

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 27, 1912.

THE DISSOLUTION.

The dissolution of the House of Assembly and the announcement of a general election on June 20, will not come as a surprise to those who have been following the trend of events since the prorogation of the Legislature. Since the present Government came into power there have been five sessions of the House of Assembly, and although the House does not expire until next year, it was considered advisable that the people should be given an opportunity of expressing their views on the policy of the Administration. The last four years have been momentous ones in the history of the Province. They have been years of progress, each more prosperous than its predecessor. And the outlook for the future is brighter than at any time in the past quarter of a century. The progress that has been made is regarded everywhere as the forerunner of a new era for the Province, when its natural resources will be developed as they never were before.

The Hazen-Fleming Administrations have given the Province good, honest, clean government. They have collected more revenue than any previous Government of the Province. They have expended the revenue wisely and well. Their policy has developed the latent resources of the Province and inspired the people with renewed hope. They have kept their pledges—have done even more than was promised. There has been a forward policy—the Province has not stood still. In four years more has been accomplished to give the people confidence in the future of the country than in any previous period of its history.

They have not feared to take the responsibility of dealing with great questions. The Valley Railway is one example, the Gibson-Minto Railway is another, the opening of the Gloversville iron mines is another, and the creation of a new town in Albert by the development of a great natural asset which has been unproductive for half a century is still another. By an aggressive agricultural policy they have in two years given convincing evidence that New Brunswick can grow as good apples as can be grown in any part of the world. They have paved the way for the resettlement of abandoned farms and have given the country an enlightened and practical immigration policy. They have a record of four years of achievement such as no previous Government in this Province could boast. It has all been accomplished without scandal and with the hearty and unwavering support of the great majority of the people.

THE PREMIER'S MANIFESTO.

In his address to the electors Premier Fleming points out what the Government have accomplished in the past four years and what their policy will be if returned to power. It is a plain straightforward statement of facts and an honest pledge for the future. In the four years that have gone the record of the Government has been one of achievement.

The Audit Act was passed by which all the expenditures of the Province come under the eye of the Auditor General and suspense accounts are impossible.

An honest collection of the territorial revenue by which the revenue from this department has increased from \$221,000 in 1907 to \$528,000 in 1911.

A reduction in the cost of school books amounting to as high as fifty per cent., and this practically without cost to the Provincial treasury.

Legislation to compensate workmen and women for injuries and under which they are now afforded better protection than formerly.

The amendment of the Liquor License Act by which local option is made easier and has been adopted in several localities.

A new Highway Act which practically places the highways under the control of the Municipal Councils and secures the expenditure of the road tax in the locality in which it is raised, and also provides for statute labor on the roads.

A largely increased expenditure on the roads and bridges of the country.

The construction of the St. John Valley Railway through the centre of the Province under an arrangement which will not inflict additional tax on the people.

The full development of the Queens County coal areas through the construction of the Gibson-Minto Railway without additional cost.

Mr. Fleming might have enlarged this list considerably if he had been so disposed. Regarding the future policy of the Government Mr. Fleming promises to continue the same honest collection of the revenue that has marked the past and to expend the revenue with prudence, seeing that the Province gets full value for all that it buys.

He promises to make every effort to restore the representation of New Brunswick in the Dominion Parliament to what it was at the time of Confederation or to prevent a further decrease.

The fishery claims against the Dominion Government which have been outstanding so long will be vigorously pressed with a view to an early settlement.

The act passed at the last session of the Legislature to provide for the resettlement of abandoned farms will be put into force immediately.

Every provision is made for the development of natural resources.

This is a good programme and one that will be heartily endorsed throughout the length and breadth of the Province.

THE VALUE OF COURTESY.

The goodwill of the public is an asset of great value. To such an extent is this realized that certain railway companies in the United States, notably the Illinois Central, maintain an educational bureau from which bulletins are sent out at intervals for the instruction of their employees, not in routine duties but in the more subtle points of service that involve character and temperament. "The value of Courtesy" was the subject of a recent homily. While it is addressed to railroad employees it might be read with profit by workers—and even idlers—in every walk of life.

Some of the definitions are admirable. For instance, "Courtesy and affability do not require one to be a sycophant nor to do or practise anything humiliating or repulsive to one of gentlemanly instincts; nor is it desirable that an employee obtrude himself on the patron of a road indelicately or inopportunist. Ordinary discretion teaches the right method." Perhaps the statement which will most impress those to whom it is immediately addressed is to the following effect: "That courtesy is

essential to those who desire advancement must be accepted as a fact. . . . Other things being equal the employee who is uniformly civil and courteous in his dealings with the public and his fellow employees is very likely to be given preference. . . . It indicates strength of character and a previous self-discipline that insure calm, judicial consideration of important matters in emergencies."

