

## The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1920.

### THE FOSTER GOVERNMENT'S RECORD.

Some years ago there was in power in this country an administration which was known as "the Government of all the talents." Judged by the manifesto just issued by Premier Foster, his administration is also a Government of all the talents and then some. The story is a wonderful record—from his own standpoint; whether the electors take the same view of it remains to be seen.

The Premier starts out with the statement that, owing to the war, the period of his administration has been a most difficult one in the history of government. Was it any worse than the period during the earlier years of the war, when the late Government had to face conditions and emergencies absolutely without parallel in the history of the country? Did not the Foster Government come into office when they had the advantage of having had two or three years in which to become conversant with these conditions and to some extent prepared to deal with them? They had had opportunity to familiarize themselves with the extraordinary situation created by the war. They had therefore no excuse for failing in their duty towards Canada and the Empire, which the Premier commends himself and his co-workers for having done.

Dealing with the financial conditions of the province, Mr. Foster places himself on record that, owing to the careful management and unrelenting foresight shown by his administration, the provincial treasury has increased wonderfully during his regime. It would be infinitely more to the point if he would explain how it came about that with these greatly augmented resources, the province has not prospered and prospered into debt each year since he came into power. This is a great achievement, and of course no one but a master mind in the financial world would ever have conceived the idea of buying up securities held in England, when the rate of exchange enabled purchases to be made at a great saving.

He boasts of the great increase in the Crown Land revenues, and regards as a bold stroke on the part of the administration the raising of the stampage to \$5. He omitted to say, however, that this proceeding is for election purposes only, for we are informed by one of the biggest and most prominent lumbermen in the province that there is a private understanding that the rate will be lowered again in the very near future. The Premier is content to pay the \$5 rate for 1920-1921 only.

Then the Government's "progressive" road policy is duly eulogized. Who suggested building the automobile road and using the proceeds for road work? Who ordered the trucks by means of which the large quantities of gravel that have been laid down could be brought to the places where they were needed? All this policy was promulgated by the late Minister of Public Works, the Hon. B. Frank Smith, at the time of the last election, and when the present Government came in they found all the plan ready, and promptly adopted it. He should have the credit and not this Government. However, the Premier promises greater things for the future. No doubt he does, for he is not going to get \$1,250,000 from the Dominion Government to speed on roads, and why wouldn't he promise an ambitious programme with this windfall?

Then, again, there is agriculture, for which he says his Government has done so much. In this instance, also, over \$70,000 yearly is contributed by the Dominion Treasury, for which the arrangements were made by the late Provincial Government. With \$70,000 more to spend than the late Government had, why wouldn't the present administration make a good showing? They couldn't help themselves unless they put an even more incompetent man at the head of the department than there is. Practically everything that has been done for agriculture since 1917 is nothing more than a continuation of policies initiated by their predecessors, aided by help from Ottawa. The scheme of district representatives is a useless burden upon the land. It simply provides an opportunity for the Government to employ some of its friends in soft jobs, who waste more money on gasoline and car repairs, and in filing up elaborate offices, than their work is worth. And then, to carry favor with the farmers, they enter into competition with legitimate business by selling time at less than it can be sold at a profit commercially.

Premier Foster takes great credit for the creation of the Workmen's Compensation Board. The credit for this belongs to the old Government. Mr. Wignome, too, will be in a position to explain the commission on the

thoroughly study the question with a view of bringing in the legislation that is now in force. It is no credit to the present Government that they were able to reap where their predecessors had sown; the initiative was with the late Government, and to them, and then only, the credit belongs. But Premier Foster takes it all for his administration.

Then there is the Health Department. No one is going to deny that the preservation of health is one of the most important questions of the day, but there was no need to create a top-heavy Health Bureau such as now exists. The old system under the Provincial Board of Health could have been remodelled and revived and made into a capable and efficient system, had it been thought proper to do it. Dr. Melvin could have made a success of this Board had he been placed at the head of it and given sufficient power to make a practical working concern of it, without creating a department which very soon will be spending \$50,000 a year of provincial money, to say nothing of the four or five hundred per cent. increase in the outlays required by the municipalities for health purposes. Public health maintenance is a fine thing, but it is being made a fad of—and a very expensive fad at that.

