

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street,
St. John, N. B., Canada.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 15, 1916.

"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.

THE OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN.

The campaign now being waged by the opposition managers in this province is being conducted purely on misrepresentation and distortion of the facts. Some months ago the managers of the opposition made allegations against the administration of certain provincial departments. The Government appointed a commissioner to investigate the charges, but the men who had the scandal campaign in charge were unable to bring to his attention any semblance of wrongdoing on the part of any member of the Government or any official. The most they could show were a few irregularities principally in one of the northern counties of the province and for which no one save those directly involved was responsible, unless indeed it be one of their own number who unfortunately at that time enjoyed the confidence of the Government but who, since, and fortunately for the country has found his level in their ranks.

This is the gist of the whole opposition campaign and on the strength of it they seek to blind the people of the province to the actual condition of affairs and, if possible, to persuade them to exchange the wise and honest administration they are now enjoying for what they might expect from a government in which Mr. Edward S. Carter and Mr. Peter J. Veniot would undoubtedly occupy prominent positions.

These gentlemen and the newspapers supporting them seek to make the people believe that the present Government is doomed to destruction and that it will be succeeded by men of their own stripe who will give the province an honest administration of public affairs. Messrs. Carter and Veniot must indeed have a poor opinion of the intelligence of the people of New Brunswick if they imagine for a minute that the electors will be moved by such self-evident misrepresentation, or influenced by tactics which savor more of those of the thug and the assassin than of those recognized by reputable and honorable men in the conduct of public business.

If these gentlemen desire to call attention to abuses which have existed in connection with the Government of the province they might turn their attention to a consideration of what transpired when the old government, whose every act they endorse, were in power. It does not serve their purpose to do this, however, and it might be well to refresh their memories in this particular for they may be assured that the people have not forgotten.

For instance, do they suppose that the people forget the fact that in the year 1895, Hon. L. J. Tweedie, then Surveyor-General, "borrowed" a draft of \$12,686, given to the Crown Land office by one of the lumber operators for stumpage due from him and applied the same to his own use, and that it was not until the present Government came into power and demanded the return of this \$12,686 that Mr. Tweedie, then Lieutenant-Governor, disgorged it? Will the people overlook the fact that having deprived the province of the use of this money for thirteen years, Mr. Tweedie refused and still refuses to pay the interest on it, which with discounts and other charges amounts to over \$5,000?

Do they think the people have forgotten that when Hon. Mr. Pugsley went out of office in this province he walked off with \$4,331 of provincial moneys which he had never thought of returning until the defeat of his party suggested to him that discovery was imminent. Certain it is that his party would never have "embarrassed" him by asking him to return it. Do the people forget that while these two gentlemen were respectively Provincial Secretary and Attorney General of this province they were appointed ex-officio directors of the Central Railway for the express purpose of safeguarding the public interest in the expenditure of the money voted for the construction of the railway, and that during their directorate no less than \$124,095 of these moneys disappeared, "was misappropriated" the Royal Commission which investigated the matter said, "and diverted from its proper and legitimate channel." The people will compare this record with that of the present gov-

ernment which is building the Valley Railway and concerning which another Royal Commission reported after the fullest investigation that the money voted for the road was being properly spent and the opposition charges that portions of it had been diverted fell to the ground, and this finding after the doors of the enquiry had been thrown open to the widest extent to allow the opposition to do their worst.

Do they think further that the people have forgotten that a respected official preferred to take his life rather than face the ordeal of examination as to the juggling with the Crown Land finances and the exposure that would involve so many of his friends that he would be compelled to make?

Do they think that the people have forgotten that under the late government, officials of the various departments were allowed to keep provincial money in banking accounts in their own names and withdrawable on their own cheques and that no check on their action in this respect was possible? And, further, that these officials were allowed to overdraw their accounts and the province stand as their security? Have the people forgotten the numerous suspense accounts in which many thousands of dollars that had been received and spent were hidden away out of the public ken?

Have the people forgotten that the present Auditor General declared that there were hundreds of thousands of dollars of expenditures which never came under his examination and of which he could get no trace?

Have the people forgotten that thousands upon thousands of dollars were paid away year after year to road and bridge superintendents who never made any returns as to what they had done with it or what the province had to show for it or whether or not it had ever been used at all for any public purpose?

Have the people forgotten that those Crown Land licences who were supporters of the late government were permitted to make just what stumpage returns they thought fit, and to pay just whatever stumpage they felt inclined to pay, irrespective of their cut? Have the people forgotten that the first year the present Government came into power and a proper scale of the lumber cut by the operators was ordered, the result was the prompt payment by these operators of some \$150,000 of previously unpaid stumpage, an amount they never have paid or been called upon to pay had the old government remained in power.

Is it possible that the rumour of an opposition which now exists can seriously imagine that the people would turn out the present administration in order that they might be superseded by the men who connived at, endorsed and applauded the very serious systems of wrong-doing referred to? Not all the efforts of a dozen of such so-called organizers as they now employ will convince the intelligent electors that New Brunswick would be safer in the hands of a party led by Messrs. Edward S. Carter and Peter J. Veniot than in the hands of the present administration. Experience dictates very much the reverse. That the opposition party—or what there is left of it—is still as reckless as ever over the expenditure of public money as it was in the days prior to 1908 is shown by their insistent demand that the Government should sanction the wholly unnecessary expenditure of more than \$3,000,000 to say nothing of the annual outgo for interest, etc., of \$155,000 which such expenditure would entail, in order to carry the Valley Railway into the City of St. John by the East Side route when it can be done with infinitely more expedition and without that expenditure by the West side route—a route moreover which is wholly justified by conditions and approved of by hard headed and astute business men everywhere. Utter recklessness and a criminal disregard for the value of money was one of the leading characteristics of the late government and dishonesty in dealing with it was another. In this instance it is not a case of "other men, other manners"; but it is the same men and the same manners. The same criminal extravagance and careless dealings with the public

funds would result if the opposition party were to be allowed to get into power again and the people know and realize this full well, and will govern themselves accordingly.

