

WELL, OPPOSITION HAS LANCASTER ALL RIGHT

Mosher and Clark Get Big Reception in Opening of County Campaign

Talk to the Point on Matters Affecting the People Listening and Show Government Neglect and Mismanagement—H. A. Powell and W. S. Fisher Deal Ably With Issues of the Campaign.

A large attendance, a fine spirit of enthusiasm and stirring speeches were the features of the opening meeting of the opposition county campaign in Fairville Tuesday evening. Every seat in the Orange hall was taken and about seventy-five voters stood during the evening. J. P. Mosher and A. H. Clark, the candidates, both made stirring speeches and were warmly received. It was evident that the candidates have the hearty endorsement of the entire party and as men of tried



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worth and weight in the county they are looked upon as bound to defeat the attorney-general and Mr. Lowell.

Mr. Mosher went into details in telling of the miserable condition of the roads and arranged the crown land policy of the present government. He also charged that the government were discouraging advance in agriculture by decreasing the grants to the agricultural societies.

Mr. Clark made a fine impression. He criticized Mr. Lowell's actions and charged that the present members worked rather for the best interests of the big corporations than for the municipality.

H. A. Powell, K. C., spoke for an hour and in the course of his address made specific charges against the government in the administration of crown lands. He stated that lumbermen supporting the government were known to pay but forty to fifty cents on the dollar on their debts due to the government. He could also grove by documents in his office that on one transaction a lumberman paid but \$1,900 when the amount due was \$5,000.

Mr. Powell also spoke strongly on the International Railway and said that its financial success meant the industrial ruin of the northern part of the province. He pointed out that when connections were established with the Bangor & Aroostook line at St. Leonard, the wood from the north would be shipped to Maine and other states and manufactured there.

Mr. Powell also dealt with the government's administration of succession duties and cited a number of instances to show that friends of the government were exempted from paying tribute while their tax opponents were zealously exacted.

W. S. Fisher, as a business man, announced himself as seeing necessity for a change in government.

The meeting was regarded as satisfactory in every way by opposition men and was only another evidence of the turning of the tide in Lancaster. The hall was already filled when 8 o'clock, the hour for starting arrived, and Dr. J. H. Grey was chosen as chairman promptly on time. Dr. Grey spoke of the honesty and good sense of the candidates and predicted victory.

Mr. Mosher.

J. P. Mosher was first called upon and spoke to a rapidly increasing audience, who greeted the hearty candidate from St. Martin with cheers. He told of the reasons which had induced him to enter the contest. There were matters affecting deeply the best interests of the county and, having these interests at heart, he called upon to do his best to right the wrongs.

He great evil was the condition of the roads. When under the old administration he took his taxes on the road he took an interest in the work and had pride in the condition of the roads in his district. Now the rural districts were bled for the sake of larger communities.

Bridge needed replacing but the local commissioners said "There is no money." Where was the money? It was known that more than \$1,000,000 had been sunk in the Central Railway. Premier Robinson stated that the road was now worth \$1,500,000, but the money could not be got out of it. It was not right to let \$1,000,000 and let the poor man go without roads. All the excuse for the existence of the Central was the hauling out of coal which could be transhipped in other ways. The people of Chipman were given \$1,000,000 while hundreds of other districts went without any.

Attacks Crown Land Administration.

Mr. Mosher spoke of the ruinous crown land policy of the government. Favorites were given leases for 25 years on valuable lands, paying \$4 a mile in annual rent, and \$1.25 for each thousand of cut. These men holding large tracts sold these leases to United States companies, but managed to make a large profit. The lumber was cut, but taken to the United States to be manufactured, and no benefit accrued to New Brunswick. It was all right to have United States capital but New Brunswick wanted the labor.

Considering this, Mr. Mosher felt that he should do all he could to protect the province. The law provided that timber should not be cut under ten inches, but he had it on reliable authority that the lumber was cut down as low as five or six inches. If this went on in a few years, "Brunswick would be a barren."

Speaking of the agricultural policy, Mosher pointed out that the grants to the agricultural societies were being down, in some cases as much as 100

per cent. This did not show interest in the welfare of the farmer. Though the government boasted of their agricultural policy, their action in decreasing the grants showed they had no real sympathy for the farmer.