As to the Prohibition Act, the temperance people will be glad, no doubt, to note that it has now been "inducted to the Government" the proper course to pursue. A great many Government members and supporters did not appear to realize the proper course to take when they voted on a certain resolution last session.

And then the granting of women's franchises, of all the things to take credit for, Dr. Roberts brought this matter up in 1917, and his colleagues would him down. In 1918 Mr. Murray, the leader of the Opposition moved a resolution that the time had now come when the franchise should be given to women. The Government allowed this to carry; but when Mr. Murray followed it up with a bill to give women votes, Premier Foster, before even he had ever seen what the bill contained, got up to the House and said the Government would not allow the Lieut.-Governor to assent to it, and Mr. Murray therefore had to withdraw the bill. That is just how anxious the Foster Government was to give the franchise to women. The latter may thank the Opposition for getting them a vote; the members of the Government—except Dr. Roberts—were all opposed to it till they found the demand too strong for them and they had to give way to public opinion.

Then there follows a long list of Government "aims." How far they will get with these remains to be seen. But experience teaches that the Foster Government is a Government of small ideas and ideals; a Government which has played politics to the utmost limit; a Government which has made its every move subservient to patronage; a Government which is determined to set its course along lines that will suit its own purposes, regardless of the general welfare. Is this the kind of Government the people want?

### TODAY'S ELECTION.

The citizens of St. John-Albert are asked today to choose between the Hon. Rupert W. Wignome, Minister of Customs and Inland Revenue, and Dr. A. W. Emery as their representative in Parliament, and there can be no question whatever as to which is by far the better man for the position. Mr. Wignome is a man who has already proven his worth, both in civil and parliamentary spheres; whereas Dr. Emery is a man who has never made much of a success of anything, and is altogether untried in public life. Mr. Wignome is the candidate of an administration which is pledged to give Canada sound and stable government, government that will preserve and ordinate the prosperity that it now enjoys; government that will lift the prestige of Canada to an even higher plane than that on which it now rests; a government in short that will put the welfare and progress of the people in the forefront of its programme, and keep it there as the most important item in it. Dr. Emery, on the other hand, is the candidate of no recognized party at all. He is the nominee of a few extremists, who, contrary to the advice of the recognized leaders of the party in the constituency, insisted upon forcing opposition to the Government candidate. If elected, he would cast in his lot in Parliament with a leader who advocates various experimental policies, most of which would have the tendency to pull down, rather than build up, existing institutions, and which would prove most disastrous to the country.

Mr. Wignome, too, will be in a position to explain the commission on the

port of St. John, which Dr. Emery would not do. The latter could not get one dollar's worth of work done to this port if this bill depended upon it, and for this, among other reasons, his smallness cannot be disputed seriously by the electors. St. John wants a real live representative in Parliament, and in Mr. Wignome it will have just such a man. There can be no doubt, of his election, for an enormous majority of everyone who has a vote will only come out and cast it; but if those who have votes are going to stay at home and leave it to someone else to do the voting, the majority will not be large enough.

IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN THE CONSTITUENCY WHO HAS A VOTE SHOULD GO TO THEIR POLL AND CAST IT, so that Mr. Wignome's majority may make him, in very truth, the representative of St. John-Albert.

### A GLOBE MISREPRESENTATION.

We very much dislike to have to change so old and respected a newspaper as The Globe with deliberate misrepresentation, but a statement made by it in Saturday's issue either amounts to that, or our contemporary is so sadly unversed in provincial political affairs as not to be able to do so correctly. The statement we complain of is that "When the old Government went to the hibernation for very many thousands of dollars it was graft pure and simple. Not a dollar of the large amount raised went into the Government treasury."

