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JOHN S. SCOTT,  
Editor and Manager.

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EDITORIAL

THE HOPE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Hon. John P. Burchill contributed voluntarily contributed—the sum of \$2000 to what is commonly termed a campaign fund, a bribe fund, a boodle fund or a graft fund. Mr. Burchill is on record as saying that this contribution was not extorted from him in any manner—that he paid the money over because he thought it was "good business" to do so. And right there is the key to the explanation of the rotten government to which the people of New Brunswick have submitted for so many years.

It is undeniably true that if the fund was a graft fund, or a boodle fund, Hon. John P. Burchill, in purposefully and voluntarily helping to create such a fund, as he undeniably did so help, was as much a grafter or boodler as any other man who was connected with that fund could be.

But Hon. J. P. Burchill is no worse than hundreds of other New Brunswick business men who have fallen in with a damnably corrupt system of political conduct, because they considered it "good business" to do so. "Good business" has been the damnation of New Brunswick. The governments of the province have not been political governments. They have been business governments, or at least governments representing and dominated by business interests. And those interests have been chiefly the lumber interests of New Brunswick.

To the lumber industry can be traced all the political evils which have retarded the development of the province, and made New Brunswick a by-word of political scandal from one shore of Canada to the other. Not that every iniquitous act that has marked the conduct of public affairs has been directly connected with the lumber industry. There has been much public wrongdoing for which it does not appear on the surface of things, that the lumber industry is responsible. But beneath the surface, the responsibility is not so difficult to place. The lumber industry has imposed upon the province and upon every government that has held power within the memory of electors now living, with the exception of the Clarke-Murray government, a corrupt system. And to that system is chargeable all the ills that have beset the province.

The province, politically, has been diseased, and governments have been perverted in their functions. Instead of being administered in the interests of the people with the object of developing the resources of the province for the good of the people by encouraging agriculture, manufacturing generally, mining, education and social progress, the various governments of the province have been the tools of men, who were "business" men first, and political partisans in a secondary sense only, if at all. Party government in the true sense, the province never had until the Hon. Mr. Clarke, in 1916 abandoned the principle of coalition, and reconstituted the government of which he was the head, on straight party lines, to which lines the Hon. Jas. A. Murray the present premier, has had the discernment and courage to adhere.

In breaking away from the established and ancient coalition principle, which had been an essential element in the organization of all previous governments, Hon. Mr. Clarke took a step which was the beginning of an epoch in New Brunswick politics. In the hands of the boodler he placed himself and his government in a position of dependence upon the Conservative party, and thereby introduced the policy or system of straight party government.

Party government, perhaps, does not necessarily mean government free from the influence of business interests, but it does mean the possibility of that desirable condition, while coalition government with its inevitable absence of direct responsibility to the people, and consequent lack of moral stamina, does necessarily mean government dominated by personal interests, which in the last analysis necessarily means domination by business interests. Hon. Mr. Clarke chose to institute a system under which it is possible to have clean government, and to cut loose from a system which rendered such a result impossible.

The record of the Clark-Murray government is the evidence as to whether party government is better for the people of New Brunswick, than the business-coalition government which preceded it with their trails of graft, boodle and corruption. Since the downfall of J. K. Flemming, has the public business of the province been conducted honestly and intelligently, in the best interests of the people, and the Hon. Jas. A. Murray and his colleagues free from the corrupting influence of the

insinuations, innuendo, abusive generalities, are not answers to these questions. Because free speech and the liberty of the press, permit willful deceit and misrepresentation on a wholesale scale, and in a manner intended to be disgusting, opponents of the Murray Government have maliciously made statements and charges of the wildest nature, which they have made no effort to substantiate, and which they know can not be substantiated. Since the day when J. K. Flemming ceased to be the leader of the government of New Brunswick there has not been one specific act of commission or omission to which any opponent of the Murray government can point and say that that act partook, in the slightest degree, of wrongfulness towards the people of the province. The sins of J. K. Flemming can not be poured on the heads of the Murray government, and there has not been one responsible critic of the present government who has had the temerity or indiscretion to undertake to connect, in any intelligible manner, the Murray government and the administration of J. K. Flemming.

Is it to be assumed that the opponents of the Murray government know of improper relations between the government and Mr. Flemming, and are yet so considerate, so forbearing, so charitable, so tolerant and so forgiving, that they hesitate to make use of their knowledge, and in doing so suffer a disadvantage to themselves? No one can be so credulous as to assume so much. No, it is not in the make-up of the "old gang" and their sympathizers to be generous, charitable or chivalrous towards a foe. They are made of sterner stuff, and no weapon which can be wielded with any effectiveness by them is ever disregarded.

