THE NEWS is published every week by the Sun Printing Co., Limited, St. JOHN P. PATTERSON,

The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 28, 1908.

GOVERNMENT SUCCESS AS-SURED

shadow of doubt upon its prospects o victory. Even among the opposition general conditions there is no such doubt. Press and platform boasting, of course, go for naught as they are a and intelligent Conservatives are privately, admitting the certainty of the government's return, though claiming a reduction in its majority, some of the more optimistic predicting that the opposition will carry 18 seats to the government's 28.

While this result would provide little ground for Liberal complaint-ten is a good working majority-we can find no any government losses, and it is absolutely certain that the government will opposition, Northumberland, where, with Liberal aid, three opposition members were elected in 1903, will return three, if not four, government members. Three of the men on the govfought the government five years ago and one of the opposition members elected then, Mr. W. S. Loggie, is now a Liberal M. P. and is using his great influence in the government's behalf. In Carleton whatever prospects Mr. B. F. Smith may have had have destroyed by the evidence, attested to under oath by reputable citizens, of his gross violation of his "purity" agreement and the election law. The Liberals there are sure of election and it is doubtful if even Mr. Femming's personal prestige will save him from the wave of defeat. Charlotte will at least do as well as before, and the Liberal workers report great gains. In Sunbury the opposition leader and his colleague are in great danger and it is doubtful if the attempt to save Mr. Hazen at Mr. Glasier's ex-

And from the government's strongholds come only the most confident re-Speaking for conditions near home, St. John City and County in this campaign. may be depended on. The opposition claims of one seat in the county and two in the city are without foundation in fact. Each will return the whole ticket, and in St. John, at least, by an increased majority. St John people realize where this rt's interests lie and, as they elected Dr. Pugsley by acclamation last year, power and influence in their behalf been feebly organized and ineffectively rake off: out. The leading feature of it has been, from the first, a personal attack upon Mayor Sears, whose poputhey greatly, fear. During the last few days this has taken the form of a nasty canvass among the working particularly the longshoremen, whom they are foolishly endeavoring to convince that Mr. Sears is a fee to labor interests. This attack is so utterly refuted by his record as citizen and as Mayor that it is as ineffective and as Mayor that it is as inelective as it is unfair. No man in St. John has shown more sympathy with and done more practical work for the workcent 'longshore strike it was practically his personal influence that secured ed the flood of alien labor which the C. P. R. was prepared to bring and to keep here permanently; and in this regard he was only following out his continual purpose, as evinced by his vigorous efforts during the strike of 05, his energetic and profitable work after the great Indiantown fire, during the South African war and by his whole public record. Personally, as well as politically, Mr. Sears deserves election and will beyond doubting acompany his colleagues, Hon. D. J. Purdy, E. E. Lautalum and A. O. Skinner, to the legislature in support of Premier Robinson's government.

PROUD OF THE PREMIER

While it is folly to claim that any voters were converted or anything but peared three times and another twice, ance—the opposition offers to the elecbewildered by the conflicting state- thereby swelling the debt by two and tors only the repeal of the Highway Friday night's debate, the meeting undoubtedly was a great personal triumph the opposition to correct the untruth- tration. No hint is given regarding the for Premier Robinson. Not that he ful statement or to stop the circula- means by which Mr. Hazen proposes to was any more fluent in address than tion of the pamphlet containing it, make economies. He dare not specify sive as Mr. Hazen; but he convinced the great audience, composed largely of ceiving the electors of the province. sire to be fair, as well as of his business ability and progressiveness. More than any other speaker he compelled respect and confidence. His was not an easy position. He had only three-quarters of an hour in which to answer Mr. Flemming's admirably concise summary of the opposition's whole financial criticism. He to the attorney general and solicitor ment of New Brunswick.

a large part of which was actively hostile and eager to hamper and con-

After the conclusion of his speech none arguments, they were made to know that he knew his business and that he tation and fraud. was telling the truth. We doubt if there was one honest man within sound of his voice who did not recognize him instinctively as another honest man; a man endeavoring to a man in whose hands one's personal business or the business of the province might be left with perfect assur-

Opera House Friday night with respect and liking for Premier Robinson. And were full of enthusiastic pride in their leader and of determination to do their utmost to maintain him in the position with credit to himself and benefit to the province.

ernment and Mr. Hazen's oppositionwholly critical policy of the other- week. were the only results of the meeting. The opposition hurrah about "victory" The government enters the closing in the debate is, of course, pure of the campaign without a buncombe. The financial dispute stands precisely where it stood and where it workers who are in close touch with tial report of the condition of the prowill stand until an expert and imparvincial accounts is presented. But the personal impression made by the Premier and Mr. McKeown in spite of the time-honored-feature of political tactics | miserable attempt to cry the latter and represent desires, not hopes. In down, was distinctly favorable to the government and will help its cause election day.