The timber charges were made in 1914, at which date Mr. Baxter was not a member of the Government at all. The only other members of the late Government who were also members in 1914 were Mr. J. A. Murray and Dr. Landry. Both these gentlemen were specifically exonerated by Mr. Dugal from any knowledge of, or complicity in, the matters included in the timber charges. Mr. B. F. Smith, who also was a member of the late Government, was not even in the House in 1914. All the members of the old Government are thus disposed of. How, therefore, can The Globe truthfully make the statement it does? Our contemporary is allowing its spleen to carry it beyond the bounds of both truth and discretion.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Garnett Settlement, St. John's County, N. B., Sept. 18, 1920.  
 To the Editor The St. John Standard: Dear Sir—Would you kindly give me a little space in your paper to answer a statement that was published in the Daily Telegraph, September 17th, saying what a clean record the Foster Government are leaving behind them. It is not clean, by no means, when the men working on the road have received no pay since June 1, and the commissioner was ordered to stop and let half the road ploughed up. It is about time there was a change in the government. Thanking you for the space in your valuable paper.  
 Yours truly,  
 WORKING MAN.

### THE LAUGH LINE

The Sympathetic Tear.  
 Valetudinarian—I've got crickets of the liver, an incipient carbuncle on my neck, inflammation of the diaphragm, septic core throat and general prostration.  
 Sympathetic Friend—Well, and how are you?—Punch.

Changing Type.  
 "I heard Mabel said when she married that she had selected the very flower of her suitors. To what particular bloom did she liken him?"  
 "At first, she thought he was the pink of perfection, but when the baby came to claim her attention he was just a mere peppy."—Baltimore American.

Was He Satisfied.  
 "Martha, don't thou love me?" asked a Quaker youth of one at whose shrine his heart's holiest feelings had been offered.  
 "Why, Seth," she answered, "we are commanded to love one another, are we not?"  
 "Aye, Martha, but dost thou regard me with the feeling the world calls love?"  
 "I have freely feared that my heart was an erasing one. I have tried to bestow my love on all, but I have sometimes thought, perhaps, that there was getting rather more than thy share."—Public Opinion.

Foot-Rule for Matrimony.  
 The trouble with most marriages is that a man always makes the mistake of marrying the woman who carries him off his feet—instead of trying to find one who will keep him on them.—Los Angeles Express.

And This Time It Was.  
 During her vacation the telephone girl was out fishing when someone in another boat sang out "Hello!"  
 "Just then she got a bite."  
 "Line's busy," she called back.—Boston Transcript.

More Convenient.  
 Little Betty was staying with her grandmother in the country. Just before dinner-time one day she discovered that chicken was to be the principal attraction.  
 "Oh, where'd you get the chicken, grandma?" Betty asked, very excited.  
 "In the poultry-yard," the old lady replied. "You remember the chickens you saw this morning, don't you?"  
 "Certainly. Well we killed one of them."  
 "Oh, did you?" exclaimed Betty, in surprise. "We buy our chickens ready made!"

## Benny's Note Book

BY BEN PACE

We fellows was setting on Puds Skinkins steps talking about different things such as what would happen to you if you swam out to the middle of the ocean and suddenly forgot how to swim, and long pants, and school, and Puds said, O, I don't know, school ain't so bad, I won't be so sorry when vacations over.

Me neither, and Ed said, vacations all right in its way, but its easy to get tired of, all be kind of glad when school starts again.

So will I, I said, all you do on vacation is just get around with you mite as well be getting a education.

Sure, and Leroy Shooter, yours turning something to school, but all yours doing during vacation is just running errands because you cant tell your mother you got lessons to do.

And all the fellows and they wouldn't care how soon school started, Skinny Martin saying, You can sleep later in the morning during vacation, but what good is it to sleep late when you ain't getting out of anything? I don't care how soon school starts, then the way I feel.

Me too, thats my motto, sed Sam Cross. Wich jest then some tall skinkins lady came up, saying, Good m'ning, boys, how many of you would like to come to my summer school and learn something useful during vacation? Jest give me your names and ill go and see your mothers about it.

We fellows jest setting there without saying anything, and the lady looked at Puds Skinkins, saying, Wouldent you like to learn something useful instead of wasting your hole vacation? Come on, now, tell me your name and tell me those other boys names.

Wich us other fellows looked at Puds as much as to say he better not if he didnt want to get hurt, and Puds said, I haff to go somewhere. And he quick jumped up and wanked up the street and us other fellows all jumped up and ran after him, yelling, Hay Puds, wate a minit, wate a minit.

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