The lack of particularity in the opposition campaign of vilification is due to one salient fact, namely: Oppositionists know there is not one specific point upon which the Murray government merits public condemnation—not one single instance of misconduct upon which they can appeal to the electors for the verdict which they desire against the Murray government.

And hence we have speakers for the Opposition on the hustings day after day repeating to their audiences one after another, in parrot like fashion a formula somewhat like this: "I need not go into the details of the record of the rottenness of the present government. You all read the papers, and you know all about it, so I need not take up your time with that." Could anything be more silly? Why in the name of common sense do not opposition critics name some of the misdeeds of the Murray government or quit insulting the intelligence of the electorates in ranting and raving about the alleged rottenness of the Murray government?

It is reasonably plain to the average voter that when Hon. Geo. J. Clarke broke away from the coalition system of government he also turned his back on the "good business" element which directly or indirectly controlled preceding governments. And it is also reasonably clear to any observer today that the Murray government is under no obligation of any sort to the "good business" combination which pulled the strings in the days of Tweedie, Robinson, Fugsley, Flemming, et al; and that Hon. J. A. Murray is, therefore, free to go ahead and give the people of the province of New Brunswick to an approximate degree, at least, the good government that has been so ardently, but hopelessly, it seemed, prayed for year by year.

Mr. Justice Chandler said: "What is wanted in New Brunswick is not Heaven-born statesmen, but a little common honesty." That essential requirement seems to have been revealed in the rise of Hon. Jas. A. Murray.

Hon. Mr. Murray certainly lays no claim to celestial genes, in his statesmanship. Nor does he do himself the injustice of over-much extolling his own honesty, although he does assert that in his public life he stands clean of any wrong doing. The following is a simple statement of fact as any of his honest opponents will admit.

Hon. Jas. A. Murray does possess a little "common honesty," and he is intelligent enough to recognize the political value of a "little common honesty." Newly New Brunswick does need a little common honesty, and in Hon. Mr. Murray and his colleagues, there is convincing evidence that enough common honesty has been found to assure New Brunswick of the kind of government its people demand.

The Murray government is not a government of promises. Hon. Mr. Murray is not an untried, nor a repentant, apostle of purity. He has come through the crucible of experience in a rotten government in which business could not survive. He has met the test of corruption and has escaped, taint. His strength of mind and character was the mainstay of the Clarke government when it weathered the storm of fury which followed the Flemming revelations, in which business could not survive, established its soundness of purpose and conduct.

Hon. Mr. Murray has not been a mere adviser, philosopher, counsellor and friend. In the Clarke government he was a worker, and the Department of Agriculture under his guidance emerged from the obscurity and unimportance which had characterized it, to become one of the vital forces in the upbuilding of the province, as it should be. In that department, as in every other field of governmental activity in which he has had a hand, Jas. A. Murray, on every occasion when he has been

thusiasm, energy, prudence, practicality, intelligence, common sense and common honesty, which in the leadership of a government for the good of the people are indispensable. In his past performances, in his forming of future policies and in his discriminating choice of colleagues, Hon. Jas. K. Murray has given every guarantee of good government that can be asked for. New Brunswick's only hope of political salvation today lies in the Murray government.

MR. BURCHILL'S POLITICAL CAREER

(Chatham World)  
Mr. Burchill poses as a politician with a conscience, and even sets up claims to political consistency. Well, if strict adherence to his own interests, unwavering devotion to Number One, is what he means by consistency, he has been consistent.

Mr. Burchill was elected to the Legislature as an opponent of the Fair administration, and the Government was so close to the ragged edge of defeat that votes in the Legislature were valuable. "John what price do you want for supporting me?" asked Premier Blair.

"A reduction of stumpage on our lumber export" was the offer to my colleague," promptly replied the good-looking and silver-voiced junior member for Northumberland, and Mr. Blair promptly replied, "I will give it to you."

Mr. Burchill named his price, and Mr. Blair paid it. In 1909 Mr. Burchill, President of the Liberal Association, was nominated by his party to contest the county in a by-election, and emphatically declined by telegram.

Then the gentleman who represented the Government in the county, not being pleased with the nomination of the Government party, telegraphed to Mr. Burchill an offer of his support, which meant an offer of the Government support.

And, to the amazement and disgust of his best friends, Mr. Burchill accepted the offer, which was outstretched to him. He telegraphed to his son—"PUBLISH NO CARD. SPEND NO MONEY."

But a card was concocted for him, and a promise to support the Government was written into the telegram, and, before the Liberal party was fully aroused to the inequity of the situation Mr. Burchill was dragged past the winning post by Government votes.

It was the worst specimen of political trickery and conscienceless disregard of all the decencies of public life that ever disgraced any country. Mr. Burchill was not proud of the victory that had been won for him in his absence. He appeared to be thoroughly ashamed of the position he was in. He even talked of refusing to take the seat.

