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Editor & Proprietor.

Please don't delay your Subscriptions for 1907. We need the money, we have earned it and shall esteem it a great favor if you remit now.

In the Provincial general election held in New Brunswick yesterday, the Robinson Liberal Government sustained a crushing defeat. The Conservatives, led by Mr. J. D. Hazen, won thirty one seats out of the forty-six. The Government won twelve seats, and there are three independents. Well done New Brunswick!

The Patriot and Graft

The unearthing of the Government land scandals, by the Opposition in the House of Commons has created no little uneasiness among our Liberal friends; and the organs of the party are at their wits ends in their endeavors to cover up, gloss over, or forge plausible excuses for these ugly exposures. Our readers will remember how difficult it was for the members of the Opposition to get any information on this matter. The request for original papers, in this connection, was resisted for several days by the Government, and the required documents were produced only when it was found that no supply could be voted until the Opposition got what they wanted. These papers, when produced, bore on their face ample evidence of the causes actuating the Government's unwillingness to produce them. They told a story of collusion and manipulation of the most scandalous nature. A half million dollars worth of property had been tendered for by one person, sending in different names, the figures being evidently placed in the successful tender by some official of the Interior Department. The real beneficiary was the Imperial Pulp Company; but it is more difficult to discover who constitute this company than it was to procure the original papers. No doubt members of Parliament are mixed up in this company, and like the members of the north Atlantic Trading Company, they would rather commit suicide than be found out. Information came from Edmonton that Mr. Sifton, ex Minister of the Interior, was the managing director. Sifton has denied this; but that is just what that worthy might be expected to do. This company, so mysterious in composition, has secured 304,000 acres of the best lands in the West, and Mr. Burrows, Sifton's brother in law, has as much more of the pick of the western timber lands. The two concerns hold two fifths of the western timber lands, so far captured for speculative purposes. Of all these facts our readers are already aware from our Ottawa letters.

These lands are part of the public domain; they are the property of the people of Canada, and the people are entitled to the fullest information as to their administration. The only way the owners of these lands, the Canadian people, can obtain this information is through their representatives in Parliament; but the Government

people, have refused, as far as possible, to furnish any information on this important matter. As already shown, it was with the greatest difficulty that the Opposition members secured even the meagre information we possess. Bearing these facts in mind, what do the people think of the attitude of the Government press towards this matter?

The Patriot, the Government organ in this Province, can scarcely find language vile enough to characterize those representatives of the people, who sought information on this important public question. Our contemporary refers to them in such gentlemanly terms as; "Tory Slanderband"; "Tory Scandal Brigade"; "Bedraggled cohorts of Toryism," and other epithets of a like euphonious nature. All this wrath of our contemporary is simply because members of the Opposition engage in the work for which the people elected them. This is a sample of the liberty this Liberal organ would wish the people representatives to enjoy.

This exponent of Liberal principles exults in the thought that the results of the investigation have not been favorable to the Conservative members. How does it arrive at this conclusion? In this novel way: It says that when the Conservatives were in power some members of that party were guilty of offences of a nature similar to these now discovered. All will admit that this is merciless logic. Let us admit for argument sake that our contemporary's charge is true. What then; does wrong doing on their part condone a like offence now? The Patriot's argument would amount to this: "When the Conservatives were in power, some of them secured valuable timber limits from the Government for little or nothing. That was very wrong, and we said so at the time. These men, we then said, should be punished and the Government that permitted this wrong should be put out of power. The Liberals should be put in power, for they are the party of purity, and will not allow any wrong doing or scandals in connection with the people's lands."

All this has come to pass; the Conservatives have gone out of power; the Liberals have replaced them. But, under this party of purity, the Interior Department, as well as other departments, has become honeycombed with scandals. The Government cloaks over these scandals and tries by every imaginable means to prevent the people's representatives from finding them out. But in spite of their efforts some information is secured, and when the guilty are held up to public execration, the Patriot comes to the rescue and says in effect: "We don't attempt to deny that these people are guilty of very grave scandals and robbery of the public domain; but those Tories who made these exposures should not have done so, because some of their friends did wrong long ago. It is true we condemned those Tory scandals and made a pretence that the Liberals would be better, if they got in. Of course, it was all right to condemn the Tories; but we did not mean that the Liberals would be any better, or half as good. All we wanted was to get in and to do our best to escape detection of our wrong doing, and these Tories had no business raking up these scandals."