FAIRNESS IN POLITICS

The Sun is not given to boasting, but is a bit proud of its report in Saturday's issue of the joint debate between government and opposition leaders in the Opera House Friday night. While easonable ground for figuring upon the local opposition papers published a garbled acount under false and misleading headlines, declaring "Hazen capture some seats now held by the and Flemming win great popular victory" and introduced such statements as "the vast throng of voters awarded the palm of victory to the opposition leaders," The Sun published an absolutely impartial and correct ernment ticket now are Liberals who report, accompanied by perfectly fair editorial comment, drawing the attention to the striking difference in tone between the opposing speeches-one all complaint and blue ruin, the other confident, vigorous and enterprising. It was content, both as a newspaper and a supporter of the government, to publish the attack and the response confident that unprejudiced perusal would bring conviction of the strength of the government's case and the honesty and sincerity of the government speakers.

And we believe that this is not only decent journalism but good politics; that fair play pays in the long run, in politics as in everything else. Only the most extreme partisans could take any stock in the published opposition reports of that meeting, and their votes are sure anyway. Those fair minded folk who were present and who com-pared the reports in The Sun and The to which papers are telling the truth

DR. PUGSLEY AGAIN

The Moncton Times, with characteristic untruthfulness, charges Hon. Mr. Pugsley with appropriating to his personal use 25 per cent. of the money collected in succession duties during 1906. will next week vote to strengthen his The total amount collected was \$12,-056.78 and, says the Times, "the follow-The local opposition campaign has ing are the details of Mr. Pugsley's

Estate W. H. Murray \$1,420 29 Estate J. Knight.. 30 00 burden is, when considered as a whole, Estate J. Robinson.. Estate M. A. Finn.... Estate A. Lindsay. Estate L. P. Fisher 115 00 Account.. 1,000 00

Total.. \$2,811 49 apprecated. Every estate mentioned above, with gour Shives, paid succession duties in night awakened the keenest enthusiasm. for collection until 1906. The law al- ness and trustworthiness and energy the men the increase in pay and avert- \$602.83. And this is all Dr. Pugsley received or will receive. The Times' charge to the contrary is false and slanderous.

It is worthy of note that while Mr. Hazen in 1903 favored a reduction of the Attorney General's commissions in this connection to 21-2 per cent, he sue in this campaign. Mr. Hazen himhas nothing to say about it is in this self has made it plain that no political campaign. Mr. Hazen hopes to be At- principles are involved; that the voters torney General himself some day.

MORE FICTITIOUS FIGURES It seems impossible for the opposition writers and speakers to tell the truth about the expenditures of the province. A short time ago Mr. Hazen promulgated a statement of the debt of the province in which one item ap one single specific charge of malfeasand technical arguments at a half millions. The deception was Act, cheaper school books and vague pointed out but no effort was made by promises of more economical adminismaking it clear that the statement was which public institution he purposes to wilfully made for the purpose of de- starve. He has given no suggestion of continued is evident from the charac- favor of saddling the cost of permanter of the statements made in the op- ent bridges on the municipalities. He position advertisements now appearing in some newspapers. The latest of will set to work to lower the cost of these states that the legal expenses of school books. And neither he nor any the province for the year 1906 were of his supporters has offered one item \$18,412.55 and that \$12,353.75 was paid of business-like policy for the developwas almost a stranger to his audience, general. There is no account kept by the auditor general under the heading repeal the Highway Act and to subof legal expenses and the compiler of fuse him. Before he entered upon his the advertisement does not say how to the desires of the municipalities. It defense it was necessary for him to he makes up his figures. No such sum guarantees such economies as may be become acquainted and get into friend- as he says was paid for legal expenses ly touch with his audience. And in by the province of New Brunswick and spite of this handicap he made easily the sum total of what the attorney the best impression of any single general and solicitor general drew for salary, expenses, contingencies and sessional indemnity do not make the could doubt either his intimate grasp total sum this opposition writer gives. of the affairs of government, his com- From leader to humblest henchman the plete sincerity and honesty, or his opposition party have been proven ardent interest in the welfare of New guilty of the most malicious slanders Brunswick, While the majority of his against the government as a whole and hearers may not have fully understood of each individual member. It is a the technical features of his financial pretty bad cause that has to be bolstered up by untruth, misrepresen-

