dr. Atkinson had withdrawn his support because the government would not consent to subsidize a railway in every county in the province, including his own. Did the people of York sympathize with that opposition? Did they sympathize with the stumpage agitation in Kent and Northumberland? Did they sympathize with the sectional question that was being raised in St. John? If they did not surely it was not too much to ask that they should give the government their hearty and united support. (Applause.) If they did then they should send Mr. Gregory to the Legislature in company with the railway subsidizers in Carleton and Kent, and the sectionalists in St. John, and see what kind of a combination he could make.

These Discontented Elements. Mr. Gregory had implied, rather than stated, that the convention of the friends of the government was unwilling to allow him an opportunity of taking a seat in the Legislature but had filled up their entire ticket. So they did. But had they done so before the ticket was filled up. Why, Mr. Gregory had been trying to get candidates to run with him all summer and had failed in the attempt. And not satisfied with this county as a field of operations he had been trying to form a ticket in Carleton county to oppose the government.

Mr. Blair—Will he deny that a meeting was held in Mr. Appleby's office to secure a ticket to run in opposition to the government benches. (Laughter.)

Mr. Gregory—I deny that positively. Mr. Blair—Well, all I know is that Dr. Atkinson says so, and that Mr. Drysdale of Woodstock was the man Mr. Gregory endeavored to get to run. (Great Applause.) He does not deny that gentleman. Neither will he deny that he was approaching people all up through Canterbury and Prince William and was unsuccessful in making any combination until he induced Mr. Allen to come under the shadow of his wing. (Applause.)

Mr. Gregory was not willing that this election should go by default. He held that the government in 1886 by unexpectedly springing the elections on the people had secured a snap verdict at the polls, so that the opposition had so diminished its usual watchfulness over the government that they had become careless, arrogant and assuming to a degree therefore unknown and the course of legislation had been careless, uninteresting and unimproving. At no time in the history of the province, said Mr. Gregory, had the necessity for a strong and vigilant opposition been made more painfully apparent than during the life of the House just dissolved. Well in 1886 Mr. Gregory had supported the Government.

He attended the convention held in Fredericton and expressed his hearty approval of the election of four men to contest the county in support of the government. Down to the winter of 1887 when a difference arose between Mr. Gregory and himself the cause of which Mr. Blair could not tell—all knew was that Mr. Gregory had been suspicious, morbidly suspicious of himself—down to that time he had been a most loyal and devoted supporter of the government. He was satisfied and then the legislation which previous to that time had been most interesting. (Laughter.) The legislation which had been most careful, became suddenly careless. The government which up to that time had been a most conscientious administration at once became most tyrannical and arrogant. (Applause.) The government which up to that time had been open and day, suddenly became secretive and dark in its ways. A complete transformation took place just as Jonah's gourd sprang up in a night, and Mr. Gregory withdrew from the light of his countenance from the government on account of the personal differences that had sprung up between Mr. Blair and himself. That was the precise moment when the government commenced to care nothing for the people, and when they commenced to ride rough-shod over their rights and liberties. Mr. Gregory's unfeignedness to Mr. Blair gave that which was before a thing of beauty and a joy forever, a most repulsive and distorted appearance. And now he asked the people of this county for reasons that are personal, and because he could not regard the government in the name of the people as before that they should take the same view he does and go into direct antagonism to everything most they had previously supported and approved.

Mr. Gregory's Card. But when they followed down to its close what would they find. In the early stages of that remarkable card which would be inferred that Mr. Gregory was determined to come out in open and avowed antagonism to the Government. Had he not practically said he wanted the opportunity of going in, in order to hurt the Government from power? Had he not proclaimed himself an out-and-out opponent to the Government? But did they find him in opposition? Not at all. He wanted to be elected as what? As an "independent representative." (Applause and Laughter.) The man who thought the legislation had been careless and false to the Government and false to the trusts of the people, and which ought to have a vigilant opposition, lands himself at last far and square on top of the fence. (Applause.) He wanted to be elected as a watchman, as a spy and detective upon the Government. The duty of watchman was not very exalted for a man of such ponderous mental acumen as Mr. Gregory to aspire to. Perhaps the sole claim to favor which he had, was the extreme modesty of his ambition. The position of a watchdog in any case is not an extremely exalted position.

But if Mr. Gregory was elected would he be an independent representative, prepared to deal fairly and justly with the Government and vote according to the merits of the legislation they advanced? An Oppositionist is a man who would be prepared to vote the Government out on every opportunity. That was where Mr. Allen stood and he was at all times to be respected for saying where he stood. Did the people think if Mr. Gregory was elected and the chance offered to vote the government out he would not vote them out without a word? He thought

of a mind warped from all sense of justice and fair play by spite, suspicion and unmitigated personal hostility, anxious by conglomerating minor matters together, to throw it all together in a lump in the hope that some one of these things would stick and produce the desired effect. He would have thought it not unreasonable that a man who in a few short weeks is to be perched in the chair of the leader of the government would have had some substantial food with which to feed the people of this country instead of these barren husks. But he would assure that gentleman that even had he known that he was following him with stealthy step year outstretched, and nose extended all these years, to hear what he might hear and smell what he might smell, he would have pursued exactly the course he had pursued.

