

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 11, 1903.

Wm. Somerville is now canvassing in Queens Co. This gentleman is authorized to receive payment for subscriptions for either Daily or Weekly Telegraph.

PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

The present local administration is entitled to the continued support of the people of New Brunswick for many reasons, one of which stands out prominently at this time because of the energetic action recently devoted to a most important matter by Premier Tweedie and Attorney-General Pugsley. We refer to their resolute maintenance of provincial rights. While Mr. Hazen and his organ, the Sun, have sneered at New Brunswick's claims to fair treatment at the hands of the Dominion in several matters of the utmost gravity, the local government has been actively at work seeking to obtain our share of the Fishery Award—a matter of two millions—steps to prevent the reduction of New Brunswick's representation in the federal parliament, urging a readjustment of the Dominion subsidies on an equitable basis, and seeking to have lifted from the province and the municipalities the burden of expense attaching to the administration of criminal justice.

Great as are the sums involved in the fishery question and that of the subsidies, the matter of our representation is no less vital, appealing as it must to every elector who looks beyond the present hour to the conditions which may confront us a few years hence. The Premier and the Attorney-General, as was announced recently in the Telegraph, take the stand that New Brunswick's representation was fixed by the B. N. A. act according to its relation to the population at that time included in the pact, and that the framers of the act never contemplated the possibility of a reduction of the number of members from this province.

The Premier is a New Brunswicker first and last and all the time. Others may say our representation is a matter of no importance, or that it is outside the range of his duty, but the fact remains that it is the question of the highest concern to New Brunswick, and that Mr. Tweedie and the Attorney-General deserve great credit for the vigor and intelligence with which they have approached it. They might have rested upon their oars and let the matter go by default. That is what Mr. Hazen would have done. But with the facts before them we are confident that the people will say Mr. Hazen would have been wrong.

If our representation is cut down at all we do not know where the matter will end. In ten or twenty years the great growth of the west might reduce our members to a pitifully small delegation at Ottawa.

Had the people of this province believed any such thing was possible, in the stirring days when the battle for and against Confederation was fought, the verdict would have been against instead of for it. The spirit of the B. N. A. act, according to the general view, and doubtless the legal view also, was that the number of members given to us by it should be the minimum. No decrease was foreseen. No such possibility was entertained.

The New West was something then unforeseen, and it is certain that no one then contemplated conditions which might cut our representation in half, diminish our influence in the national council and cause repeated rearrangements of constituencies here which would be awkward beyond conception.

It may be that to deal fairly with the provinces under changed conditions, the B. N. A. act will have to be amended. In any case the present is the time to raise this question, before the thin edge of the wedge has entered, and for recognizing the importance of doing so, and devoting their time and talent to the work Premier Tweedie and the Attorney-General will receive from the people the credit which is their due in spite of the cry of envious detractors.

It is well to remember that while Mr. Hazen and his led-captains were touting the country as leading the government, its members were actively preparing to take firm ground in defence of the rights of the province, and to recover for it the great sums to which it is entitled and which should be applied to its needs.

as to warrant the belief that the full government ticket will receive a majority vote.

The leader of the opposition and the Sun clique have made the usual mistake in the past few months of reckoning on St. John as a safe constituency for the opposition, and to this they have added the error of assuming that St. John is the Province of New Brunswick. As a matter of fact the outlook is brighter in the province for the return of the Tweedie administration to power than it was at the dissolution of the house in 1899 for the return of the Emerson government and its supporters.

In the north there is a solid phalanx, and we venture to predict that not an opposition member will be returned in Restigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland or Kent. In saying this, we are not unmindful of the boasts that are being made by our friends of the opposition that they will defeat the premier in his own constituency. We credit them with the desire, we deny them the power to carry it into execution. In Restigouche the opposition claim their ability to elect Mr. Albert Mott, but the returns on the 28th will show that the Hon. C. H. LeBlond, whose election is conceded by well informed oppositionists, has with him by a good majority Mr. H. F. McLatchey, of Campbellton, a gentleman who will make a splendid representative.