HAS HE MADE GO ? The Globe a few days ago pointed present his case with absolute fairness; often existed between political prosomewhat plaintively to the gulf which ley Railway and for the absorption of mises and government performance, in- federal railway system. stancing the matter of the dredging at And in addition to its record and its the entrance of St. John harbor. It progressive plans for the future, the than a government at Fredericton out, that Mr. Tarte first promised the the Robinson government offers as

Even his strongest opponents left the early undertaking of this work and remarked that "Since his day three gentlemen have been Ministers of Public the Liberals of St. John who heard him | Works, but the dredging has not been commenced."

Hon. Mr. Pugsley, member of parliament from St. John, has been Minister which he honors and which he is filling of Public Works about half a year and the work which another Minister pro-The creation of this permanent im- once. The dredge W. S. Fielding, ression and the emphasizing of the which was built ostensibly for work in ssential difference between the gov- this harbor and has since been very profitably engaged in Nova Scotia, left the prudently aggressive vigor and Digby yesterday, will arrive here today enterprise and progressiveness of the and will start work as soon as she can by so much will be lessened his power one, and the hositating inaction and be made ready, probably within the to do for New Brunswick what New

It is also worthy of note that while the St. John Board of Trade, which has been active in urging this work, demanded only a depth of 28 feet and a channel only 400 feet wide, the Minister, with an eye to the future of the port and the rapidly increasing size of steamers, has ordered a depth of 30 feet and a width of 500.

This means that what St. John has long desired and hoped for-a harbor entrance which the greatest steamers can enter easily at any time of tide—is able ground for discontent. The Act a certainty of the immediate future. Can there be any longer any doubt in the minds of the people of St. John that it means something to this port ents appointed over a combination of to have as its representative a Minister of Public Works who has not only the ably expended as if under the direct willingness, but the energy and the influence to get these things done for which we have waited so long; to get, there is room for strong objection in for instance, a dredge at this port

And can there be any doubt that the interests of this port demand that his influence should be strengthened, not weakened?

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

In addition to answering more fully than his limited time permitted on Friday night the unfounded charges, financial and otherwise, made against his government, Premier Robinson last night announced another progressive with their wishes. and original feature of government policy-free school books. While Mr. Hazen and his fellow

inglessly and falsely about the prices of school books in this province, asserting that \$50,000 profit was made annually by somebody from a yearly of the highways and bridges upon the turnover totalling \$20,000, promising indefinite reductions and offering no suggestion as to the means of reduction, the Premier has been investigating. Soon after he assumed office he made arrangement for the appointment of a commission to study the matter and dis- of the session of 1899. It is given here cover what reductions were possible. in full: That will go on, and if prices can be Star with these in The Telegraph and decreased they will be decreased. But, The Times can have no doubt today as finding that New Brunswick books are that the government was constantly already the cheapest in Canada and effect would be of the largest decrease and always would be the case under in the price, particularly of the lower grade books, he determired, with char- should make complaint because the make a reform and effect a saving to there was any argument in what the the people worth while, by placing the leader of the government had said, it primary school books on the same basis was a strong argument in favor of the ties and imposing the cost upon the the adoption of a rational system such government.

this policy and heartily congratulates municipalities. the Premier on his stand. Small as the 19 70 it bears heavily upon many families. 42 50 Even the provision of the books at cost would leave the expense still greater than many can afford to bear. But the Estate acct. K. Shives..... 150 00 government's action in this regard will bring grateful benefit, both financially and educationally, and will be warmly

Naturally the Premier's announcement at the two great meetings last 1905 but the Attorney General did not and, together with the evidence his speech and manner gave of his fairlows him 5 per cent. for his work. On and capacity, increased the pride and respect for him which has been growing steadily in the minds of his St. John followers since they first made his acquaintance.

HE ISSUE.

Nothing could be clearer than the ishave only to consider whether the natural advantage of the province will be better served by the return or the defeat of the present government. And on this point sensible men should have no esitation in deciding in the government's favor.

