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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1920

Toronto Forecasts Victory For The Foster Government

Two Enthusiastic Meetings of Women Last Night

Addresses by Candidates and
Gifted Lady Speakers—
Mrs. Hooper and Mrs.
Smith Present Plain and
Interesting Facts.

A prominent business man of Toronto who has just arrived in St. John said last night that when he left home he left the Toronto stock exchange was three to one that the Foster government would be sustained next Saturday. The opinion of most political observers in Ontario, he said, seemed to be that the record of the government was sufficient to ensure a handsome majority for it.

Enthusiastic Meetings.

Two enthusiastic government meetings of women voters were held in this city last evening, one in St. Vincent's Auditorium and the other in the Palace Theatre, North End. The audiences were all the speakers a very attentive hearing and were intensely interested in the important matters at issue in the campaign. At the North End meeting, which was prolonged until 11.30, all present remained until Premier Foster had concluded his address, bristling with facts and containing a summary of what the government had done and proposed to do to make the province a better place to live in.

At St. Vincent's Auditorium Mrs. A. C. D. Wilson presided, and the speakers were Mrs. Richard Hooper and the candidates for the city, W. E. Scully, Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, R. T. Hayes and Premier Foster.

S. W. MacKinnon, the convenor of the North End meeting, presided at the Palace Theatre meeting. The speakers were the same with the addition of Mrs. E. Atherton Smith, who was unable to be present at the auditorium. Mr. Scully spoke of the excellent work of the government in the creation of a Workmen's Compensation Board. He also commended the government work in connection with public health, hydro development, and the road policy. He urged the women voters to turn out in good force on election day and return the government to power.

Hon. Dr. Roberts referred to vocational training education which was possible for children to apply the theory taught them in the schools to their future plans. He also said that women's institutes inaugurated and maintained through the department of agriculture, had served to make the home more practical and the Foster government intended to follow this up. In the matter of roads he said the government had been able to give the province the first few chapters of a book on good roads which ought to be completed in a few years. With reference to public health he said that it was the greatest asset of a country and should be given the most consideration. He dealt with the different phases of the health act with special reference to that part affecting children. He predicted the adoption of mothers' pensions. He took a strong stand with reference to prohibition, and traced his connection with temperance from early youth.

Mrs. Richard Hooper, a member of the board of health, referred to the board of the opposition party that it had tried to give the women the franchise, and said that it was an evolution which was coming and that it was through the Foster government that it was finally delivered. "There are two men on the opposition ticket in St. John who were opposed to the measure," she said, "and I heard one of them say so myself." She dealt in turn with conservation of the natural resources of the province, increase in stumpage rates, hydro-electric development, and other good works of the Foster administration, and urged all women to vote for it.

R. T. Hayes referred to his term of office as mayor during the strenuous days of war and to the assistance he had received from the men and women of the city. Of the work of Hon. Dr. Roberts he said that health and education were even more important than hydro-electric development. "We want to preserve our own Canadian children," he said, "and the only way to do so is to follow their career from infancy." Speaking of education he said that teachers were doing a wonderful work and worthy of a better consideration. He spoke of woman suffrage and said that the women were largely responsible for having obtained the vote for themselves, and appealed to them to support the Foster government.

Premier Foster told the ladies that it was a great privilege to address them, and was glad to note that the women were taking a greater interest in public affairs. He drew attention to the weakness of the opposition position and said that for forty-eight seats the Baxter party had nominated but twenty-five candidates and was devoting its time to criticism of the government rather than advancing a definite policy on its own behalf. He said he wanted to go back to Fredericton backed up by Dr. Roberts, Mr. Scully and Mr. Hayes. He said a tribute to Hon. Mr. Magee, a recent addition to the cabinet, who the standard described editorially as one of the soundest business men in the province and one who would strengthen the government. In referring to the Workmen's Compensation Board established by the government, he took occasion to praise the good work of James Squire, the labor representative, and promised that so long as he was premier the labor people should be represented on the board.

Mrs. E. Atherton Smith spoke at the fourth End meeting on the good work the government had accomplished. She pointed out that the Foster government had given the franchise to the women, and appealed to the audience to exercise its franchise in behalf of good government.

Mrs. Roberts a Hampton. At a largely attended meeting of both male and female voters in Hampton on Saturday night, Hon. W. F. Roberts, minister of public health, gave a spirited address on the fine record of the Foster government, dealing with the work of the department of health which he organized. R. E. Pearson of Sussex gave the opening address.

