

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down
our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can
send to the front means one step nearer peace.

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Prohibition.
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Valley Railway Completion.

Improved Workmen's Compensation Act.
These are some of the planks in the platform of the Murray Government. Don't they appeal to you as good business?

MR. FOSTER'S BURDEN.

An interesting feature of the opposition convention in the city on Wednesday night was the frank statement of Chairman Skinner, who, according to the Telegraph's report, "spoke of the great burden resting on the shoulders of the opposition leader, Mr. Foster."

Mr. Skinner was nearer the truth than he realized. There is a heavy burden on the shoulders of the opposition leader, a burden he cannot shake off, a burden which handicaps him so greatly that he will not see his party successful in the election on February 24th.

It has been suggested that more astute minds than Mr. Foster's realized the weight of this burden, realized that the fight is a hopeless one. That is the WHY of Mr. Foster. He is the burden bearer of the party in a hopeless contest. Others refused to be so saddled. Mr. Foster was either less keen or more susceptible to the glory of leadership and was not unwilling to accept the burden with the prestige.

Mr. Foster's burden is chiefly made up of the shameful record of the discredited politicians who held office in this province prior to 1908. A very considerable package on his shoulders is labelled "CENTRAL RAILWAY STEAL, \$134,000." For this is the sum that was siphoned from the people of the province by the very gentlemen who in the present contest, have, to use a phrase not unfamiliar to certain of the opposition coterie, "passed the buck" to W. E.—and he was not sufficiently wise in the ways of opposition politicians to refuse.

Another addition to that burden is found in the record of shameful administration of the crown lands department under the old crowd and the condition of frenzied finance there which finally led to a shocking tragedy by which a too credulous official passed dishonorably from life. That is a very considerable burden to the opposition leader.

Still, again, is to be found a parcel marked "W. P., \$5,000." This, also will require some carrying and the leader's shoulders are not as broad as those of some of his associates.

But there are other burdens, human burdens, to add to those of record. These have climbed with avidity onto the tired shoulders of the young and inexperienced St. John man. There is no need to enumerate all of them. A few will suffice to show that Chairman Skinner spoke with knowledge when he made reference to them. There are "the boys of the old brigade," the gentlemen who, while the treasury of the province was being looted did not raise a hand to stop it. Here is a partial list:

S. S. Ryan, opposition candidate in Albert County.

C. W. Robinson, opposition candidate in Moncton City.

F. J. Sweeney and C. M. Leger, opposition candidates in Westmorland County.

J. F. Tweeddale and James Burgess, opposition candidates in Victoria County.

J. P. Burchell, opposition candidate in Northumberland County.

W. P. Jones, opposition candidate in Carleton County.

These are all on Mr. Foster's shoulders as candidates of the party the leadership of which he was not sufficiently

ciently sophisticated to avoid. But there are others. There is Mr. Carter in Kings County and Mr. Veniot in Gloucester. Will anyone say that they are not burdens to any political party leader?

In this contest Mr. Foster is faced by a task that would cause the wisest leader to cast aside all hampering influences and strip for the fray. He opposes a Government which has done more for the Province of New Brunswick than any administration which ever held power at Fredericton. He opposes an administration absolutely clean and honest, an administration with a policy that will commend itself to all who are honestly interested in the welfare of the province, an administration to whose support the leading men in New Brunswick have enthusiastically rallied, and his equipment for the contest is a platform whose most important planks show a desire to avoid the responsibilities of administration and transfer them to irresponsible commissions, a collection of candidates—few good, more absolutely bad and the majority of mediocre quality; and all representing a party which gave to New Brunswick the most shameful administration in its history.

Yes, indeed, when Mr. Chairman Skinner said the burdens on the shoulders of the opposition leader were very heavy he spoke absolutely with truth in the mark. Well might that leader exclaim in all sincerity: "Bear with me, my people, for my heart is sad and my burden saps my strength."

DR. ROBERTS AND PROHIBITION.