The warning is also given that "one discourtesy will offset many courtesies" and it is therefore important that self-restraint should never be lost. "A railroad for which all employees are loyally endeavoring to win the good will of the public, would need no better advertisement—it would stand invincible against the competition of other lines."

But if all this may properly be required of the employees, how about the patrons? For them the railroads can hardly undertake to set up a code of manners. They will act upon their own impulses and according to their own standards. But courtesy begets courtesy and a uniformly courteous service helps to make a courteous public. It may seem a little strange to regard the railroads as evangelists of politeness, but if all were conducted according to the terms laid down in this bulletin, they would, to a no small extent, win that distinction. The travelling public represents a large measure of unreasonableness, but that is good material for the railroad employee to practice upon. If he can meet and reform that attitude with a smile and a service, he ought to find his relations in the ordinary social contacts very comfortable.

THE TWO POLICIES.

There is a marked difference in the policy which Premier Fleming outlines in his manifesto in this morning's issue and that which Mr. Copp laid down in the speech he made at Hampton a week or so ago. Mr. Fleming appeals to the electors on the record of Mr. Hazen's Administration and his own. He is able to point to a long list of achievements all of which have been in the interests of the Province. He can show a largely increased revenue from the same territory, and a marked improvement in the public service as a result. He can point to more money for agriculture, education and public works, all the direct result of an honest collection of the revenue of the Province and a prudent expenditure of the money of the people. For the future he promises the same honest and capable administration.

Every effort will be made by Mr. Fleming to prevent any further decrease in our representation at Ottawa, and to secure justice to the Province by the settlement of the outstanding fisheries claims. The present Government at Ottawa have appointed a committee of the Privy Council to examine into these claims. This is the first real recognition by any Federal Government as to the importance of their early adjustment. They are in a position to make a large sum of money. The resettlement of vacant farms and aid in the development of natural resources are other planks in Mr. Fleming's platform, both of which are of the highest importance to the Province at large.

Mr. Copp has the record of the old Government and his own personal record to answer for, neither of which has proved of great benefit to the Province. His policy for the future is apparently to borrow money to lend to the farmer. The plan by which this is to be done is not yet fully matured. He has also some other plan to aid agriculture, but it is still in embryo. His highway policy is unformed. He hesitates to trust the Municipal Councils to spend money on the roads as sometimes he has found that party politics has even swayed the opinion of Municipal Councils. Altogether Mr. Copp is in a very doubtful frame of mind on this subject and apparently unable to reach a conclusion.

The electors will have no difficulty in deciding which policy they will accept. They will endorse the wise and progressive course adopted by the present Government which drove from power the corrupt and incapable Government which Mr. Copp supported and still defends.

The Telegraph is still struggling valiantly to prove that Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Hazen were both dishonest that the Valley Railway should be built. If this were true why did not these gentlemen act as Mr. Hazen did? When the delegation went to Fredericton Mr. Hazen told them that he would guarantee the bonds for the Valley Railway to the extent of \$25,000 a mile provided the Federal Government would lease the railway, paying 40 per cent. of the gross income as rental. The delegation went to Ottawa, made the proposal and were promised an immediate answer. Mr. Hazen gave his answer off the bat. It was two years before the Federal Government answered and then it was because it was hoped to influence a by-election in York. Yet they say that Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Carvell were not playing a political game!

Mr. C. W. Robinson of Moncton and Dr. Pearson, Opposition candidate in Kings, both complain about the condition of the roads in New Brunswick. It is reasonable to expect that Mr. Robinson should have a grudge against the roads because their wretched condition under his Administration was one of the causes of his political downfall. While these gentlemen complain of the roads they still express an abounding faith in Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Yet it was Sir Wilfrid, with the assistance of the Senate of Canada, who prevented Mr. Horden from passing legislation to grant \$50,000 to the Government of New Brunswick for the improvement of the roads. Neither Mr. Robinson nor Dr. Pearson appear to want to see the roads improved.

The arrangement made by the Fleming Government with the Dominion Government for the construction of the Valley Railway is much more liberal than anything suggested by Mr. Pugsley when he was in power. The Dominion Government pay a cash subsidy of \$6,400 a mile for the whole length of the line; grant assistance to the extent of \$1,000,000 for the construction of two bridges over the St. John and one over the Kennebecasis, and charge no interest on the loan for the first 15 years. This is equivalent to a cash subsidy of \$600,000. This is a much better arrangement than Mr. Pugsley was prepared to make.