Mr. Gregory charged the government with disregarding its pledges. Well, there were four years and upwards during which the government were in office that Mr. Gregory had made no complaint upon this score.

His criticism upon the financial position of the province was a most lame and ineffectual one. It was true that the gross debt of the province now amounted to over \$2,000,000. But how was it increased. It was increased with the exception of one or two items by the subsidies given to railways that have been built and which had been authorized by the legislature before the present government came into power. The subsidy to the Northern and Western railway and the Central railway and others had increased the debt up to \$2,000,000, but included in that sum was the \$250,000 the government had been compelled to borrow to wipe out the floating indebtedness left by the old administration. The people could not condemn that funded debt without condemning the course that created it.

How did the government stand with reference to revenue and expenses. The fact was that from 1884 to 1888 inclusive the government had succeeded in keeping its expenditure within its income and had also a surplus of \$86,000. He pointed out that the expenses of the Executive Government the loss of foundling children and nearly all these items which were controllable exhibited a substantial saving to the people. The expenditure on public works and on education the people of this country had no wish to see diminished.

Mr. Blair then dealt with Mr. Gregory's charge that it cost him \$200 to go to Ottawa. He denied that he had any passes over the railroads to Ottawa, and as at the other meetings he has asked the people if they wanted their Province to be represented decently before the public men of other places or not. That item of \$200 was indeed a ponderous weight to engage the attention of the people and exalted qualities which the Government ascribed to its opponent. As to the charges for stationery he showed that many other items were included under that heading. He assured the people of the sincerity of the Government on the question of the abolition of the Legislative Council and at the very first opportunity presented himself that he had the honor of the Legislature to be a member of the same.

He described the government made to effect that object. Neither Mr. Rourke nor any other living man could say that he ever saw a man who was so anxious to get into that House. He defended the government's course on the fishing question, showing that a large revenue was now derived from a source which had been neglected and it was unreasonable to expect the government to grant away these fishing rights to settlers under the Labor Act to sell for fabulous sums of money; and that it was most proper to preserve what was remaining of these valuable rights for the benefit of the whole people. It was impossible now to name an individual living on any of these northern shores who did not own a fishing boat. Mr. Allen had not either sold or leased it to these fishermen, whom the government were accused of favouring. He mentioned a grant of about 500 acres of land made by the old government to Mr. Gregory, the value of which was now worth over \$30,000. Mr. Gregory's intention was that he would grant the whole four rods fronts to those people who had been so long in the land. He did not think that was sound policy and that if Mr. Gregory was in power to-morrow he would reverse in that respect at all events.

The Policy the Government had Pursued. He then took up Mr. Gregory's charge that members of the government had been tampering with these fishing privileges; pointed out that he had had nothing whatever to do with the Renous and Dangaroon Club until after parties entirely unknown to him had purchased these rivers and formed a club which he was invited to join, and was heartily applauded by the audience when at that time Mr. Allen's name was mentioned. He said that Mr. Gregory had never known Mr. Allen to take a very pronounced interest in public affairs but, however that might be, Mr. Gregory and himself were both one brother in this campaign, and therefore when the elections approached they were expressing their disapproval of the government's acts and a desire to weaken it in the legislature.

The speaker had failed to discover in Mr. Gregory's Marystown speech a single question of public policy put forward which that gentleman desired to promote. That speech contained nothing but carrying criticism and much of it was unworthy of any gentleman, however blinded by personal animosity that he could make such utterly ungrounded charges against any man holding a public position with no proof under heaven with which to support it. As to the fact that he had ordered these charges to be combined in one issue, Mr. Gregory knew very well that Mr. Fraser when in power, did about all the ordering in the various departments of the government when the other members were absent from the city. That always had been the practice and must always continue to be the practice, when any member of the government resided in Fredericton.

After disposing of the Easter Rock monument he showed that Mr. Gregory had falsified the record in regard to the cost of the sidewalk of the Fredericton Bridge. He said it had cost \$500. The fact was that it had only cost a trifle over \$200, though Mr. Haines, the engineer had estimated that it would cost about \$2400. (Mr. Alfred Haines' statement in the audience and corroborated this statement.) If there was anything in that charge which was not true, it was the personal charge of Mr. Chief Commissioner Ryan, a man whose honesty and integrity were absolutely above reproach. (Applause.)

He appealed to the electors to give the government an opportunity of continuing on the lines which they had adopted. He thought the administration deserved well at their hands and if they should not give strength to their opponents by selecting gentlemen to oppose

government in the House. What better service could Mr. Gregory render to the county of York than he (Blair) had rendered? How much better could he stand by the interests of York than he (Blair) had done? It had been his study night and day to stand by and promote to the fullest extent he justly could, the interests of his own county. He had not lost sight of what was reasonable and fair to the other portions of the province, but when he could get anything for York that York deserved, it had been his constant aim to secure it. The gentlemen opposed to him had charged their course but he did not think they could successfully ask the people to change theirs. "I ask you to say on the 20th instant that the ticket which the friends of the government have nominated ought not to be received and that the ticket which you have nominated should be received and that you will support it in this county at all events you appreciate the efforts we have made, and that you are determined to assist and strengthen our hands by giving us the benefit of a united support in the Legislature." (Loud and long-continued Applause.)