Besides indefinite and cantankerous criticism of the general policy of the government-criticism backed by not an alternative road law, except what That this policy of deception is to be may be gathered from his speeches in has given the people no idea how he The government is also pledged to

stitute for it a law framed according practiced without hampering New Brunswick's progress; it will not promise not to increase the debt, for it knows that without debt public works are impossible. It is pledged not only reduction is possible without affecting the quality of books, but also to provide free books to the scholars in all the lower grades. And it offers also a progressive policy for the industrial commercial and agricultural development of the province - a rich fruit in the creation of the

new Bureau of Colonization and Industries, the purchase and successful. public operation of the Central Railway and the vigorous effort for the early construction of the St. John Valthe Intercolonial branch lines by the

the final ground for its confident appeal to the people the obvious fact that provincial and federal governments working in unison and harmony can do more for New Brunswick than a provincial government at odds with the Ottawa administration. Premier Robinson and the Minister of Public Works both have the interests of the province mised three years ago will be begun at keenly at heart, and each can strengthen the hands of the other. If

Hazen were Premier his chief object would be to weaken the Minister's influence, for political purposes, and by each degree that influence is weakened, Brunswick needs. Surely nobody, thinking over conditions coolly, can hesitate long in choos-

MUNICIPALITES MUST PAY FOR BRIDGES, SAYS HAZEN.

ing between these alternatives

There has been much dissatisfaction with the Highway Act brought into force by the government a couple of years ago, and there has been considerhas not worked out in practice as it promised in theory. The funds, as administered by government superintendparishes, has not perhaps been as equisupervision of the districts whose interests are directly concerned. Also that feature of the law which takes the money they collect.

But in all this there is no ground for as greatly disappointed with the work- house. ing and the results of the Act as any man who is compelled to complain of the roads and it stands pledged, not only to repeal the Act as soon as the legislature meets, but to consult all the municipalities either in convention or by means of a commission, and to frame a new law in thorough accord

It is true that Mr. Hazen also promises to repeal the Highway Act-an easy promise. But what will he put in fault-finders have been shouting mean- its place?

The policy to which the leader of the opposition is pledged by his speeches in the legislature to impose the cost municipalities is a policy which would involve direct taxation to an extent unprecedented in the province. A report of the speech outlining the

policy of the opposition leader will be found on page 40 of the official debates "Mr. Hazen said the leader of the

government had informed the house beset with demands for bridges. That realizing how insignificant the general was the case with all governments the present system. No government acteristic decision and enterprise, to demands were made upon them. If as other necessary educational facili- abolition of the present system and as prevailed in Nova Scotia, where the The Sun has favored and advocated responsibility is thrown upon the But who pays the bills under this

The people of the different municipalities. The manner of the payment was thus told by Mr. Veniot: (See official debates 1899, page 90). "In his address the leader of the op-

position (Mr. Hazen) had laid down

the platform of his party, and had referred to what Nova Scotia was doing with respect to its public works. The opposition had time and time again charged this government with placing undue burdens on the municipalities. What do we find the facts to be with respect to permanent bridge expenditure in the province of Nova Scotia? The leader of the opposition forgot to tell us that the permanent bridges in being paid by the different municipaliprovince only paid \$93,000 for the same

service out of current revenue." Has Mr. Hazen abandoned this guarantee it great prosperity and realbridge policy which is intended to sad- ize that the development of these redle the tax of keeping up the bridges sources is necessary to the attainment on the people of the different munici- of that prosperity. And so they are not palities? And is not the logical out- afraid to spend money where the excome of his position regarding high- penditure is necessary—as it is for the ways entirely identical with his de- development of this port, for instance. clared policy respecting permanent While they desire as keenly as any

the government and that there is not and optimism to enable them to see have St. John lovers of music the opnow a toll bridge in the whole prov- that to borrow money at four or even portunity of such a treat. It is for-

THE PROSPECTS

While Mr. Hazen has so far been conbut indiscreet organs predict opposition stood, will divide the vote on March has been nominated. This is the usual have faith in and those who fear for pre-election shouting carried to utter the future of New Brunswick-between absurdity.

