

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1922

## A Contrast of Records Strongest Argument Possible for Election of Supporter of Foster Government

Striking Comparisons Between Good Government and Previous Maladministration

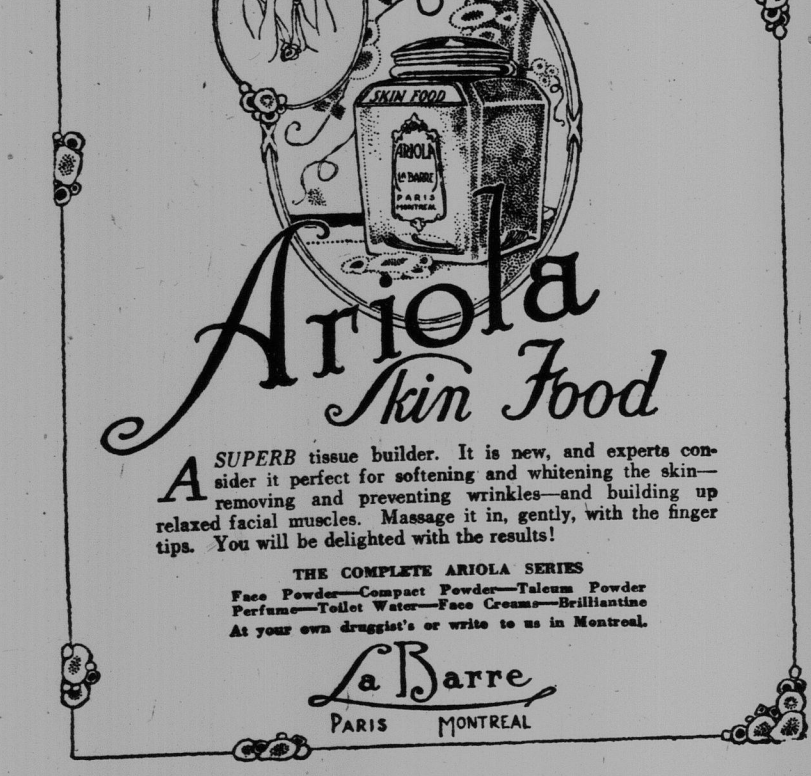
Electors of Glen Falls Applaud Recital of Record of Liberal Regime and the Logical Appeals for Support for A. F. Bentley in the By-Election Tomorrow.

The electors of the newly-created polling district at Glen Falls exhibited tangible evidence of their appreciation of the stabilizing efforts in the management of the affairs of the province by the Foster administration as compared with the maladministration by their predecessors in office when they turned out in exceptionally large numbers at a meeting in the Manor House, Glen Falls, last evening in the interests of A. F. Bentley, the government candidate for the vacant county seat to be filled tomorrow, and listened most attentively to the strong and forcible addresses by Hon. Peter J. Veniot, minister of public works; Dr. L. M. Curran, M. P., and Hon. J. E. Michaud, of Edmundston.

This meeting, which was one of the best attended, proportionately, of the campaign so far, marked the second address by the minister of public works in St. John county, and he was accorded a flattering reception. His effective justification of the acts of the Foster government—particularly his own department—won for him round after round of vociferous approval in a speech that struck the keynote to victory at the polls tomorrow.

The issue.

"If St. John county does not elect Mr. Bentley tomorrow, then there is no use in our trying to give this province efficient government. Remember, the eyes of the province will be on this county tomorrow, especially Kings county. Do you approve of the Foster administration—or do you not? That is the issue. I am confident that in my home in



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he determined within himself that his conduct would not be such as would reflect on his colleagues and his party, nor would he place on the records of the province any stain such as had been placed there by the late administration. (Applause.)

His attention had been drawn to conditions at Edmundston. He would make no promises on the eve of an election, but he did assure his hearers that the provincial government was ready to meet all necessary requirements. He deemed this a necessity.

Street Railway Extension. He asserted that a canvass in connection with the extension of the street railway lines towards Red Head was being made by the opposition speakers. He declared his complete willingness to aid any extension in that section provided the street railway project cost him half way. (Applause.)