At the conclusion of Mr. Blair's speech there was some doubt and no little appearance as to who should take precedence. According to long established custom, the right belonged to Mr. Wilson, and the majority of the people seemed determined that his right should be recognized. Mr. Gregory however, claimed the floor and the chairman decided that he should be the next speaker. Mr. Wilson said that he did not intend to speak, nor other public man ever stood upon Mr. Gregory's privilege of replying to Mr. Blair's speech, and that if Mr. Gregory would confine his speech to the time occupied by the Attorney General, he would surrender him the floor. Mr. Gregory agreed to this and commenced his address. He claimed that it could not be gathered from his card that he was running the election as an independent, but that the word "independent" was used in what immediately followed it in the card, and that in reality he was an independent positionist. He said that he had no policy and that he was not at all anxious to lay down a platform. He was contented to be a member of the Board of Agriculture and questioned the wisdom of the policy of the government in the importation of horses, said that he was not at all in favor of ten or fifteen years. In the matter of the Plaster Rock on the Tobique the speaker said that statements made by him from other platforms that the rent had not been paid was incorrect. He had also admitted that on account of his connection with the Dangaroon fishing club, the speaker took exception to his speech, and very considerably left the matter in the hands of the audience for them to consider. In his other charge against Messrs. Wilson and Blair, Mr. Gregory did not speak with the most confident assurance that he characterized his speech in that respect, but rather sought to modify his attacks by mere suggestions from which the audience could gather little or no information. The speaker also referred to the statements in his card that the legislation had been careless uninteresting and unimproving, and sought to verify the allegations by reference to the Franchise Act and the Law Commission, and one or two other measures.

MR. WILSON. who was very warmly received, said this was the fourth time he had appeared as a candidate. He was not a self-nominated candidate, he was the candidate of a convention called in Fredericton to nominate supporters of the administration. At that convention, the position of the government was stated by the Attorney General, and the other members of the ticket appointed, and after a full and free discussion of the merits of the administration, that convention had determined to put into the field four men to sustain the government. There was a resolution passed at that convention by which it was decided that the government should be supported by the County of York, and it was said, whatever might be done in other counties of the province, that in the County of York, where it was recognized that the administration had done well for the country, there would be no question as to the support the people would give to this administration. When he first appeared as a candidate he had endeavored to formulate a platform, but that which he had found fault with him Mr. Gregory had lived in the City of Fredericton as long as he had, could come before the people of this county, and say that he knew nothing of the public affairs, yet this was virtually the admission he made. He (Wilson) had stated that he had no policy to present, and the whole tenor of his remarks was only carrying criticism.

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What's That? Mr. Wilson—Oh, I know you are just as anxious to get into office as anybody else. Mr. Wilson vigorously defended the railway and crown land policy of the government. In conclusion he thanked the people for the attention they had given him, and the hearty reception he had received. The gentlemen who appeared in the interest of the government were not dictating to the people what they should do, but he thought the County of York, above all other counties in the province, had a right to sustain the government. (Loud Applause.)

Owing to the lateness of the hour Messrs. Bellamy and Anderson made very brief speeches but well to the point.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF YORK. GENTLEMEN—At a Convention of friends of the Local Government the undersigned were elected as candidates to contest the coming election of members to serve in the Legislature for the ensuing term, and having accepted the nomination tendered us, we are now before you respectfully soliciting your suffrages. It was the expressed opinion of the Convention that the present Government which is now on its trial before the people was deserving of the confidence of the country, and that the electors of this County might reasonably be expected to accord to it their undivided support.

GENTLEMEN—Have not your interests been well served during the past four years? Are not your roads and bridges better than they ever have been before? Has not the County enjoyed an influential position in the Provincial Government? If they have, these results have been largely owing to the fact that your four members worked unitedly and harmoniously together in your service. We ask you to give the Government your hearty support and elect a united, rather than a divided representation, and should we be honored with a majority of your votes our best services will be faithfully devoted to your service.

We remain, gentlemen, Respectfully yours, A. G. BLAIR, WM. WILSON, RICHARD BELLAMY, JOHN ANDERSON.

Fredericton, January 6, 1890.

NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given that the semi-annual meeting of the County Council, of the Municipality of York, will be held in the Court House, in the City of Fredericton, on Tuesday, the 21st day of January instant.

Dated this 8th day of January, 1890.
Sd. Treasurer, York County.

S. L. MORRISON, Dealer in FLOUR, MEAL, TEA, COFFEE, SUGAR, MOLASSES, TOBACCO, CANNED GOODS.

General Groceries. OPP. CITY HALL, QUEEN STREET, FREDERICTON, N.B.

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