doubt that the government will be sustained by a majority much the same as in 1903, and, as a matter of fact, there debate which dealt purely with the gain is not everything. Life is more is no such doubt in the minds of wellinformed people, even on the opposition side. Even if there were some change in popular feeling against the government it would have to reach the exnearly four to one majority in the legislature. But the candidates everytent of a revolution to wipe out the where report conditions much the same as in 1903, except that hundreds of Libto reduce the price of school books, if erals who opposed the government then are heartily in accord with the existing administration. Whatever adverse influence the Highway Act may have had has been corrected by the government's promise of Immediate repeal and amendment and more than offset by the accession of Liberal the opposition press, with the eliminapolicy that has already borne strength. The other features of the opposition campaign, school books, debt, etc., have all been worked to death in the public debt had been increased by previous contests and if they have any a million and a half during the past effect the extravagant misrepresentation by the opposition has made it favorable for the government. And everywhere the candidates meet intelligent recognition of the fact that two governments in sympathetic co-operation ance that it would be equitably and was ten years ago. The Globe pointed success of which this record guarantees, which is politically opposed to the fedcan do more for provincial development eral government and is using all its in- items, such as the provincial hospital While passenger and general freight coming election.

fluence to weaken the power of the federal minister for the province. Last election the government carried every seat in Albert, Gloucester, Kent, Kings, Madawaska, Queens, Restigouche, St. John City, St. John County,

berland, two in Carleton and two in Sunbury. Today there is not only no sign of half millions to the provincial indebtholds, but in the constituencies where in fifteen years, and showing that New the opposition was successful five years | Brunswick's debt, which is creating so ago there is strong evidence of chang- much opposition outcry, is less in the ing sentiment.

In Northumberland where three opposition members were elected in 1903, one-tenth of the per capita debt of St. the government will carry three, if not John city, the Premier scored forcibly the whole four seats. The government and undoubtedly created an impression defeat five years ago was due to the which, as people think the matter over, efforts of scores of prominent Liberals will benefit him and his government. who now are warmly supporting

the government candidates.

PROGRESS AND PESSIMISM

While last night's meeting between government and opposition leaders was which will be free from all reasonable and \$80,000. When the cost of keeping ostensibly for the purpose of discussing suspicion of partisan bias. And they up the wharves and bridges is deductthe financial condition of the province and the opposition charges in this re- Hazen and Mr. Flemming refused to more than \$15 a mile left to spend on gard, that feature of the debate played agree to this businesslike mode of set- the roads. This includes the municipal a minor and comparatively unimport- | tlement. ant part in influencing the beliefs and sentiments of the large and varied assembly. What must have struck the ted themselves well. Mr. Flemming audience most forcibly was the marked was forcible and apparently desirous difference in tone between the Conserv- to be fair. The premier who kept himative and the Liberal speakers. Pro- self well in hand, was reasonable and gress and enterprise was the keynote convincing in his argument. Mr. Hazen of the government appeal. And barren was rather more oratorical and imprescriticism, hesitating pessimism, and a sive in his manner than the matter fearfulness of venturing investment in warranted, but evidently pleased his future prosperity for the benefit of party. And Mr. McKeown, though needed development was characteristic handicapped greatly , by interruptions of the opposition.

Aside from carping complaint of the fectively. cost of government achievement the Conservative speakers had absolutely was the only unpleasant feature of the nothing to offer. Mr. Flemming's meeting. All the other speakers rewhole speech was a melancholy cry of ceived fair and courteous treatment, blue ruin. The government was spend- but he had no sooner begun than he ing too much money, he shouted, piling was confronted with what seemed to up debt for our children's children. He be an organized plot to how! him down. made no shadow of attempt to point It appeared to unprejudiced observers out specific instances of extravagance that, fraring the result of the governor improper expenditure. He practical- ment having the closing word, a delibly promised that if his party were re- erate attempt was made to destroy the turned to power no more debt would effect of his remarks. be incurred, but gave no hint of what | We do not believe that this will to the expenditure of even \$50 a mile would be the effect upon the province benefit the opposition cause. It will on the roads of the province. The trouof the complete cessation of railway be remembered that Mr/Blair was and highway and mineral and indus- similarly treated at a joint meeting is that the income of the province is trial development which this would with Mr. Foster many years ago and not large enough to permit of adequate

upon Mr. Flemming's moun- by 1,000 majority. bridge policy which Mr. Hazen ad- of the expenditure upon the Central Railway, the International Railway, the highways and public works generally; but in all the mellifluent mediocrity of his oritund plati- clearly means that this reckless and ing that county by a majority of 1,000. tudes there was not a vestige of develop- extravagant government is to hold Mr. McLeod made practially the same ing policy, not a note of progress, not power for at least 30 years more. For prediction at the general election of one suggestion for the material advantage of New Brunswick.

