

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1912.

THE GLOBE DEFINES THE ISSUES.

The Telegraph and Times are making frantic appeals to the Liberals to support Mr. Copp, and incidentally to Mr. Pugsley, who is also taking an active part in the Provincial campaign assisted by Mr. P. B. Carvell. In 1908 a large section of the Liberal party in this Province declined to support Mr. Robinson and his candidates. They saw that they had been deceived year after year by the published statements of the old Government and they refused to cast their votes for men who were wasting the public money in such a reckless manner as to bring the Province to the verge of bankruptcy. Mr. Hazen promised to give them honest Government; they accepted his promise and voted for his candidates. They have had no occasion to regret the course they pursued four years ago. Mr. Hazen and Mr. Fleming have governed the Province wisely and well. The people have received the honest government they were promised, and they realize that the pledge made in 1908 has been faithfully carried out.

Among the Liberal newspapers which refused to be dragged into supporting the Liberal Government, was the Globe, which on more than one occasion prior to the election of 1908 had pointed out that the debt of the Province was being increased at an extraordinary rate by the old Government, while the revenue was remaining stationary. Since the present campaign opened several favorable references have been made by the Globe to the present Government which have been displeasing to the Times and Telegraph. Both of these journals have in consequence been employed in reading the Globe out of the Liberal party.

Until last evening the Globe made no comment on the attitude of the other two Liberal journals. Replying to the attacks made upon it the Globe explains its position on Provincial issues and adds:

"To the Globe Mr. Fleming seems to be a hard-working, a determined and an earnest man, and from that point of view it deals with him. The party opposing him, if returned to power, as things are today, would simply restore the conditions of political chaos which existed when the Robinson Administration was defeated; and that, too, with Mr. Robinson out of our Provincial political life. That is a condition from which we may pray to be safely delivered. In the meantime the Globe must be permitted to pursue for itself that course which it may see in the best interests of the Province. It owes no defence of that course to anybody."

There is every indication that even a larger percentage of Liberals will vote for the Fleming Government than supported Mr. Hazen in 1908. They are in a position to do so to make comparisons by the records of the old and the present administrations in the management of Provincial affairs, and to judge by results.

## PREMIER FLEMING ANSWERS MR. COPP.

Premier Fleming granted an interview to The Standard's representative after the meeting at Campbellton on Tuesday night, which appears in another column of today's issue. Dealing with Mr. Copp's misrepresentation concerning the increase in the public debt, the Premier points out that the Leader of the Opposition has added in many items which belong to the old Government, to make up the figures he has made public. Among these are the over-expenditures of the old Government up to Oct. 31, 1907, amounting to \$215,781.40; the reduction in the valuation of the New Brunswick Coal and Railway property after the present Government came into power, amounting to \$115,568.25; International Railway subsidy totalling \$142,500; wheat and grain elevator at St. John \$100,000. These amounts in the total to \$488,437.70 for which the Administration was not in the slightest degree responsible any more than they were for the \$160,824.28 that they had been compelled to expend on the New Brunswick Coal and Railway proposition. A considerable portion of this latter expenditure went to pay the Dominion for the rails laid on the section of railway built by the old Government.

These facts furnished by the Premier show that Mr. Copp is either entirely ignorant of the actual condition of the finances of New Brunswick, or that he wilfully misrepresents them for his political benefit. While it is true that Mr. Copp has never shown very great aptitude for figures, and was apparently indifferent whether the statements he made were correct or not, he can hardly have been so densely ignorant as to have omitted the items mentioned by the Premier.

Mr. Fleming also punctures Mr. Copp's statement that the present Administration have received \$520,000 more revenue from the Dominion than any other Government, by showing that he has included in his statement \$65,000 that was spent before the old Government were retired from power, and adds: "I make the statement that during the last seven years of the old Government they received from extraordinary resources which the present Government have not had at all \$1,060,541.86, or an average of \$151,505.98 annually, being substantially more per year than the extra Dominion subsidy of \$130,000 which we have had."