Meeting in Moncton. At a meeting in Moncton last evening in support of the Foster government, Hon. C. W. Robinson, minister of lands and mines, and Hon. A. B. Copp, M. P.,

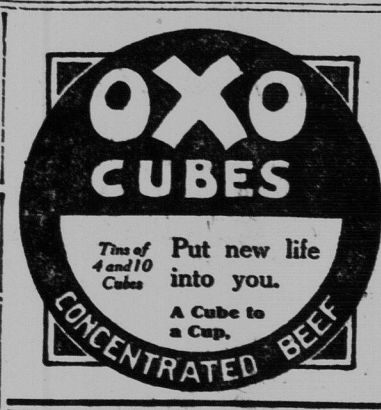
FIVE MEMBERS OF BRITISH CABINET ARE TO RESIGN

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
Montreal, Oct. 4.—A London cable to the Montreal Star says:—
The Weekly Dispatch announces that the resignation of five members of the cabinet is probable.

The newspaper names A. J. Balfour, Lord President of the Council; Edward Shortt, Secretary for Home Affairs; Viscount Milner, Secretary for Colonies; Sir Eric Geddes, Minister of Transport; and Lord Inverforth, Minister of Munitions.

ASQUITH'S SOLUTION OF IRISH PROBLEM

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
London, Oct. 4.—In a communication printed in the London Times today, Herbert H. Asquith, former prime minister, declares that he is convinced that



the bestowal upon Ireland of the status of an autonomous dominion, in the fullest and widest sense is the only solution of the Irish problem. To accomplish this, says Mr. Asquith, it is necessary to make the Irish people believe that what is offered comes from an honest and also reliable source.

Ward Meetings Electors Favorable to the Foster Government

and supporting the following candidates:

Hon. W. E. Foster Hon. W. F. Roberts
R. T. Hayes W. E. Scully

are requested to meet for ward organization, each evening, until further notice, as follows:

Guys and Brooks Wards—Oddfellows Hall, West Side.

Queens, Kings, Wellington and Dukes—Furlong Building, Charlotte street.

Prince Ward—Moose Hall, Coburg street.

Victoria Ward—Victoria Rink, City Road.

Dufferin Ward—Young's Hall, Main street.

Lansdowne Ward—Murray street Hall.

Lorne and Stanley—Scott's Building, Main street, opposite Durham street.

Sydney Ward—Jas. McCormick's residence, 71 Britannia street.

P. D. McAVITY,
Chairman.
t.f.

you will like
fine!
HORLICK'S
Malted Milk for Infants
A safe milk diet, better than
cow's milk alone. Contains rich
milk and malted grain extract.

Good Government Meeting

Grand Mass Meeting

For Men and Women Voters
Has Been Arranged for

IMPERIAL THEATRE Wednesday Evening

At 8.30 O'clock

To be Addressed by the Candidates

HON. W. E. FOSTER
HON. W. F. ROBERTS
WILLIAM E. SCULLY
ROBERT T. HAYES

A Cordial Invitation is extended to all
wishing to hear discussion of
political issues

SOME RESOLUTIONS FROM HOUSE REPORT

(From Synoptic Report, New Brunswick Legislature, 1919.)

Moved by Hon. W. E. Foster, Seconded by Hon. J. P. Byrne:

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of two separate commissions directed to James McQueen, Esq., bearing date respectively the thirtieth day of August and the fifth day of September, 1918, and issued under the provisions of Chapter 12 of the Consolidated Statutes, 1903, cited as "The Investigations and Departmental Inquiries Act," directing the said commissioner to investigate and report upon certain matters therein fully set forth and known as the Patriotic Potato Gift, and,

WHEREAS, the said commissioner having held said investigation has reported the evidence taken before him and his findings thereon and the proceedings of such commission to the provincial secretary-treasurer as required by law and the same having been laid upon the table of the house; and,

WHEREAS, the said evidence and findings reflect gravely upon certain members of this Legislature namely, James A. Murray and George B. Jones of the county of Kings; J. B. M. Baxter of the county of St. John and R. F. Smith of the county of Carleton; and,

WHEREAS, certain of these findings, being more specific than others, it is deemed advisable to quote the words of the report:

FIRST: With regard to R. F. Smith a member for Carleton, with reference to an enquiry in an account filed with the Auditor General in 1915 as follows:

"Paid by A. C. Smith & Company on account of B. F. Smith's shortage on out turn of cars in final racking, \$2,447.60."