In striking contrast to these pointless and profitless lamentations was the optimism and enterprise that rang through the speeches of the Premier and the attorney general While contending that enterprise and economy were compatible—that in fact judicious expenditure was the most effective economy-and showing that under their the sister province are charged to cap regime the provincial credit was imital account, the interest on the debt proving rather than deteriorating, they made it clear that they lead a govties. He forgot to tell us that while ernment which is not afraid to invest we paid \$210,444 for public works out money where profits are sure. They of current revenue account the sister believe in the future of this province; believe that New Brunswick has the situation and national resources which member of the opposition to It should be stated here that the keep down the debt. they

way and industrial development is good policy when the investment will ion of artistic entertainment, someone prosperity to the people of this prov-

This was the real issue of the meettented to claim 28 or 30 seats his ardent | ing-an issue which, properly undervictory in the whole 46, except perhaps 3rd, not so much between Liberals and Madawaska, where no opposition ticket | . Conservatives, as between those who the optimists and the pessimists, the There is absolutely no ground for progressives and the reactionaries,

> financial condition of the province may exuberantly pleased with the outcome Conservatives were convinced that MA Flemming had the better of the contest, and Liberals enthusiastically assumed that the Premier had "put it all over" his critic. As a matter of fact each practically repeated the statements each has made on several occasions before, with the exception that Mr. Flemming was much more moderate in his assertions than usual and was more than usually careful of committing himself to definite figures. His speech was nothing more than an extion of some of its more extravagant incorrections, such as his assertion that year and that the province was raying double interest the London loan. The justified his charge of misrepresentation by proving conclusively that Mr. Flemming's estimate of recent debt in- over \$9,000.

and public works overdraft, which ex- traffic is rapidly growing, the biggest tended over a series of years, and that some large items had been counted carriage of coal. From 1903 to 1907 the twice, notably one figure of \$69,000 which was counted once as road superintendents' overdraft and again in the 30,095 tons. In the half year ending Sunbury, Victoria, Westmorland and \$197,000 ovedrawn on the account of with December, 1907, the amount was York. The opposition carried three public works. On this point, and by his 18,594 tons. In the month of January, seats in Charlotte, three in Northum- figures proving that the present government during its twenty-five years rate of 54,624 tons per year. of office had added less by one and a weakness in the government strong- edness than its predecessors had added lump or per capita than any Canadian province save P. E. I. and only about

But we doubt, and have doubted, that Premier Robinson. For instance, three | the partisans of either side will be afof the men on the present government | fected in any measure by the figures ticket fought the government in 1903, and arguments presented pro and con and Mr. Loggie, M. P., who was a suc- in this connection. At the bottom, and bridges (\$79,297.47) at \$390,606.16. He cessful opposition candidate then, is aside from the misrepresentations with exerting his powerful influence in the which the opposition have endeavored ment for advances on account of 1907, to build party advantage, the real which may or may not be correct. This In Carleton the Liberals are sure of difference between Mr. Robinson two seats and are confident of three. and his critic is difference In Sunbury the government ticket is of opinion regarding expenditures showing up much stronger than in 1903, which may properly be charged And from Charlotte come assurances to capital account instead of being paid that at least two seats will be won by out of current revenue. And this technical difference is not one which the Summing up, the prospects are that average citizen is prepared to adthe government will capture at least Judicate. Each party will undoubtedly four and possibly seven seats now held follow its leaders' opinion in this matwhich is clamorously wanted in Nova away from the municipal councils the by the opposition, which, allowing a ter and those independent folk who 13,056 miles of highway in the provsafe margin for unexpected losses in heard last's night's debate must agree other constituencies now held by Lib- with the premier now, if they did not erals, assures the government of about before, that the technical issues in disdisfavor toward the government. It is the same majority it held in the last pute between the parties can never be settled satisfactorily by oratorical dis- province. This would not leave a cussion but must, for definite settlement be submitted to expert and im- of wharves and bridges, the latter of partial investigation the result of which annually costs between \$70,000

> Personally the speakers all acquitand outcries, spoke strongly and ef-

The treatment accorded Mr.McKeown

involve. Mr. Hazen piled his that he won his election a week later highway expenditure.

Mr. Flemming himself has no hope of success in the coming election. He told the people last night that the provincial debt now standing would be a burden upon their grandchildren. This papers that he is confident of carryif Mr. Hazen and Mr. Flemming ever 1903. Here is a specimen of the opintook charge they could easily wipe out ions that were given at that time by the debt in a year or so.

"GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO AC-CEPT THE CHALLENGE OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY." This is the part of the county come reports of ac-Times headline over the news cessions to the cause of good gvernstory of the arrangements for the ment, and there are with the opposijoint debate between Messrs. Hazen tion in this election hundreds who and Flemming and Messrs Robinson heretofore have been supporters of and McKeown last night. The Times Blair and his successors in the adminbids fair to capture the opposition press istration of public affairs." record for unfairness and faisity in this

campaign. Opposition journals are growing mod- the following:est. The Telegraph now claims only Charlotte, St. John City, Kings, Queens, Sunbury, York, Carleton, Vic- in the interests of the Opposition was toria, Northumberland, St. John Coun- one of the greatest political gatherings y, Albert and Restigouche. This leaves ever assembled there. Enthusiasm was the government five seats, for which it will no doubt be duly grateful. One principal speaker, was given a most wonders what's the matter with oppo- flattering reception. 230 electors were sition chances in Gloucester and Mada-

A FEAST OF MUSIC

The city is indebted to Mr. F. G. Hartland bridge has been made free by have sufficient business intelligence evenings in its history. Too seldom Spencer for one of the richest musical five per cent. for railway and high- tunate that, dependent as we are upon individual enterprise for the provisgive returns a hundred-fold in future occasionally is willing to undertake the work and the risk involved in securing the presence of the great ones of the world of song. But we should not be so dependent. There should be enough culture and money in St. John to make possible the establishment of an organization to furnish more frequently food for the people's higher tastes.

We are bothered too much here with business and politics and similar The net result of that portion of the things of the earth earthy. Material than meat. It was a man known and be fairly estimated from the fact that loved and honored in this city who partisans of both sides professed to be could see through the dross clearly enough to sing:

'Had I two loves of bread: Ay! ay! "One would I sell and hyacinths buy "To feed my soul-or let me die."

THE CENTRAL RAILWAY

As the campaign excitement grows upon him Mr. Maxwell becomes more ecklessly misrepresentative in his statements. In his last speech, as reported in the opposition press, "Mr. Maxwell went thoroughly into the Central deals and showed clearly that each year there was an undisputed actual loss of \$35,000."

As shown by the auditor's report of the Central's accounts, the actual operat-31. 1907. was \$6.011.58. This does not include the royalties which the govern- company that will build a line of railment gets upon every ton of coal Premier in a reasonable speech in re- which would not have been received these things would not have been mined, a total of over \$3,000 in 1907. ply, the evident fairness of which ap- had the road not been running. So that the real surplus from the Central's operation for 1907 was something

item in the receipts comes from the amount of coal hauled from Minto to Norton increased from 315 tons to 1908, the tonnage was 4,552, or at the

If this increase continues, and it undoubtedly will, the Central Railway during the present year should produce a surplus of over \$20,000-a splendid justification of the government's courage and enterprise in investing the money necessary to save the road

from the scrap heap.

ROAD EXPENDITURES Mr. Hazen's ad. writer quotes from the Auditor General's report the expenditure of the Public Works Department of the province for roads, bridges, wharves, etc., for the year 1906. He places the total, including the amount item is made of advances to the various superintendents in amounts ranging from \$50 to \$1,000.

But even accepting the statement as correct, which it most likely is not, it shows that the Public Works Department expended for the care of the hundred or more wharves, the 3,709 bridges, having a total length of 368,ince the sum of \$311.308.63. This sum a mile for each mile of highway in the single dollar to be spent on the repair will wonder more than ever why Mr. ed from the total grant there is not grants as well as those from the gov-

The City of St. John has about 50 niles of streets and the annual expenditure for repairs alone for the past five or six years has been \$50,000, or about \$1,000 a mile for every mile of street, and there is a general complaint that even with this large expenditure the streets of St. John are not very

good streets. If the government by expending \$15 a mile on the roads of the country has "ruthlessly sacrificed on the altar of graft the vital interests of the whole mmunity-of friends and foes alike." what language would be fitting to properly describe the action of the aldermen of St. John, who expend \$1,000 a mile annually on the streets of the city? "Graft" would certainly be too tame a word.