Westmorland has been for many years a debatable ground in local politics. In the last general elections honors were easy, each side electing two members. There should be no difficulty in defeating Mr. W. F. Humphrey in the present contest, and the fighting will be hard for the Acadian candidate. But if so strong a candidate as Dr. Gaudet is chosen by the friends of the government, it would not surprise us if the entire ticket were elected. In Albert and Kings the government stands to win the entire ticket, in fact in both counties the chances are much more favorable than in 1899 when the government swept these constituencies. In St. John county there should be no difficulty in electing the Hon. A. T. Dunn and Dr. Ruddick, Charlotte, which in 1899 returned four government supporters in the face of the heaviest kind of a fight by the "Big Four," is in no worse position than then and it would not surprise us if one of the "Big Four" were to arise as a candidate in securing the victory.

That leaves the river counties. Queens is admittedly safe. We say this advisedly, and overtures have been made for a swap off which would allow of the return of Mr. Hazen and his colleagues in Sunbury in return for an election by acclamation of the Hon. I. P. Davis and Mr. I. T. Carpenter. But the Hazen ticket will be allowed to work no such confidence game as that, for the friends of the government intend that Mr. Hazen and Mr. Gasier shall have the fight of their lives, and there is every probability of a strong ticket such as that mentioned in our news advices, namely Messrs. Harry Harrison and Dr. James Peake, converting the slim opposition majority of the last election into a larger opposition minority. In York the government members are assured of election. In Carleton county, if the Liberals will bury their factional differences, the victory of 1899 can be repeated, otherwise there may be more than two tickets in the field and the result no man can foresee, as the vote would be of a personal character. The government members carried Victoria last election and can repeat the operation in three weeks from today. In Madawaska our advices are that Mr. Baker, one of the government candidates, will be elected, the contest really being between the present government member and Mr. LaForest, the opposition member.

Such in detail is the political outlook in New Brunswick at the outset of the campaign, and so far as the best advices which the Telegraph has been able to gather indicate, the return to power with an unimpaired majority of the government led by the Hon. L. J. Tweedie is a practical certainty. The returns of the 28th inst. we are satisfied will not vary this forecast of the general elections of 1903. In the interim there are busy days for the friends of the government.

THE OPPOSITION'S WEAK CASE. The campaign which has been recommenced by the opposition, contains no surprises. It is, as was the campaign of last fall, one of abuse directed against the government leaders. That Mr. Hazen, his lieutenants, and his newspapers are following the old lines is proof of the weakness of their case.

No political party worthy of the name was ever overthrown by such tactics. No government which has done for New Brunswick as much as the Tweedie government has done for it can be driven from power by mere accusation, no matter how disreputable or how often repeated are the attacks, as long as the accusers go into court without evidence to support what they insinuate—for they insinuate rather than assert, and they fight shy of definite charges for which they could be held to account. To the Sun in particular this applies.

By an overwhelming vote at the last election the people of the province expressed their approval of the administration, in the face of the abuse and vilification of individuals in-

cluded in by the opposition press. This meant that the voters, simply refused to be guided by the party of accusation, believing it to be wholly untrustworthy. The like will happen again.

The opposition does not even attempt to prove that the acts of the administration have not been creditable and in the best interests of the province. With the exception of the Muskoka lands—in reference to which they have been answered repeatedly—the opponents of the government do not assail its policy. They spend time and ink seeking to create the impression that the leaders in whom the people again and again have shown their confidence, are untrustworthy. The men who are attacked are citizens of whom the province is proud and whom it has honored above most and whom it believes would that we require the money, and that the people's representatives will dispose of it with wisdom.

But do the opposition leaders assist in forwarding our claims on those matters? Not they. Fearing in advance the increased prestige which the Premier and the Attorney General will gain because of their activity in looking after the interests of the province, the opposition newspapers, and Mr. Hazen's spell-binders, invent new terms of abuse to apply to Mr. Tweedie and Dr. Pugsley, and forth the old insinuations in new terms, and rehash last year's charges of extravagance. It matters not that these charges have been shown to be groundless. That sort of thing is the best ammunition the Hazen party has, and now, as last fall, it is to be used. The people have heard the same cry before, and they know now it means that the opposition has come into court with accusations which it cannot prove, and presenting evidence in support of them.