And R. F. Smith's evidence before the commission with regard to the same as follows:

"I did not pay it back and I do not intend to pay it back."

And his further statement on oath touching his speech in the Legislature when referring to this matter in 1916 that he was "placing the matter before the house in as favorable a light as he could."

And his refusal to swear whether his intention was to intimate to the house that he had ever paid this money.

And his remarks to the counsel for the government with regard to his speech "you notice how carefully it is worded."

And the conclusion of the commission on pages 39 and 40 that in supplying the potatoes a preference was given to certain persons among whom was Hon. B. F. Smith, afterwards minister of public works in the late government, and one of the present members for the county of Carleton. "This privilege never should have been granted, was shamefully abused and is one of the chief causes for the loss sustained."

And the finding of the commissioner on page 40 of his printed report:

"That the Hon. B. F. Smith was advanced by the late government \$2,375.70 on the purchase of potatoes which the province never received, and the province also paid \$71.85 as interest on his drafts in connection with this potato transaction which he should have paid. He is, therefore, indebted to the province in these two amounts."

SECOND: With regard to the part played by George B. Jones, a member for the county of Kings, in this transaction, and his admission on oath that he received \$61,500 from W. B. Tennant while he was a member of the legislature and that he carried \$83,900 of this amount to the city of Fredericton and delivered the same to Mr. Daggett, the then secretary for agriculture, and that he distributed the balance of the said \$61,500 as he was directed for political purposes.

And the finding of the commissioner on page 42 as follows:

"That certain statements made by the said George B. Jones under oath on the Stevens' inquiry were in direct contradiction to those made by him on this inquiry, and the sworn evidence given by him on the Stevens' inquiry that he had no knowledge of what became of the \$40,000 in cash which Mr. Tennant took out of the bank as part of the proceeds of a cheque for \$100,000 was false and untrue."

And a further statement of the commissioner "that both George B. Jones and the Ex-Attorney General Baxter assisted Tennant in accomplishing this (preventing the auditor of the court from making a discovery of the displacement of the \$61,500 from Tennant's funds) and if Tennant's evidence is to be believed, both knew the purpose he had in view when he obtained from them such assistance."

THIRD: With regard to J. B. M. Baxter and his part in the transaction; his admissions that Tennant told him at the time of the Stevens' inquiry that he put up \$61,500 before referred to and that on the 18th of June the day before the Stevens' inquiry was opened, Tennant obtained from him \$40,000 in cash which, according to the evidence of Tennant, the Ex-Attorney General knew the intention of, and the conclusion of the commissioner on page 37 as follows:

"That he is unable to 'conclude that a reasonable man, as a business proposition would loan \$40,000 and \$20,000 without any security being taken, without any time limit as to its payment; without any understanding as to the payment of interest and without any demand being made for the return of \$40,000 of this loan or any part of it since the 18th day of June, 1917, to the date the evidence was given; and that the loan being made on the day previous to the sitting of the inquiry at which Tennant's books were to be examined was simply a coincidence."

FOURTH: As to the action of the Ex-Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. A. Murray, the commissioner states on page 47 of the printed report that when it became necessary to file with the auditor-general some financial statements of this Patriotic Potato transaction, the evidence of Mr. Daggett as well as exhibits 5, 6, 7, 8 and 23 attached to his report enabled him to report how this was done. He then says:

"Mr. Daggett, under the instructions of the Hon. J. A. Murray, undertook to make up an account, showing what ought to have been received from the sale of these surplus potatoes. He did prepare such a statement, and delivered it to the auditor-general as showing the true state of affairs. It is in evidence as No. 8. It is a false and untrue document intended to deceive the auditor-general and which did deceive him."