Mr. Hazen's ad. writer must be a importation. No person who has any knowledge of the extent of the roads and bridges in New Brunswick would make himself so ridiculous as to object

THE CAMPAIGN IN YORK Mr. Harry McLeod, one of the opposition candidates for the County of York, has been telling the opposition

him to a Conservative correspondent: "The prospects of the opposition improve daily in York. From every

Also on the same day before the election an opposition organ published

"February 26th, 1903. The meeting held at Canterbury Station last night unbounded and Harry McLeod, the present and 200 of these pledged the Opposition ticket their votes and sup-

After this wonderful report it is interesting to look at the result at Canerbury Station where 200 pledged themselves to support Harry McLeod and his ticket. The result of the poll was that Harry McLeod got 72 votes at Canterbury Station while Mr. Whitehead got 200. It appears, therefore. that any reports on the authority of Mr. Harry McLeod have to be discounted to the extent of 200 per cent. It would be interesting to inquire what Mr. Harry McLeod has done except to brag and bluster to induce the people of York County to place confidence in him. The County of York has been well treated by the present government. The contrast between Liberal and Conservative methods is very striking. Prior to the advent of Mr. Blair to power, there was no bridge over the River St. John at Fredericton, and everyone that had to cross had to pay toll at a ferry. Mr. Blair built a splendid bridge over the river, and now this bridge is being renewed and turned into an imperishable steel structure. Yet this work was opposed by some of the opposition at that time and threats were even made

to burn it down. A Liberal Government at Ottawa has purchased the Canada Eastern, made it a part of the Intercolonial, and is greatly improving it, so as to make it fit for a competing line with the Canadian Railway Pacific and give the people of Fredericton lower rates of freight from the upper provinces. The Provincial Government is building fine steel bridge over the St. John River at Hawkshaw thus giving accommodation to the Parishes of Southampton, Queensbury, Dumfries, and Canterbury. The same government has guaranteed the bonds of any way down the St. John River Valley. If Mr. Hazen had been in power done. The people of York are not deceived by Mr. McLeod's blusters Mr. McLeod was defeated by about a crease was padded by the inclusion of And next year it will be far greater. is not likely to fare any better at the

PREM FREI

Governmen Books to

Premier and Ca of Victors Slanders S

Two great Liberal night

Both of them packe with wildly enthusias Both cheering New B mier to the echo, appl quence, captured by the frankness of the youn head of the administra dignified in his speech, criticism of the slander tion, clearly exposing tacties in the back dis softened statements is of the press and their premier was wildly ch more enthusastic becan when he announced the government to supply f in the primary grades

Hon. C. W. Robinson reception in the Oddfell leton last evening. He form and captured his the start. The hall w doors and there was plause and spontaneou meeting was such as to beral committees on the the clever speeches of and Hon. Mr .Purdy a ner in which they took the "saw off" lie in th an impression that wil dispelled. There was meeting that spoke of the fight and a confide sult on the 3rd of Man

The veteran Liberal I ed the electors to elect Michael Mooney was honor.

Hon DJ Purdy

Hon. Mr. Purdy speaker and the audien cordial greeting. He l saying what he though off' statement publish and amid great appla story was on a par with they saw in the Telegra There was no truth story. They were in to (Applause.) The been around the city s had so much encourager confident that on election would be victorious. (A government wished to Brunswick - the opposi tear it down. Anyone house, but it takes some ity to construct it. He mportance to the coun ture and how the govern the farmers in the diff of that great industry. In conclusion he spoke to slap the Minister of I the face. Every man in support the governmen that is being done here. of the prudence and vernment—just as eoc

ticket and finished hi

New Brunswick had

plause.) He predicted

The Premier Cheered

When the Premier wa was greeted with three tiger, and in a few ples introduction he told the fident that if there was province he could appea athy it was this city of they knew what it wa public works and to pay knew something of the burden, and could symp efforts of the local gov efforts to build up the p Brunswick. (Applause.) Then in a few words h ence how he appreciate had placed upon the gove and amid the cheers of th dicted victory for them Hon. Mr. Purdy's careful methods, and Mr. Lanta presentative from the ci had been of great assista

sought to represent in (Applause.) The Winter Port

ernment in the past.

of Mr. Skinner as a bus

honored by the people

of Mayor Sears as a man

He believed that the e

ada should be shipped th ports and the people of the same idea in their hands in their pockets in improving this port extent, so much so that ley, the Minister of Pu succeeded in so impress ment of Canada that obtained a genrous gra sisting the people. (Lor The development of Prosperity to New Bru city grows so will the tricts. One will act on believed that at the pre were on the eve of gree than ever before. For m Brunswick had stood p Her population did not Was because of the attrac west, which for many ye change is taking place. and the young men hav desire to leave the prov fact are coming back a the first and most impo of a government to fost