These tactics are more in evidence in St. John than elsewhere. They represent the policy of the Foster remnant of the Conservative party in this constituency, the wreck of a party weakened and rent by strife and bitterness, but still making the same ruinous sort of campaign, with defamation as its chief weapon.

Mr. Hazen is not only opposed to everything the government has done, but to what it proposes to do. The mere thought that the electors are asked to consider plans in regard to matters of great importance—and that its leaders may gain credit for them, leads Mr. Hazen and the Sun to wildly condemn those plans in advance. The electors will soon decide whether the campaign of invective and insinuation in which the opposition engages is as worthy of support as the past work and outlined plans of the government.

The Hazen party showed its hand completely last autumn when its leaders, believing the elections at hand, sought to arouse throughout the country enthusiasm over their cause. Their campaign fell flat, but it sufficed to show clearly the sort of fight they intended to make then and are making now. Their plan may be summed up very briefly—"Abuse Tweedie and Pugsley"—that is all there was of it. That is all there is of it today.

The government's record is not to be set aside by explosives and insinuations hurled at the Premier and the Attorney General. The voters know how each department has been administered, and how an advanced, aggressive policy has promoted the interests of all the industries of the province. Nor can the opposition, by vicious efforts to discredit the Premier and the Attorney General, lessen the importance of their stand in regard to the Fishery Award, the Dominion subsidies, the cost of administering criminal justice and the matter of keeping intact our representation at Ottawa.

Absence of the government neither lessens the strength of the government's position nor hides the weakness of the opposition.

ORGANIZED FOR VICTORY. The first real work done by the government forces during the present campaign in St. John city was that of Monday evening, when the Liberal ward meetings were held and delegates to the convention of Wednesday night were chosen. At Monday night's meetings the attendance, the personnel, the spirit displayed and the selections made make it clear that in this constituency the Tory clique behind Mr. Hazen is confronted by the united strength of the Liberal party. There is no doubt as to what that means in St. John.

The party here is now organized for victory. The unanimity, the snap and vigor displayed Monday evening are signs of a signal success on November 28. The men in attendance at the ward meetings were the men who have carried St. John for the Liberal party in the past. Their presence and their acts are a complete answer to the Tory assertions that there would be defections from the party here, and that men of strength had decided to oppose the Tweedie government and work for Mr. Hazen and the Conservative ring which puts him forward and keeps him going.

tion last evening had read in the opposition newspapers stories of discussion, and no doubt many of them had been approached by Conservatives who knew that the remnant of their party is not strong enough to do battle alone in the present struggle for supremacy, but these men knew that every ambition, every plan, every sentiment of Mr. J. D. Hazen and his Conservative backers, no matter how disguised they may be for the moment, must be hostile to the interests of the Liberal party in St. John. Tory solicitude for the Liberal's will not wash. It has been rejected as ridiculous. The overtures made by the Hazen men mean only one thing—that they cannot win alone, and confess it. The men who organized last evening had heard much of the Conservative attempts at conciliation and bargaining, and laughed at them as conclusive evidence that the enemy is in dire disorder on the eve of battle.

There was no mistaking the spirit abroad last evening. The verdict of experienced party men was that never in St. John had a campaign opened more auspiciously. These men were amused at the idea that any one could be blind to the fact that the opposition in this campaign, its aims and plans, must be diametrically opposed to continued Liberal success in this constituency.

From this time on the campaign is likely to be a lively one. The delegates chosen last night will meet tomorrow evening and nominate their standard bearers, and a public meeting will follow. Beginning with that meeting the government's side of the case will be placed before the electors. The opposition has had the floor. It can but repeat now the material contained in the speeches by Messrs. Hazen, Moloney, Sprout and Mott, delivered last fall to small and wearied audiences in this county and elsewhere. The keynote of the opposition campaign will be the same—abuse of the Premier and the Attorney-General, and the presentation of the time-worn resolutions offered last session.