This is the manner of crushing argument the Patriot dishes up for its readers. Is it any wonder that the whole fabric of Government here and at Ottawa is rotten to the core, when the Govern-

ment supporters are fed on such newspaper pabulum?

Canadian Battlefields.

The people of this Province, in union with those, not only of the rest of Canada; but of the Empire at large, are to be invited to contribute towards the preservation of the magnificently situated battlefields of Quebec as a National Park, upon which shall be erected a statue of the Angel of Peace.

The scheme, proposed by Lord Grey, involves (1) the removal of the jail and other buildings which deface and desecrate the battlefields; (2) the purchase of certain lands for the consecration of the battlefields; (3) the building of a museum in which can be exhibited the relics and records of the past; (4) the construction of a splendid driveway from the citadel along the edge of the cliff over-hanging the St. Lawrence to the place where the British climbed the Heights. To carry out this scheme a considerable amount of money will be required, and to give all Canadians, especially the young, an interest in the historic scenes of Canada's birthplace, it is proposed to accept contributions not only from the Legislature of each Province, but also from national societies, private citizens and the children of the schools.

We have not the slightest doubt that the people of this Province, young and old, will feel a pride in participating in this patriotic effort to set apart and suitably mark for all time the place where Wolfe and Montcalm fought and fell, and to consecrate the Battlefields of the Plains of Abraham and Ste. Foy to the commemoration and preservation of peace and union between France and Great Britain. His majesty the King has subscribed one hundred guineas towards this object, and all Canadians are to be afforded an opportunity to do something. In this Province, his Honor Lieutenant Governor McKinnon has charge of the movement and is now making arrangements for carrying out the project. A public meeting will probably be called when plans will be outlined for the consummation of the scheme.

Of the million and a half bushels of oats needed for seed in the North West, one hundred thousand bushels, are going forward from this Province. White oats are the kind needed. At first the hundred thousand bushels to be procured in this Province were to be about equally distributed to the three counties. For Prince county, Captain Joseph Read has the matter in hand, and for Queens Rattenbury & Co., are the men. It appears that very few white oats are raised in King's County, and as a consequence Prince County's quota has been increased to 75,000 bushels. White oats are raised in large quantities in Prince County. When the matter of supplying this seed grain to the North West first came up in the House of Commons, Mr. Alexander Martin, always on the alert for the interests of his Province, was the first to call the attention of the Minister of the Interior to the fact that Prince Edward Island could supply, at least a portion of the oats needed. He showed that no better oats could be procured anywhere than here and at a lower price than anywhere else. He had noticed he said that the purchases would be made in Great Britain and the United States. It seemed to him, he said, like carrying coals to Newcastle to go to Great Britain for oats. We, in our Province, he showed, are shipping oats there. We should find out

what our own country could do in this matter, he said, before going abroad. The result has been, as above stated, that one hundred thousand bushels are to go from this Province, thanks to Mr. Martin's vigilance.

Sessional Notes.

The first week of the Legislative session closed without placing any great amount of work to its credit. The speech with which his Honor the Lieutenant Governor opened the session was a comparatively neutral document, and scarcely furnished sufficient cause for anything but moderation in discussing the answer thereto. After the departure of his Honor, after reading the speech, on the opening day, the appointment of standing committees and other routine completed the labors of the day.

The sitting on Wednesday was very brief. Mr. Speaker said prayers, the journal of the previous sitting was read, and the draft address in answer to the speech was presented by the chairman of the committee appointed for that purpose. When these formalities had been complied with, the Leader of the Government moved the adjournment of the House. Before the motion was put, Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition, asked for information concerning the public accounts. He pointed out that five months had elapsed since the closing of the fiscal year, surely ample time for the preparation of the accounts. If the act passed by the Government several years ago had any meaning at all, surely this is an opportunity for its application. This act empowered the Government to publish the accounts at any time after the closing of the year, whether the House was in session or not. The only answer the Leader of the Government made was that the usual custom would be followed; the accounts would be produced when the Government's speech would be answered.

