

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1908.

7

RINGING CHEERS GREET DR. PUGSEY IN MILFORD; HAT SEEN IN ST. JOHN

In Enthusiastic Meeting Last Night Minister of Public Works Hits at Hazen and Mayes for the Dredging Slander— Milford to a Man Will Stand for Pugsley and Progress.

If ever an audience gave a candidate a vote of confidence it was accorded to Dr. Pugsley by the people of Milford, last evening. His exposure of the Mayes conspiracy, to which he has referred, and the magic on his hearers, and they made the rafter ring with applause. When he went on to contrast Canada of twenty years ago with the Canada of today, and showed the progress and development under Liberal rule, touching more particularly on what he had been able to accomplish for St. John, the audience cheered to the echo.

His announcement that sure as tomorrow's sun would rise, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government would be sustained, was the signal for another grand outburst. The response to his appeal for support that he might continue his good work in St. John, left no room for doubt, that Milford appreciated having the minister of public works as a representative. The meeting was for "Pugsley and Progress" to a man.

The working men of Milford turned out in force to welcome Hon. Mr. Pugsley, who delivered an eloquent and stirring address in the Temple of Honor hall. The building was crowded to the doors and many were unable to secure seats. Dr. Pugsley was given a most enthusiastic greeting. Throughout his masterly speech, in which he dealt with important domestic issues, the audience cheered him again and again.

Michael McDade also delivered an excellent address and was given an enthusiastic welcome. David Delaney presided and briefly introduced the speakers.

The minister, on rising, was given a great reception. He said before taking up the discussion of domestic issues he would like to occupy a few minutes in discussing a matter that had been brought up within the past few days. "Some of my opponents," he said, "have been saying that I am a traitor to my country. I, Mr. Pugsley, and Premier Hazen, think that I should meet them on the public platform and discuss provincial issues. Just the other day I received a telegram from Mr. Fleming in which he proposed that I should meet him in the Queen's rink on Friday night and discuss my relations with provincial finances. I wired him that I was engaged to speak every night this week and I thought that just at this time the people were more vitally interested in hearing domestic issues discussed. At a later date, I said I would be prepared to discuss my relations with provincial finances and also the administration of affairs by the present and former governments."

The minister then read the telegram from Hon. Mr. Fleming and the reply that he had made, as published in the "Telegraph" of October 21.

"I say," he continued, "that at this time the people are more interested in hearing about the affairs of the Dominion government and it would be out of place to discuss provincial issues. Let me say that when this election has been settled on Monday next I will be pleased to meet Mr. Hazen or Fleming and discuss these matters."

Something for Mr. Hazen to Think Over.

"I would like to discuss the conduct of the crown lands department, the legislation in favor of the workmen, the woollen's lien act, the mechanics' lien act, and the workmen's compensation act, which was passed by us today and contrast what the provincial government did when I was a member with the barren legislation this government has passed. Let me say the new highway act, for instance," (Applause.)

The minister referred also to the increased subsidy of \$100,000 which he had secured for the province and which should be used to improve the roads and build bridges, etc. The Hazen government had passed the new highway act but they were afraid to bring it into force. "I would like," said Dr. Pugsley, "to discuss all these matters with Mr. Hazen or his colleagues," (applause.)

"The Standard," which is the organ of the Conservative party was careful not to publish the minister's address.

ST. JOHN WILL HAVE THE GREATEST DEMONSTRATION IN YEARS SATURDAY NIGHT

Immense Torchlight Procession With Three Bands and Thousands in Line Will Escort the Candidates to Queen's Rink Tomorrow Night.

The intense enthusiasm which has distinguished the Liberals of St. John from the outset of the campaign, will find its best expression tomorrow night when what is anticipated to be the biggest political demonstration in the annals of the city will take place.

Assembling at 7 o'clock at the corner of Main and Adelaide streets, supporters of the Liberal government will form in immense line and escort Hon. Mr. Pugsley and James Pender, the Liberal candidates, to Queen's Rink, where the campaign will be brought to a close with a rousing rally.