The government depends upon no such ammunition. It goes to the country with confidence, both because of what it has done and what it proposes to do. It represents to the people plans of vital importance to the province. To the unsupported assertions of the opposition it replies with a record of progressive and able administration of the country's affairs, and proposals to recover for the province its share of the Fishery Award, to guard our representation at Ottawa against reduction, to secure a readjustment of the Dominion subsidies which will increase the income of the province by nearly \$100,000, and to transfer from the province and municipalities to the Dominion the expense of the administration of criminal justice.

These are questions the importance of which no amount of abuse of individuals can lessen. Nor will opposition abuse of the government hide the fact that Mr. Hazen's campaign, lacking as it does, a vital sense calculated to arouse keen interest throughout the province, is doomed to failure here and elsewhere.

The government's campaign, the active work of which was begun last evening, opens in a manner which leaves scant room to doubt the result. The united work will be done between this time and February 28 is likely to dispose of Mr. Hazen and the Conservative clique behind him for a long time to come, and that from the Liberal standpoint, is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

THE CATTLE EMBARGO. By an order in council passed at Ottawa Friday the embargo on Canadian cattle coming to St. John over the C. P. R. through Maine, was removed. Stock may now be shipped from any part of Canada over the Canadian Pacific to any port on this side of the border, but our cattle cannot be shipped from Portland to Great Britain.

The C. P. R. will now resume the carrying of the freight to St. John over its own line. There never was any good reason why the business should have been interrupted, but the British authorities could not see it in that light and much time has been lost. The shipments have been handled so successfully by the Intercolonial, however, that St. John has not felt the embargo severely. The Grand Trunk cattle will continue to reach St. John by the government road, and the business is in a most promising condition. Already the number of animals shipped is twice as great as it was up to February of last year. The advantages of the port have been made known widely and as both Boston and Portland have been out of the cattle business for months and may not be permitted to begin operations for some time, St. John no doubt will retain a great measure of the increased trade diverted to this point by the closing of the ports of New England. This is a record year for the winter port.

WHAT KIND OF FERRY BOAT? The kind of ferry steamer St. John needs depends somewhat on whether or not we are to have a bridge a few years hence. If all thought of a bridge during the next twenty years is abandoned—which, we take it, will not be the case—the service would demand a boat considerably more costly than if, in the course of a few years, most of the heavy traffic were diverted to a bridge over Navy Island.

A ferry steamer is needed badly now. A steamer would be necessary even if the bridge were built, but not the same sort of

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boat as will be necessary if the bridge project is not to be considered for ten or fifteen years, or for the longer period represented by the working life of the proposed ferry boat.

Possibly before a boat is ordered it would be well for the city to ascertain promptly and definitely what proportion of the cost of a bridge would be assumed by the C. P. R., the Intercolonial and the Street Railway Company respectively. In discussing the bridge plan heretofore, it always has been assumed that these companies would contribute so largely to the expense as to make the city's burden in connection with the enterprise comparatively light, in view of the advantages to be gained. It would be well to have the companies on record, in which case the practicability of a bridge in the near future may be discussed more intelligently than it can in the absence of such knowledge. Mayor White, it is understood, will make inquiry on this point from the C. P. R. people when he goes to Montreal, a few days from now. Before the board of works can decide upon the kind of ferry steamer required, they should first know where the bridge matter stands.

NOTE AND COMMENT. The outlook for the opposition in York is extremely dismal. And still there is no reliable report concerning the "main body." There is a rumor that Edward Blake, M. P., will re-enter Canadian politics.

The Saint John Sun is still attempting to tell Liberals how they should vote.

Mr. Fred Sprout should now go to the front and tell the people of Kings county what he has ever done for them.

Mr. Hazen's "platform" was printed again on Saturday, but it was followed by no sign of a popular upheaval.

As to what the Liberals of St. John will do, the Sun, it is clear, is the worst of prophets.

Six votes stood between Mrs. Hazen and private life last time. A dangerously small margin, that of the leader in Sunbury.

Government conventions are announced as follows: Kings county, at Hampton next Thursday; Queens, Gagetown, Thursday; Carleton, Woodstock, Thursday.