Besides the people like to know something of the leaders of a party that seeks their suffrages, and they are looking around to find the leader of the opposition, but looking in vain. They have seen one gentleman accept the position and then throw it up in disgust and they have no fancy for the kind of "Progress" that the only other leader the party has expressed any predilection for.

THE KYTE CHARGES.

In the hope of arousing political prejudice Opposition newspapers continue to misrepresent or suppress the evidence being brought before the Meredith-Duff Commission in Ottawa, and to draw improper and unwarranted inferences from the biased reports they publish. For instance, at Wednesday's session, Mr. E. B. Cadwell, of the American Ammunition Company, was on the stand, and in the course of his evidence told of an agreement for the division of profits from shell and fuse contracts with R. F. Yeakum and E. W. Bessick, such division to be made after the profits had been earned.

This agreement misrepresents this agreement, and some of them so far as to say that the gentlemen concerned in it were not shell manufacturers but promoters and middlemen who had no right to profit at all. In fact the Telegraph refers to them as "promoters," while the blundering Times says "the men who divided it were not fuse manufacturers" and again "they had no plant."

To expose the falsity of the contention of the Telegraph and Times it is only necessary to read the evidence submitted at the sessions of the committee as published in the Montreal and Ottawa newspapers, not as sent to the Maritime provinces by the measure, and oft times partisan service supplied by the Canadian Press.

For instance, the Liberal Ottawa Free Press of Thursday last, in reporting that day's session of the Meredith-Duff commission has this report of Mr. Cadwell's evidence, which was carefully suppressed by the Telegraph and Times, and was not sent to The Standard by the press service:

"Long before the contract with the Shell Committee he was interested in munition production. The company was The Standard Screw Company which had the first munition contract let by the Allies, and which obtained these contracts from agents of the Allies other than the Canadian Shell Committee. BEFORE THE SHELL COMMITTEE ORDER HIS COMPANY WAS PRODUCING BOTH GRAZE AND TIME FUSES AND DELIVERING THEM."

This does not look very much as if Mr. Cadwell, one of the parties to the division, was not an experienced fuse manufacturer. On the contrary it establishes that his company had made and delivered fuses long before the Canadian order was obtained. The company had the plant and the experienced workmen and, consequently, was in a position to make delivery of the fuses ordered, even though there was some delay. After the fuses were finished, delivered, and sold at a lower price than the British agent was willing to pay the division of profits provided for in the agreement took place. Surely this was a legitimate proceeding.

The Standard adheres to its previous statement that the Kyte charges have not been proven. This statement is borne out by the sworn testimony submitted at the Meredith-Duff enquiry and represents the truth. No matter how ingeniously the Telegraph and Times may attempt to distort the evidence and draw from it unwarranted conclusions, the facts will stand, and upon them the people of Canada will base their judgment. The Borden Government, and the Conservative party need no other vindication.

THE "OCEAN LIMITED"

Canadian Government Railway's Popular Train Halifax and Montreal, May 15th

From its initial run the "Ocean" won popular favor, has retained its friends and is always making more. It will be welcome news to thousands of travellers that the "Ocean" is to be restored to its regular run on its regular schedule May 14th, from Montreal at 7.35 p. m., and daily, except Saturday, thereafter, arriving at Halifax 10.45 p. m., the following day; May 15th, from Halifax at 8.00 a. m., and daily except Sunday thereafter, arriving Montreal 8.05 a. m. the following day. The time table is so arranged as to permit daylight views of some of the most picturesque parts of Canada—the Westworth Valley, La Bale de Chaleur, the Matapedia Valley. And when you travel on the "Ocean" you travel on one of the best trains in America.

Little Benny's Note Book

Weather. Mixed.
Sports. The Invictas played the Park Wonders on Tuesday, the score being 47 to 48. A deciding game will be played in the near future or soon after, on account of both teams saying they were ones that was 48.

Intriguing Fucks. A camel can go 7 days without water. This proves that a camel is not a fish.
Ingratitude. A man had blood oozing at the corner owing to the wind, and all the fellows ran after it while the man just stood there waiting for one of them to catch it, and Sid Hunt kicked it trying to keep Puds Simkins from getting it, and after it had blood about a half block Sam Craws got it, and while he was bringing it back to the man he tripped and fell on it, smashing the top of it in but not breaking it or anything; and instead of rewarding him the man tried to kick him.

MARCHING TO WAR.

Pome by Skinny Martin.
Tiddy boom! Tiddy boom!
We are marching away to war!
Tiddy boom! Tiddy boom!
We will punch the enemies fore!

Sissy Notes. The new kid up in the corner house was observed imbrodering a dolly on the front steps last Thursday. O fudge.
Miss Mary Watkins, Miss Maud Jensen, Mr. Benny Potts and Mr. Ed Weir attended a dance on Broad street last Friday nite until the people pulled down the shades and Miss Watkins, Miss Jensen, Mr. Potts and Mr. Weir could not see any more.
Personals. Jonny Wilson is still wearing his green Easter suit. Wat did you get that for, Jonny? Did a wissel go with it?

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WILL BUILD SCHOONER.

Albert Parsons, M. P. P., and others, are going to build a tern schooner at Cheverie, N. S., of about 250 tons register, to be launched this fall. H. R. Huntley, of Parrboro, is supplying them with the model, moulds and plans for the vessel.

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