This is an astonishing statement, but it is absolutely true. The old Government received between 1900 and 1908, in addition to the settlement of the Eastern Extension claim, amounting to over \$280,000, the proceeds of several bond issues amounting in the total to the figures given by Mr. Fleming, and every dollar of this enormous sum was necessary to pay off their over-expenditures during the nine years covered by Mr. Fleming's statement. Mr. Copp has been very glib regarding the over-expenditure of \$56,000 of the present Government last year to make the bridges of the country safe for traffic, but he makes no mention of the fact that the over-expenditures of the old Government, which were hidden away in suspense accounts to deceive the people, amounted to an average annual deficit in the current revenue of over \$100,000 for the whole nine years referred to.

In replying to Mr. Copp that the present Administration had impaired the credit of the Province, the Premier makes allusion to the fact that Mr. Robinson when Premier was compelled to pay 5 per cent. interest on treasury bills floated in London, and that the present Government on coming into power renewed the loan at 3 per cent., and had since effected temporary loans at 3 per cent., and in one case at less than 3 per cent. This does not look very much as if the credit of the Province had been impaired under the present Administration.

Dealing with Mr. Copp's assertions regarding the Valley Railway, the Premier points out that Mr. Copp voted against the bill to provide for the construction of this important transportation line which will do more to open up the central portion of the Province and develop its agricultural interests than any railway yet constructed within its boundaries. The vote of Mr. Copp to which the Premier refers took place on March 22nd and is recorded on page 53 of the Journals of the House. Up

to the present date Mr. Copp has made no effort to explain his vote on that occasion and therefore must be regarded as an opponent of the railway.

The electors of New Brunswick will read with much pleasure Mr. Fleming's unqualified statements regarding the route of the Valley Railway and the Government's intention to build the whole line from St. John to Grand Falls as authorized by the Act of Assembly among which Mr. Copp voted. There is no evasion or equivocation in the Premier's statement that the road will be built from St. John to Grand Falls without delay.

The Opposition cannot that the road would not go beyond Andover has already failed in its purpose as neither Mr. Pugsley nor the Telegraph have been able to advance a single title of evidence in support of their assertions. All the facts are against them, and the plain straightforward statement of Mr. Fleming, who has worked in season and out of season for the construction of the railway to open up this vast section of country, will be accepted by the electors, who have good reason to doubt anything that would be said regarding this enterprise by such consistent opponents of the railway as Messrs. Pugsley, Carvell and the Telegraph. For three years they have tried to prevent Mr. Fleming from building the Valley Railroad but they have failed. The road is now under construction and on November 1st, next year, two of its most important sections will be in actual operation, of its most important sections will be in actual operation, of its most important sections will be in actual operation.

## MR. COPP AND THE TELEGRAPH.

Referring to the Leader of the Opposition the Telegraph says: "Mr. Copp, who has been winning golden opinions everywhere since he took up the work of leadership in succession to Hon. C. W. Robinson, has conducted a campaign marked by great vigor and sound judgment." The Telegraph did not always entertain so high an opinion of Mr. Copp. In fact it thought very little of Mr. Copp and did not hesitate to say more unkind things about him than have appeared in any newspaper supporting the Government since this campaign opened.

On June 5th, 1908, the Telegraph published in its editorial page this somewhat pointed reference to Mr. Copp's connection with the Central Railway fraud:

"Time was when Mr. A. B. Copp, M.P.P., Provincial organizer of the Liberal party, expressed doubts about the Central Railway business. Yet the Central if not profitable to the Province seems to have been profitable to Mr. Copp. On March 20th, 1908, after the elections, Mr. Copp was paid \$375 for attendance at Ottawa and expenses there in connection with a claim for a double subsidy for the Central. This \$375 included a trip in March last for which he was paid \$175 and another in December, 1907, for which he got \$200—7 days at \$20 a day and \$60 expenses."