Sometimes this week Mr. Hazen will inflict upon the community some of those speeches which the Globe, a while ago, so happily described as "boiled sawdust."

The governing board of the Boys' Industrial Home decided yesterday not to appeal from the Supreme Court decision that the Mayor cannot overrule the Chief Justice.

The United States now supports nine Revolutionary pensioners, 1,028 from the war of 1812, 15,677 from the Mexican war, 735,789 from the civil war, and 388 Spanish war veterans.

A gentleman whom the Sun proudly announced as an opposition candidate in York county makes hasty denial. He also says he is his father's son, not his father's father, as the Sun had it.

The Sun neglected to make public the name of the "prominent Liberal" who was quoted in its news columns yesterday. It would not have injured the yarn a bit to have put it in the editorial columns along with the other matter written by the same author.

Westmorland Liberals will nominate four straight party men. Mr. Hazen's hopes in that county were dispensed by last night's meeting in Moncton. Hon. C. W. Robinson and Mr. A. B. Opp, the present Liberal members, will lead the ticket, and it will win.

The unwonted silence of the lately nominated Mr. J. D. O'Connell, of Kings, gives rise to the haunting fear that he may be writing a campaign speech in a single sentence. If he does, the Sun editor will print it and say it is literature. Anything goes, so long as it's "against the government."

Mr. Hazen will in all probability be called upon in March to form a government.—The Sun.

Where? Not in Fredericton. The Sun made some such prophecy before the last contest, and after it the only thing Mr. Hazen was called upon to do was to explain what had hit him.

The Conservatives in St. John county have not yet heard from "the thirty" who met last autumn in Fairville to choose the second man of the much-heralded county ticket. A gentleman named Neeve is said to be the last person mentioned as a possible running mate for Mr. F. M. Anderson.

And now it is said Mr. Miles E. Agar is the man who is to tempt fate with Mr. F. M. Anderson in the county. Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, others have greatness thrust upon them. And still others miss it altogether by becoming opposition candidates in St. John county in a year like this.

The editor of the Sun reasserts his admiration for Mr. Fred Sprout. We had

Mr. Sprout's measure, and now we have the Sun editor's. It is suspected that the editor's admiration for Mr. Sprout is increased somewhat by the fact that neither of them ever visited New York. But can the Sun man scold the people of Kings county into sharing his view of Mr. Sprout? That is the question.

The Sun continually holds Premier Tweedie and Attorney-General Pugsley up to ridicule as political nobodies, as men without convictions, while if never, ceases to laud Mr. Foster, says the Fredericton Herald. Funny is it not, that the leaders of the local government always secure election in their native counties, while Mr. Foster is ever on the tramp looking for a constituency, and has been unceremoniously bowled out of this province.

The uneasy Sun complains that the government has "sprung" the elections upon the country. That is a strange cry considering that the Hazen organ accused the administration of "postponing" the contest three months ago. The opposition campaign is now six months old. If they are not ready by Feb. 28 it will not be because they have not beaten the ton-ton long enough in advance. The Sun does not like the outlook, that's all.

Mr. J. D. Chipman, of St. Stephen, told a Herald representative this morning that under no conditions would he be a candidate in the approaching provincial election. He said he had so informed his friends in Charlotte some time ago, and his decision is irrevocable. He expects to be absent from the province on private business during the campaign, and would not even be home to vote. Mr. Chipman headed the opposition ticket in Charlotte in the last election, and his refusal to stand again will be a serious blow to his party.—Fredericton Herald.

We print in another column an interview with Attorney-General Pugsley in reference to a foolish article published by the Sun distorting his connection with the proposed construction of a dam on the St. John river. Dr. Pugsley, it appears, was not one of the originators of the plan, and was assured that no legislation would be sought from the government of which he is a member. He was given to understand, also, that the most ample provision would be made for the free passage of logs through the dam. Moreover, the interests of New Brunswick lumbermen will be guarded in case the federal government should grant the charter which may be asked for. The interview exposes thoroughly the Sun's attempt to twist a simple business matter into political capital.