Current Comment

(Pail Mail Gazette, London.)

The two candidates have covered each other so thickly with mud that the American people may be compelled, for their own dignity, to find some other occupant of the White House. The "dog fight," as it has come to be called, is a spectacle too lamentable to amuse even the distant, detached onlooker. Englishmen will not forget the respect due to the head of a great, friendly nation, but the manners of this contest are not making history outsiders care to remember.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The Montreal Council has refused a grant to the fund raised for the relief of the friends of those who were lost on the Titanic on the ground that none of the friends of the Montreal victims require assistance. It is not often that we encounter such frank selfishness.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Canada has made a million dollars more out of Chinese immigrants than she did last year. The head tax is indeed a tariff for revenue only, but some of the revenue now goes into grafters' pockets.

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GOVERNMENT

Nominating Convention

The nominating convention of the Local Government Party to select candidates for the City of St. John and also the nominating convention for the County of St. John will be held at the Nickel Theatre Assembly Rooms on

Tuesday Evening, 28th Inst., at 8 O'clock

All delegates and substitutes for the City and County are requested to be present.

ROBERT MAXWELL, Chairman

MARRIAGE CASE COMES UP TODAY

Supreme Court will Deal with Reference on Question of Marriage Laws—Whole Matter Succinctly Put in Questions to Court.

The reference on the now celebrated marriage question will come before the Supreme Court of Canada today. The recent ruling of the Privy Council in the Companies' case effectively disposed of the question of jurisdiction, maintaining as it did, the power of the Supreme Court to deal with such references.

The following are the questions which succinctly form the subject of the reference:

"The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, advise that pursuant to section 60 of the Supreme Court Act, the following questions be referred to the Supreme Court of Canada for hearing and consideration namely:

Question 1. (a) Has the Parliament of Canada authority to enact in whole or in part Bill No. 3 of the first session of the twelfth Parliament of Canada, entitled "An Act to Amend the Marriage Law?"

The bill provides as follows: "1. The Marriage Act, chapter 105 of the Revised Statutes, 1906, is amended by adding thereto the following section:

"2. Every ceremony or form of marriage heretofore or hereafter performed by any persons authorized to perform any ceremony of marriage by the laws of the place where it is performed, and duly performed according to such laws, shall every where within Canada be deemed a valid marriage, notwithstanding any differences in the religious faith of the persons so married and without regard to religion of the person performing the ceremony."

Question 2. (a) Has the rights and duties as married people of the respective persons married as aforesaid, and of the children of such marriage, shall be absolute and complete and no law of canonical decree or custom of or in any province in Canada shall have effect to the contrary?

(b) If the provisions of the said bill are not all within the authority of the Parliament of Canada to enact, which, if any, of the provisions are within such authority?"

Question 3. Does the law of the province of Quebec render null and void, unless contracted before a Roman Catholic priest, a marriage that would otherwise be legally binding, and complete and no law of the province of Quebec shall have effect to the contrary?

(a) Between persons both of whom are Roman Catholics, or

(b) Between persons one of whom only is a Roman Catholic?

Question 4. If either (a) or (b) of the last preceding question is answered in the affirmative, or if both of them are answered in the affirmative, has the Parliament of Canada authority to enact that all such marriages, whether (a) heretofore solemnized, or (b) hereafter to be solemnized, shall be legal and binding?"

It is understood that counsel for the province of Quebec will raise objection in regard to question 2 relating to the marriage law of that province. It will be pointed out that there has never yet been a case before the Supreme Court in which the validity of a mixed marriage has been the point at issue, whilst it will be also objected that the Supreme Court be not called upon to declare whether the Quebec law does or does not render null and void a marriage of Catholics performed before any but a priest of the Catholic faith.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

H. S. Godard, Elgin, NB; J. C. Whitehead, S. W. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Woodstock; R. L. Bell, Montreal; J. E. Forbes, L. Lowell, A. B. Smith, Toronto; W. R. Eaton, Halifax; P. Hicks, Sydney (CB); C. S. McCarthy, Moncton; F. Windsor, Toronto; F. L. Fleming, New York; F. S. Hicks, Windsor, NS; H. B. McKinnon, Toronto; O. J. Cameron, High; L. G. Cogley, Springfield, NS; G. M. Thibodeau, Halifax; D. S. Ferguson, Park.

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