"Mr. Copp's activities in connection with the Central in 1905 appear to have yielded him the moderate sum of \$1,000 for legal services. What the legal services were does not yet appear, but doubtless particulars will be forthcoming later on. The entries in the Central's books, thus far available, show that on July 7th, 1905, Mr. Copp received \$500. The payment of \$500 on October 21st, 1905, indicates that Mr. Copp did not find the Central personally unprofitable, even after the elections had overwhelmed the Robinson Government. Why Mr. Copp should have been the man to go to Ottawa on these several occasions mentioned rather than some member of the Government does not appear, but like many other matters connected with the Central that are now sunk in mystery, this one may be made clear when the investigation commission calls witnesses and hears their sworn testimony."

The Telegraph's criticism of Mr. Copp's action in connection with the Central Railway scandal was thoroughly justified by the report of the commissioners who investigated the Central Railway expenditures. In this report the commissioners say:

"Of this amount Mr. Copp was paid \$1,050 from July 7th to October 20th, 1905. On March 20th, 1908, he was paid the balance—\$375. No vouchers or receipts were filed giving the items making up the above amounts. Mr. Copp stated in evidence that he had visited Ottawa once pressing for a settlement of the extra subsidy on the fifteen mile section and once interviewing Mr. Emmerson in reference to the purchase from the I. C. R. of some old steel bridges. That he had also settled some outstanding accounts, among others, that of Rhodes Curry and Co., and James Barnes."

"Perhaps the services of a lawyer might fairly be employed in the first named Ottawa visit, but doubly so, but we think the fee paid was excessive. So far as the other services of Mr. Copp were concerned it is not clear to us why a paid officer of the company could not have effected these settlements as successfully and much more cheaply than a lawyer could have done. As a matter of fact Mr. McAvity stated in his evidence that Auditor Sharpe had adjudged the Barnes' claim."

"Mr. Copp's evidence shows clearly that he had not prepared himself to do work of any value, and we believe his allegations were according to his preparation."

## THE CROWN LANDS.

Commenting on Mr. Copp's reference in his manifesto to the Crown Lands the Times says: "The people of the Province do not know either the extent or the value of this great asset." Had it not been for the action of Surveyor General Grimmer they never would have known the value of the Crown Lands. Mr. Grimmer succeeded in demonstrating to the people that under a wise and honest administration they were worth just twice as much as under the incapable and dishonest management of Mr. Copp's friends.

"Panic," said the Times last evening, "has broken out in the Tory ranks and the dignified and convincing manifesto of Mr. Copp has made it clear to even the most optimistic supporter of Mr. Fleming, that the Government is in great danger of defeat." There is about as much truth in the statement that the Government supporters are in a panic as that Mr. Copp's manifesto is dignified and convincing. Without exception it is the most maliciously untruthful, evasive and slanderous document that ever emanated from a public man in the Province of New Brunswick. The Times is assured that there is no panic in the Government ranks anywhere, and that Mr. Fleming and the whole Government party look forward to an overwhelming victory on June 20th over graft and dishonesty.

What a glorious time the grafters would have if Mr. Copp could induce the electors of New Brunswick to place him at the head of their affairs. All the road monies would pass through their hands and as large a percentage would stick as in the good old days when the road superintendents appointed by Messrs. Pugsley and Tweed handled the taxes collected from the people. Honest electors will see that no such catastrophe will happen to the Province and will defeat Mr. Copp and all his sympathizers.

The shameless untruth of Mr. Copp in his manifesto will do more to defeat his party in the Province of New Brunswick than any document or argument that has as yet appeared in the campaign. Mr. Copp has been already warned that he cannot fool all the people all the time. Deception is the chief characteristic of his manifesto.

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## COMMENT ON THE CAMPAIGN

MR. VENIOT'S WILD CHARGES.

P. J. Veniot, we have been informed by the Telegraph, has been producing copies of the cheques of the public works department with forged endorsements. It would have been much more to the point if Mr. Veniot had produced the forged cheques instead of the copies, and then make the statement that the endorsement on it was a forgery. Mr. Veniot must be aware that neither the government nor a bank would pay a cheque knowing it to be forged. If there had been any forgery, the responsibility would lie with the man who committed the crime and not at the door of the government.