A further knowledge of the potato transaction by the Ex-Minister of Agriculture is noted by the commissioner in connection with the account of Messrs. A. C. Smith & Company who handled the potatoes for the government. "This account with receipts and vouchers, the commissioner says, were given by H. Colby Sargent, Mr. Atherton, a chartered accountant at the instance of the Hon. J. A. Murray. "This account apparently was afterwards divided by Mr. Daggett, with the assistance of the minister, into two parts. One portion was made up and filed as the foundation of the application for the cheque for \$8,831.11 to A. C. Smith & Company, hereinafter referred to, as having been cashed by Mr. Daggett, and only part of the proceeds of which went to A. C. Smith & Company. This is in evidence as Exhibit 8. The other portion was made up and filed by Mr. Daggett with the auditor-general, as a representation that A. C. Smith & Company had abandoned a certain portion of their account. This is in evidence as Exhibit 7. Neither Exhibit 5 nor 7, as made were true or correct notwithstanding that Mr. Daggett says that when he was preparing them he was in consultation with the Hon. Mr. Murray."

"That Exhibit 5, a copy of the account filed with the auditor-general by the department of agriculture as a true statement of the account sales and disbursements of potatoes was made up, has no relation to the true conditions and was so made up and filed for the purpose of misleading and deceiving the auditor-general and the people of the province. That brokers' commissions were charged and paid by the province on sales of potatoes never made as appear by the record."

And on page 42: "That the late minister of agriculture, Hon. J. A. Murray, was constantly consulted by his secretary as to the manner and method in which this potato transaction was being carried on and is largely responsible for the loss incurred in connection therewith either through neglect of duty or incapacity."

And on page 43: "That the late minister of agriculture, Hon. J. A. Murray, borrowed from A. C. Smith & Company, contractors with his department during the time the shipping and handling of these potatoes were being carried on, and this loan is so mixed up with the public business of the province, that I am unable to report whether the \$1,500 returned to Smith was this private loan or money which, belonged to the province."

And further on page 48 of the printed report:

"The Audit Act was wholly ignored; drafts were accepted without legal authority and payments were made without legal permission. In short the financial business of the province was taken out of the hands of the auditor-general and placed under the control of a few individuals so far as least as the purchase and disposition of this patriotic gift, and to a great financial loss to the province."

And because of certain other conclusions and findings in the report not quoted above.

THEREFORE RESOLVED, that in view of the evidence and findings of the said commissioner it is the opinion of this house, that the conduct of the said members, being highly reprehensible and calculated to lower the character of the public life of the province, as well as being derogatory to the dignity of the Legislature, merits and receives the censure of this house.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the opinion of this house and in the interest of the public life in this province, the members named above should resign their seats in this Legislature.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the following amendment:

Strike out all the words after the second recital and substitute therefor the following:

AND WHEREAS, the house has heard the statement of the Hon. James A. Murray, in respect of the findings in said report, that the purchase and disposal of the potatoes was attended with neglect of duty or incapacity on the part of the minister of the department of agriculture.

AND WHEREAS, the house has also heard the statements of Mr. George B. Jones and Mr. J. B. M. Baxter as to their connection with the matters contained in said report.

AND WHEREAS, the house is assured that there was no intentional wrongdoing on the part of the minister of said department, or the said Mr. George B. Jones or the said Mr. J. B. M. Baxter; and that no monetary benefit accrued to any of them therefrom.

AND WHEREAS, it appears that improper returns in regard to said transaction were furnished by said department to the auditor-general.

THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this house records its sense of regret that greater care was not exercised in the purchase of the potatoes and deprecates the effort made to suppress the facts and circumstances surrounding the matter instead of the making of a full and candid statement in relation thereto.

Upon the vote being taken on the amendment, the house divided as follows:

Yeas—Young, Tilley, Campbell, Potts, Peck, Smith (Albert); Crockett, Pinder, Sutton, Grimmer, Smith (Charlotte); Carson, Dickson, Hunter.—14.

Nays—Hon. Mr. Foster, Hon. Mr. Smith, Hon. Mr. Byrne, Hon. Mr. Veniot, Hon. Mr. Murray, Hon. Mr. Tweeddale, Hon. Mr. Robinson, Hon. Mr. Dugal and Messrs. Magee, Burehill, McGrath, Alhain, Dysart, Le Blanc, Michaud, Leger (West), King, Menzies, Melanson, Bordage, Robichaud, Leger (Gloucester).—22.

The original resolution was carried by the same vote reversed.

Messrs. Baxter, Smith (Carleton), Murray and Jones are again candidates. So are Messrs. Young, Tilley, Campbell, Potts, Peck, Smith (Albert), Pinder, Carson, Dickson and Hunter under Mr. Baxter as leader.