The parade will include all young and old—the young Liberals, the veterans, who have carried the fight through so many campaigns, and many hundreds in all are expected to congregate for the big celebration. It will show how "strong is Liberal sentiment in St. John" and will provide a finish full of enthusiasm for this political fight of 1908.

Three bands will furnish music, hundreds of torches will be in evidence, fire works will be displayed and red fire will

be burned. A scene of marked enthusiasm may be expected as the great line moves down Main street. The minister of public works and Mr. Pender, and also the other speakers who will address the big meeting in the rink will have place in the parade.

Charges Hazen.

"I want to charge the Hon. J. D. Hazen, premier of the province, leader of the Conservative party and attorney-general, whose duty it should be to see justice meted out. I want to charge that he read out at a public meeting a solemn declaration which was false in a material instance and which he knew to be false."

What was that statement? It was that I had asked Germain S. Mayes, a dredging contractor, in October, 1907, when I was minister of public works, for \$2,000, for favors shown him. That statement was published in the Standard newspaper and in the Conservative papers all over the Dominion that a minister of the crown had received money from a contractor for services to be rendered at Ottawa.

"If it was so, I would have had to hang my head in shame and resign my seat in parliament. Sir Wilfrid Laurier would not stand for one minute to have such a man in his cabinet," (applause.)

"When I heard it, I knew it to be false and I wondered how any man in Premier Hazen's position could lend himself to such a plot. He had not met what every honorable man would have done and sent me a copy of the statement, but he publicly stood up there at that meeting and read this statement to damn me in the eyes of the public."

In the papers the next day I published a denial of the charges and showed how before when I was perfectly proper for me to accept it as I was acting as Mr. Mayes' counsel and legal adviser. The Standard newspaper said it was a "typographical error" and the date should have been 1908.

"I do not strike you as an extraordinary thing that every Tory newspaper made the same mistake? It went all over Canada and ghouliah editors wrote that the minister of public works would have to get out of the cabinet. I took the means at my disposal to deny it, but neither Mr. Hazen nor Mr. Baxter nor any other of the Conservative party managers had the manliness or common sense to retract their mistake. As it was their duty to do."

"You know a lie travels faster than the truth and as these days there is no truer word than the Dominion whose good opinion I would like to have, who think that I accepted this money was a minister of the crown as payment for favors given to a contractor."

Charges Against Mayes.

"I charge G. S. Mayes with having started a conspiracy to injure my character. It appears from the correspondence in the newspapers that Mr. Mayes and Mr. Baxter tried to coax me and then bribe me to buy their dredge and said they tried to blackmail me. At a point near the city of \$20,000 for the Liberal campaign fund. When they could not bribe me they tried to blackmail me. The minister will be taken at eight o'clock, seats have been reserved for ladies."

Every supporter of the Liberal party is invited to join the procession and make it the biggest demonstration seen in a political campaign here.

The speakers of the night will be Hon. William Pugsley, James Pender, A. B. Copp, M.P., and Hon. Frank P. Sweet, M.P., of Westmorland. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock, seats have been reserved for ladies.

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"I am glad that it has come out for there has been some talk about this dredging. There are some Conservatives in this constituency, partisans, who would resort to any trick or any falsehood to try to ruin me. There could be no more deliberate attempt to injure a public man than that made use of by Premier Hazen and his followers, in making public these falsehoods."

"I stand and we stand for what is honest and just and righteous. (Applause.) I am glad this matter came out because when these people charge that this government is a government of grafters I want you to look at my connection with this dredging matter and see that I did not swear in my duty and accepted no favors and granted none."

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"I stand and we stand for what is honest and just and righteous. (Applause.) I am glad this matter came out because when these people charge that this government is a government of grafters I want you to look at my connection with this dredging matter and see that I did not swear in my duty and accepted no favors and granted none."

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