Mr. Morson very properly asked what object the Government had in withholding the information of the accounts, and thus, information to which the people were entitled. The financial condition of the Province was a question of the utmost importance, and the statement of last year's financial operations should now be in the hands of the people's representatives, so that it might be investigated and the members would be in a position to discuss it in all its bearings when the budget was brought down. If the Government were afraid to present the auditor's report, they should repeal the statute empowering them to do so. Mr. Prowse pointed out that the conditions twelve years ago were materially different from what they are now. Then the fiscal year ended on the 31st December, now it ended on the 30th September. Five months had elapsed since the accounts were closed. We know, he said, that there is a very large debt and we ought to have the accounts now to examine the figures and prepare for an intelligent discussion later on. This would shorten the session. Mr. Cummiskey said the public accounts and other reports are now ready and would be brought down after the address in reply to the speech was passed.

Mr. Mathieson said it must be clear that the intention of the two acts one authorizing the Government to publish the accounts, and the other changing the end of the financial year, is that the accounts should now be before the people. The Province was kept in ignorance of our financial condition and the House could not go on with the public business until this information was presented. It certainly could not be the good of the Province that induced the Government to act in this way. The session could be shortened a fortnight if the accounts were now submitted. He would like to hear one good substantial reason why these accounts should not be presented. Mr. McKinnon asked if it were to be understood that the accounts are now ready. Mr. Cummiskey, evidently thinking he had said too much, now intimated they would be ready after the address was passed. Mr. Fraser pointed out that the people were as anxious as the members of the House to learn our financial condition. It was not unlawful to publish these accounts now, and nothing could be gained by withholding them. Were they down how they could be investigated

and thus time would be saved hereafter. Mr. A. J. McDonald would like to know why the act referred to had been passed if no action was to be taken under it. The Government should bring down the accounts now and thus ensure the shortening of the session. Mr. Kieckhafer entered a strong protest against the withholding of the accounts. When the act providing for the ending of the financial year on the 30th of September was passed, it was expected that the accounts would be published about the first of January. While attending a meeting in the country lately, he was asked how the accounts stood and was compelled to say that, though five months had elapsed no information on that point could be obtained. To all these arguments and questions of the Opposition the Government made no attempt at reply. They sat as dumb as mummies with lock-jaw. The House adjourned.

On Thursday 27th, the debate on the address in reply to the speech was commenced. Mr. Jas. W. Richards was the mover of the address. He made a moderate speech, as favorable as possible to the Government. The seconder was Mr. D. P. Irving. Whatever remarks he made, he read from manuscript and read in a tone of voice so inaudible that very few could hear him. Both mover and seconder referred in suitable terms to the death of the late Premier Peters and the loss sustained thereby. They also congratulated Mr. Hazard on his appointment to the Leadership of the Government.

Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition, after the usual compliments to the mover and seconder, joined the other side of the House in sympathy on the death of the late Premier Peters. He considered that Mr. Peters had discharged his duties with rare zeal and fidelity. His devotion to his public duties had no doubt, shortened his days. He pointed out that only a few months separated the death of Hon. Mr. Gordon late Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Peters, the one at a ripe old age, the other in the Prime of life. In both deaths the Province sustained a loss. Mr. Gordon was a man well known and highly esteemed, especially throughout the eastern section of the Province. He had been one of the pioneers in the mercantile life of the Province, and was the synonym for honor and integrity in all the walks of life that he occupied. As regarded the new Premier, no words of his would mitigate or take away the congratulations bestowed upon by his political friends. The Opposition would give him a fair trial. Taking up the paragraphs of the speech, he pointed out that the prosperity referred to was only a party of the general prosperity of the Dominion; consequent upon favored conditions and the excellence of our institutions, whose foundations had been laid deep and solid by the founders of Confederation. Greater prosperity might be ours if the present administrators of the Government had exercised greater economy. Referring to our claims on the Federal Government, he pointed out how large and increasing are our contributions to the Dominion coffers, while in return we receive only a small stationery amount. The Government had appointed a committee to formulate and push these claims; but that was a narrow and sectional way to enter on this work. A committee of the House should have been formed, comprising both sides. Such a committee would command strength and support from the business men of the whole Province. As to the matter of exporting seed grain, he did not think this was a matter concerning very much need, he said by way of commendation. Our Province had long been famous as a producer of good seed grain, and we have during many years exported larger quantities of oats by far than we are doing at the present time. The department of agriculture had, he said, in many respects been a disappointment. But we were to have an experimental farm. He hoped this matter would not be too long delayed. The Prince of Wales college and its professors were all right; but the system was not such as trained teachers best adapt for the conditions in this Province. In reference to the question of Provincial subsidies he said, the amount received for Government and legislation was all right; but there were other amounts, to which we were entitled, and for which the Opposition contended last session. The subject of the Opposition had been and still is to prevent the door being closed against us on these claims. The course pursued by Premier McBride of British Columbia and his action has borne out the