Concerning Mr. Palmer. As to the seatless leader of the opposition, Hon. Mr. Veniot had a word to say concerning Mr. Palmer's recidivist statements. This was the same gentleman who was treasurer of the Valley railway. Mr. Palmer had gone about the holding up a receipt to the effect that he had handed over \$75,000 to the incoming Foster government in 1917 in connection with the Valley railway contract. Nobody denied this, said Hon. Mr. Veniot. He proved, he declared, the charge he made, namely, that this check had lain in the desk at Fredericton instead of being cashed and placed to the credit of the province. All this was the truth as brought out at an investigation under oath. "And, yet, these are the men who are now asking you to trust them," said Hon. Mr. Veniot, scathingly.

County Roads. He referred to the excellent results attained by Hon. Mr. Veniot in improving the county roads as compared with the deplorable conditions of ten years ago. If the electors appreciated these efforts, they would send additional support to Fredericton for Premier Foster.

Government Finance. It was to the credit of the present day administration, Dr. Curran asserted, that the revenue of the province had been doubled since the Foster government assumed power. This had been obtained chiefly from the crown lands department. He pointed out that the Foster government had dared to increase the stumpage rate to \$5 in spite of the protests of the lumbermen who had round the late government to an agreement not to raise the rate of \$1.50 for ten years.

The former administration had saddled the enormous debt of a quarter of a million dollars annually on the province by its capricious negligence in handling the Valley railway. That was a Conservative investment and yet the opposition speakers possessed the audacity to go around the county and declare that the Foster government was ruining the country into bankruptcy.

Dr. Curran referred again to the constructive policies laid down and carried out by the present government and appealed effectively for support at the polls tomorrow. His concluding remarks, in which he painted a high ideal of citizenship, made a fine impression and hearty approval greeted his resuming his seat.

Hon. P. J. Veniot. Before entering into a discussion of the public questions confronting the people in this election, Hon. Mr. Veniot expressed his extreme pleasure on being present and for the hearty reception accorded him. Dr. Curran had spoken appreciatively of his work. He would say to his hearers that when he undertook the grave responsibilities of his office

Open Books. C. D. Richards, house leader for the opposition, was traveling around declaring that the Foster government was running up enormous debts yearly. True, there were deficits. "That statement we dare not deny," he asked. He went on to explain that the books of the province were open to every one. The Foster government was not ashamed of its record as was the old government, which did not employ an independent audit. One of the first acts of the Foster government was the engaging of accountants to check up annually the financial statements. The old government falsified its accounts, he declared.

School Books. Speaking of the school book canvas being made against the government, Hon. Mr. Veniot explained that under the Foster government, the policy of books at cost was adopted. This continued to the present, except for 1918, 1919 and 1920, when the government ran behind \$24,000 in selling below cost. The opposition complained that the Foster government was responsible for the increase. "Well, I can answer them out of the words of their own newspaper organ. In an editorial of May 29, The Standard unwittingly, no doubt, justified the increase by pointing out that printing costs had increased 150 per cent. 'That is the answer,' declared the minister, amid applause.

Furthermore, under the old government party friends received special appointments to sell school books. The Foster government changed that and demanded cash for all orders. The late government used the credit system and thousands of dollars were found to be owing the government by men who had received books and had not paid for them.

Concluding his forcible address, Hon. Mr. Veniot urged every friend of the government to get down to real hard work. The issue was the record of the Foster administration. If they voted conscientiously he had no fear as to the result.

Hon. J. E. Michaud. In introducing Hon. Mr. Michaud, Dr. Curran referred to him as the youngest member of the executive, and said he could not refrain asking the visitor to say a few words.

The Madawaska member gracefully expressed his pleasure at being present, and as both speakers preceding him had dealt fully with the campaign issues, he said he would not fatigue his audience by repetition. "This fight, I believe, is being decided on the good record of the present government and not on the old record of the late government, therefore I will not talk about them but enumerate briefly the progressive policies of the Foster administration," said Hon. Mr. Michaud.

He touched briefly on these policies, especially the health act, the increased grants to education and to agriculture. He dealt with increases in the bonded debt, and concluded by again thanking them for the privilege accorded him of speaking a few words.

The meeting then adjourned with the singing of the national anthem.



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