Every precaution is taken to ensure the honest expenditure of the monies of the public works department by the chief commissioner and the officials of the department. All pay rolls have to be sworn to by the superintendent of the work, who is the responsible person, and the cheques instead of being made payable to the superintendent in a lump sum, are made payable to the pay roll, therefore, both perjury and forgery have to be committed to swindle the government under the present regulations of the public works department. If such crimes had been committed, Chief Commissioner Morrissey is not the man to have allowed them to go unpunished.

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

From the best information obtainable from different sections of the province the reports are most promising for the success of the Government. From all quarters comes the information of large accessions of the Opposition ranks. The Hazen-Fleming Government have increased the people. The large increase in the revenue, which has been much more than their predecessors on agriculture, public works and education, has convinced very many who supported the Opposition, when that party was in power, that they have been misled. Now that the benefits of honest government they will cast their votes for Mr. Fleming and his colleagues.

MR. COPP'S OUTLOOK.

Mr. Copp considered dissection the better part of valor and retired from his candidature in Albert county. From the latest reports he is having a good deal more than he can properly attend to in the County of Westmorland. The statement comes from this constituency that Mr. Copp and his ticket will go down to defeat by a large majority. Backed by all the influence of the federal government, and running with the premier of the province the majority obtained by the ticket of which Mr. Copp was a member in 1908, was only about 200. With the liberal party disrupted and without any federal support at his back, Mr. Copp can hardly look for victory in the coming contest.

SOUR GRAPES.

"Mr. Robert Connelly," remarks the Times, "will not annihilate any Lib. crabs. He represents an American lumber concern that has considerable profitable business with the Fleming Government." Mr. Connelly's offence which produced this remark on the part of the Times consisted in presiding at a meeting addressed by Messrs. Baxter and Carson at Salmon River, on Monday night. Mr. Connelly is one of the Liberals who was unable to stand for the policy of the Opposition and has decided to lend his influence in favor of honest government in the future.

MALICIOUSLY UNTRUE.

The Times has again been repeated.

Most Anything

By Berton Bralcy.

Oh, yes, it's a city of glory, A wonderful life in the slums, And marvelous is its story Of magic and mystery. Proud of its mighty power, Its glitter and glad array, Boasting its wealth and power— But where do the children play?

We marvel to hear the thunder Of traffic that's never still, At soaring buildings we wonder, At palaces and mansions we thrill, We hear to ship and ferry, To rumble of car and dray, But ever recurs the query, Oh, where, where do the children play?

You boast of your wealth and numbers And the children live in the slums, Where evil the land encumbers And vice in its horror comes. And vice in its horror comes, We're sick of the puffed faces, And the little ones starved and gray, Where are the open spaces And where do the children play?

DREAMSTICKS

ROOM WITH A BATH-SIT?

"NO, SAID STEVE, I CAME IN FOR A LITTLE INFORMATION." "KINDLY TYPING OFF AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A HOTEL CAN HOLD A TREE'S TRUNK AS IT IS LEAVING!"

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ing the lie that the present Administration has increased the debt of the province by a million dollars. It is about time for the newspapers supporting the opposition to furnish evidence in support of this maliciously untrue statement which is made day after day. This statement is false. Any one who chooses to refer to the Auditor General's report since the present Administration came into power can see for himself.

THE FORLORN HOPE.

The Times gravely informs its readers that "the Liberal campaign all over the province goes with a swing of victory." It will make the same assertion on each day it is published between now and the 20th of June, but this will not elect the candidates nominated by the opposition party. At the present moment there is not a single constituency in the whole province that is safe for the opposition candidates, while in many their case is absolutely hopeless.

## PROMINENT QUEBEC MERCHANT IS DEAD

Quebec, June 5.—Roger Larue, a prominent business man of Quebec, one of the principal partners of the firm of Thibault Freres, wholesale dry goods, and a former member of the Quebec Harbor commission, passed away this morning after a brief illness. He was 53 years old.

WILL SERVE LIFE TERM.

Boston, Mass., June 5.—The sentence of Mrs. Lena Cusumano, of Hull, condemned to die this week for the murder of her husband, Frank, was commuted to one of life imprisonment by the executive council today.

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