soundness of the course pursued by the Opposition, and has made it possible for us to make good at some future time. Again referring to the failure of the Government to present the Public accounts, he pointed out that the people, the masters of the Government, should not be prevented from seeing the work of their servants. Why was no reference made in the speech to the finding of the public debt he asked. The greater part of our Provincial debt is a floating debt. The road act should be amended and something should be done about automobiles. At the conclusion of his speech the Leader of the Opposition was generously applauded.

The Leader of the Government followed. He congratulated the mover and seconder, and added his tribute to the memory of his predecessor in office, the late Premier Peters. Referring to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, he said it had been moderate, and he had little fault to find. He then continued at some length to discuss the different phases of the Government programme.

Mr. A. J. McDonald, followed for the Opposition. Taking up Mr. Hazard's reference to untenable claims he showed that the \$5,000,000 claim made on the Federal Government, by the Sullivan administration was a good claim and would have been realized before now, if it had not been blocked by some of the Liberal Governments that have come into existence since then. \$20,000 additional to our annual subsidy and the steamer Stanley was the result of the presentation of our case at the foot of the throne. He pointed out that there was no comparison between what we paid into the Federal treasury in 1884 and what we pay now. Then it was \$500 a head; now it is \$12.00 a head. This was forcibly pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition last session and the Government should pursue the lines laid down by him: The local revenue is too small; but in preparing a statement of our claims on the Federal Government, the memorial should have been made a House question; not a party question. The course followed by the Government in matter was a decidedly wrong course of procedure. Sooner or later the Government themselves would feel the evil effects. He wanted to know what the sense was of changing the law relative to the presentation of the public accounts, if the accounts were still kept back. Referring to the statement of the Leader of the Opposition as to the fathers and founders of confederation laying the foundation deep and solid, he emphasized this declaration in the strongest manner. But Liberal Governments, he pointed out, were, like the spendthrift sons of millionaires; they hold high carnival on the wealth accumulating as a result of wise legislation by the Liberal Conservatives. But while the Liberal Conservatives were building up a nation, the Liberals were constantly decaying their operations. Prosperity has been general all over the world during the past few years. Referring to the movement of people from other countries into Canada, of late years, he pointed out that agents of the Government, getting well paid per head, had gone into the slums of Europe and sent out an army of scoundrels to this country. He knew of some people who had gone from here to the North West; but had to return home and give up their property; because their lives were not safe among foreigners prepared to kill them at any time, if they thought they could get anything worth-while. Sir William McDonald's generosity in supplying money to build up Prince of Wales College was returning good for evil. Sir William had had an estate here, but it had been taken from him, as he thought, improperly. As to exportation of seed grain, he had known many years ago, men in different parts of the country who produced seed grain, as good, or better than, any that could be imported. He considered that the experimental farm business was moving very slowly indeed.

Mr. Reid, Commissioner of Agriculture, continued for the Government. He spoke some time during Thursday evening and then adjourned the debate. On Friday forenoon he resumed, and again adjourned the debate till Monday of his week. The House then adjourned.

The House of Commons, Ottawa, continued in session from 3 o'clock last Thursday afternoon till twelve o'clock Saturday night, about 57 hours. The Government refused information and the Opposition refused supply.

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