Mr. Mosher's address won hearty plaudits.

Mr. Clark.

Alfred H. Clark was greeted with vociferous applause. Though it was the first occasion on which he had addressed a Fairville audience in provincial politics, he had before spoken on municipal matters and it could not be said that his words had not been true.

Mr. Lowell, he said, claimed that he had devoted all his energies to the advancement of the best interests of St. John. Mr. Lowell's record, however, was not so good as he tried to make it appear. Legislation took from the street railway the responsibility of clearing the snow and had given it to the highway board. This was a blow to the laboring man, for the street railway paid twice the wages that the highway board were able to pay.

Mr. Lowell took the credit upon himself for securing the lighting of the Suspension bridge. This was a matter that had been advocated by the newspapers for years. Secured on the eve of election, the contract had been given to the street railway company instead of having the power at the asylum utilized. The accounts showed that there was surplus power at the asylum, but the government preferred to give the contract.

Provincial Hospital Matters.

Mr. Clark repeated the charges made at the nominating convention in December that an official of the Provincial Hospital was profiting by the labor of the inmates and there was nothing to show in the accounts that any compensation was made for the work. "The Steves' estate belongs to the official," said Mr. Clark, "yet it has been tilted by the government, manned by the government though it has never been shown that it is under lease. The place adjoining the hospital, which is owned by the government, is leased to the same man."

Was this a honest way to do business? asked Mr. Clark. "Would you manage your own property like this?"

The school board question was a burning question. Mr. Clark stated that the rates here were twice the cost of the Ontario board. The government claimed that the rates were not exorbitant and yet they showed an agency by agreement to appoint a commission to inquire into the cost.

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Nitro-Glycerine Works Explode—Two Buildings and Bodies of Victims Torn to Shreds and No Portion of Remains Found—Eight Women Made Widows and Many Children Left Fatherless.

Montreal, Feb. 11.—Nine men were blown to pieces and several others injured by an explosion at the works of the Standard Explosives, Limited, on Ile Perrot, fifteen miles from Montreal, this afternoon.

Every man who was near the scene of the explosion was killed and those who were injured were working in adjacent buildings and were merely cut by glass from the windows, which were blown in by the force of the concussion.

It is stated that no less than 2,000 pounds of nitro-glycerine, one of the most terrific explosives known, went up and the concussion was so tremendous that it was felt for a distance of at least twelve miles, people at Coteau Junction were blown from their seats and many were injured.

The explosion occurred a few minutes before 1 o'clock. No one knows, or ever will know, just where or how it started. The work at the various factories was progressing when all of a sudden an appalling detonation was heard, and the whole countryside seemed to rock. Those who saw the explosion and lived to tell the story state that they suddenly felt a terrific shock, which was followed a moment later by another even more severe and on looking around they saw a huge sheet of flame and smoke rising skyward.

There were no survivors of the explosion because the mortality had been complete. A moment later the dust and smoke settled down and nothing remained but the remains of the victims who were scattered over many acres.

Victims Blown to Atoms.

The scene attending the search was terrible, of the nine men who were killed eight were blown into fragments. One man, the foreman of the gang in the missing room, Pierre Menard, was killed but his body was little mutilated. The others were blown in all directions and it was impossible to distinguish them.

No more gruesome task could be conceived than that which faced the crowd of men who gathered to search for the bodies started out to recover what was left of the nine victims. Over many acres of ground were scattered pieces of human bones and fragments of clothing. The bodies of the men were so badly mangled that it was impossible to identify them.

Harvey, a Canadian, was the only one of the nine who was not killed. He was blown into the air and fell into a pool of water. He was found by a passer-by and taken to a hospital. He is now recovering from his injuries.

Although it is known that the nine men, working in the two buildings which blew up, were killed the search up to the present has only revealed the remains of four of the dead. Outside of the dead foreman there was nothing to aid in identification of the rest but such scraps of clothing as hung from the dismembered bits of flesh. In this way part of one man was identified by shreds of his clothing which still hung from the leg in the missing room. Some distance away and in the same way other parts were identified until the remains of four men were gathered.

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