Dr. W. F. Roberts, one of the opposition candidates in St. John city, says that if he returned the opposition party will enforce the prohibition act placed on the statute books of the province by the present Government. The opposition platform pledges that party to the passage of an act, the submission of the act to a referendum and if the vote is favorable, prohibition one year later. That is absolutely all to which the opposition party is formally pledged. Here is the plank as taken from the platform as published in the Telegraph:

"In the event of the opposition being returned to power we pledge ourselves
"At the first session of the legislature to pass a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the province to the fullest extent allowed by the constitution, and within three months after the passage of said act to submit the same by referendum to the electors of the province, and should the majority of votes cast be in favor of the said law, then to bring the same into force by proclamation within one year thereafter."

When the Telegraph published the opposition's platform it did so under headings which set out what that newspaper and the party believed to be the most important planks in it. Not a word in those headlines concerning prohibition. Here is the heading as taken from the Telegraph:

OPPOSITION GOES TO PEOPLE WITH PROGRESSIVE PLATFORM
Take Crown Lands and Highways Out Of Politics Giving Both Sound Business Management.

Amend Electoral Law and Enfranchise Every Young Man Coming of Age—Rush Valley Railway Through to Grand Falls and Insist on Contract with Dominion Government Being Kept—Pledge to Assist in Agriculture, Education and Immigration.

If the opposition party regarded prohibition as of the great importance it now claims it is not reasonable to suppose that the leading opposition newspaper in the province would direct special attention to its policy on that point. The Telegraph's failure to do so is significant. It illustrates most plainly that the opposition policy on this matter is one of delay. A law to be passed some time during the session, then a referendum and—then a year's grace before putting the law into effect. In that year New Brunswick will still be under license and Dr. Roberts knows it. Any statement to the contrary is merely a foolish attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the temperance people of this province. There is a prohibitory law on

the statute books now. The return of the Murray Government means that it will be enforced on May 1st—nine weeks after election day. That should be sufficient for all temperance men in whose hearts the desire to stamp the liquor traffic out of this province is stronger than their devotion to any political party.

GEN. NEVELLE WELL REPRESENTS THE TWO RACES

When the British Expeditionary Force landed in France, and the name of its commander became known by the French people, it is said that they considered it a particularly happy omen, and it was partly on account of his name that General French was so enthusiastically received and established on such good terms with the commanders of the French army. So it is with General Neville, the commander-in-chief of all the French armies. The fact that he is half English makes him doubly interesting to us, and will add additional enthusiasm for the great things that are expected of him when the time comes for him to strike the blow. The reason more has not been published about General Neville is that he has become a National or indeed international celebrity only since the war began. Even when he had become a general, and was entrusted with one of the greatest tasks ever laid upon a general's shoulders, the defence of Verdun, the popular idea was that the hero of Verdun was Gen. Petain. Now it is known that, while Gen. Petain did not receive a word of undeserved praise, he was really working out the plans of Gen. Neville, his superior officer.

Noted English Ancestry

A man as distinguished as Gen. Neville can well afford to dispense with distinguished ancestors. It happens, however, that he has them, both in England and in France. It is recorded that in 1784 Dr. Johnson, at the invitation of Garrick's widow, dined with Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, Miss Hannah Moore, and Miss Fanny Burney. On his return he observed, "there are not three women like them," and the names remain in our literature. Mrs. Carter was the great grandmother of Gen. Neville. She was a learned woman and translated "Epictetus." The general's great grandfather was the author of a couple of books of travel in France. He was says Sterling Hellis, Paris correspondent of the Washington Star, a true Briton, and was ready to praise everything French when it was just the same as English. Gen. Neville's mother was a Miss Sparrow, and had relatives in both the English army and navy.

Soldier Born

On the father's side Gen. Neville is a soldier born. His grandfather was an officer seconded by Napoleon. His father too, was an officer and the present general was born in a garrison. He was naturally destined for the army, and as a boy began the long scientific studies as an officer at the Ecole Polytechnique. He emerged an artillery lieutenant, but in order not to become acquainted with only one branch of the service he next went to the famous cavalry school at Saumur. After a successful course there he passed the severe examinations of the Higher School of War. He was seconded through the China campaign of 1900 and 1901, and rose from captain to be chief of squadron. He was next chosen for a special military mission, and after that he returned to command artillery in Corsica, and while there was made chief of staff for the army division, later on being appointed to the superior council of war. When the present war broke out he was merely a colonel of

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Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

Me and Sid Hunt and Reddy Merfy was setting on my front steps this afternoon, and I had a sents worth of jelly beans, and I gave Sid and Reddy each 2 apeece and kep on eating the rest, and Reddy Merfy sed, Hay, Benny, if you give me 5 more jelly beans Ill put you undir my pertection.

How do you meen undir your pertection? I sed.
Enyboby that hits you has got to hit me first if youre undir my pertection, sed Reddy. Him being the best fter of any of the fellows, and I sed, O, all rite, Ill give you 5 wite ones.

No sir nothing doing, I haft to choose my own cullars, sed Reddy. And he choosed 2 black wuns and 2 red ones and a yello one, sayins, Now youre undir my pertection, enyboby that hits you has got to hit me first.

With pretty soon a tuft looking little messenger boy came up the street wisseling, and I shawd id feel how it felt to be undir Reddys pertection, and I sed, O lissen to the mocking berd. And the messenger boy stoped and looked forse, sayins, Hay, do you meen me, if you meen me Ill nock your frunt teth out the back of your neck.

You better look out, I sed, Im undir this fellows pertection, enyboby hits me has got to hit him first, dont they, Reddy?

Yes, sed Reddy. Not saying it very loud, and the messenger boy sed, O, is that so? and Reddy sed, You dont haft to hit me very hard, tho, you can hit me easy on the arm.
Well, I alst got enything aginst you, but Ill give you a little soak first if it will do you eny good, sed the messenger boy. And he hit Reddy a little krack on the arm and then ternerd around for me, only by that time I was running up the street like the dickins and going faster every second.

artillery but enjoyed the confidence of his superior officers.

He was with the vanguard into Al-

27 enemy guns at the Battle of Dornach. At the Battle of the Marne, Neville had his first chance of really distinguishing himself. It appeared at one moment that the pursuing Germans would force the French across the Ourcq River, just outside Paris. The French infantry appeared to be badly shaken, but at the critical moment Neville gathered together all the cannon he could command rushed the guns in front of the retreating French and poured a deadly fire into the ranks of the Germans. The Hun were checked, the French rallied, and the Marne battle line held. Two weeks later the guns under Neville did wonderful execution among the Germans at the Aisne, and Neville won his stars. In November he was in command of a brigade that stopped the enemy before Soissons.

"He is a Man."

The following February he was placed in command of a division, and in June he broke the German line of trenches at Quiennevillers at the exact point for him assigned in the attack, and it was in this engagement that the situation of Joffre was particularly called to the fact that Neville had the gift of exterminating the enemy at a very slight cost to his own troops. At the end of the year he was commanding the Third Army Corps, and in January and February of last year ago, he directed a series of brilliant series which resulted in capturing along the Somme several positions that the Germans had gained in surprise attacks. In March he was sent to direct the operations at Verdun. There in fifteen days he won eleven fights, and for this brilliant work was placed in charge of the entire Second Army on both sides of the Meuse. At this time he was destined to succeed Joffre, it is said, but was permitted to return to Verdun for the offensive which won back in so many hours all the Germans had taken in weeks. Neville is said to look more like an Englishman than a Frenchman, and to have the impassivity that is supposed to be a British trait. As to the sort of man he is, the answer to this question was given by an officer who had fought under him when he went to Verdun: "He is a man."

THE POLICE COURT.

In the police court yesterday two soldiers, charged with being drunk, resisting arrest, and assaulting the police, were remanded.

Patrick Roardon was fined \$50 for supplying liquor to a soldier in uniform.

Three drunks were remanded.

Hann Him was sent up for trial on the charge of stealing clothing from Tom Chem.

Oscar Mitter and Eugene Niemann, two sailors pleaded guilty to breaching cargo on board a steamship in port and were remanded.

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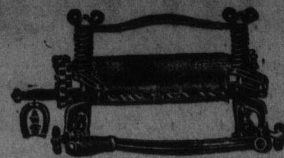
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