But he took the seat, and declared himself an "independent" supporter of the Government—the Hixen Government.

And he supported it, even voting against a motion of want of confidence that was introduced by the Liberals.

Mr. Burchill supported the Government loyally until when—until he found that he could not get his stumpage bills reduced. The Surveyor General of that day stood squarely on the returns of the scales and exacted stumpage on every log.

Mr. Burchill was indignant, righteously indignant, and poured his tale of woe into every sympathetic ear. And he overflowed with it in the house. He could not understand why a Government supporter's stumpage should not be reduced instead of being increased to the tune of about \$1000 a year. He was asked if his cut was not more in 1910 than in 1907, and emphatically declared, "Not a stick."

He was cutting no more lumber, and yet his stumpage bills were about double, as shown by the following official returns:

Mr. Burchill's Stumpage Bills Under the Old Government

1901	.....	\$849
1902	.....	945
1903	.....	1,040
1904	.....	1,522
1905	.....	1,993
1906	.....	2,247
1907	.....	1,173
1908	.....	1,275

Mr. Burchill's Stumpage Bills Since the Defeat of the Old Government

1909	.....	2,880
1910	.....	2,650
1911	.....	2,450
1912	.....	2,254
1913	.....	3,033
1914	.....	4,519
1915	.....	3,759
1916	.....	5,714

And then Mr. Burchill turned his back on the Government and ceased to be its supporter. What was the use of supporting a Government that made him pay stumpage on all the logs he cut on his leasehold?

Mr. Burchill's next appearance on the stage was when he was called as a witness in the inquiry into the charge that Hon. J. K. Flemming had extorted a large sum of money from the lessees of Crown Lands on the renewing of their leases. The charge was denied. Conservatives refused to believe Mr. Flemming guilty, and Liberals declared that such men as Mr. Burchill could not have shared in such a crime by contributing to the graft fund.

But on the witness stand Mr. Burchill with bowed head and downcast eyes, falteringly admitted that he was guilty of contributing \$2000 to the campaign fund of his political opponents, and that he "had done so because he thought it was good business to do so." That is—he expected it to come back to him, with big interest, as rebates on stumpage bills in the good Liberal administration which he had just abandoned. And now, this Mr. Burchill, after a public career such as this, jumps into the Opposition, with

"smaller stumpage bills for Burchill" as his motto, assails Mr. Stewart as inconsistent because he, after helping to purify the Government by joining with the Opposition in condemning the actions of the Flemming administration and other crimes against good administration, returns to the bosom of his party.

Mr. Burchill fails to show proper appreciation of the gentleness and consideration that have been shown by us in attributing his conduct to weakness rather than to wickedness. And how can anybody who accepts and endorses Mr. Burchill as a candidate condemn the Carleton County Conservatives for having Mr. Fleming as one of their speakers?

They are both guilty under the Criminal Code, and would have been sent to the same place if they had been prosecuted criminally. Mr. Carvell discussed this phase of the graft-conspiracy with his friends at Fredericton. He advised that criminal proceedings would result in the punishment of too many good Liberals.

And we rejoice that his advice was taken and our friends on the Murray side saved from the punishment that might have fallen upon them. But they should not imagine that the people have forgotten the facts.

Premier Carries Fight to the Enemy's Camp

(Continued from page 1)  
Reed. Under the old government \$134,000 absolutely disappeared in the Central Railway.

Re Fleming charges, Mr. Dugal (on the floors of the house absolutely exonerated all the members of the government but Fleming from any knowledge of the transaction.

Vast progress had been made in agriculture the last few years. He still kept the portfolio of Agriculture. In 1908 there was a department of Agriculture but only in name. It had since been enlarged and made progressive and effective. Agricultural education was the basis of national greatness. Two schools were in operation, and there would be a third one. Operations had been effected by the war, five of his agricultural teachers having enlisted.

One (Mr. Ford of the Animal Husbandry Department) had been killed in action and two others wounded. Now Prof. Mitchell who had built up the dairying industry in Manitoba had been engaged to come to N. B. Clover can be grown to advantage in N. B., and the government machinery will make raising of clover seed a profitable industry.

Three hundred and twelve farmers had been taught by the Farm Settlement Board, of which 300 now occupy farms. These 312 are worth \$25,000. It has been a splendid success.

The government since 1908 had collected much more money and had spent much more on the public services. After the war the Soldiers Land Settlement plan, pronounced by the Imperial Authorities, one of the best ever offered, would be thoroughly utilized.

He expected to have technical schools established before next Christmas. Crown lands classification would be continued to completion. The government would be so regulated so as to make monopoly impossible. The water powers of the province will be searched out and utilized and used for the people, not bargained away for a mere pittance as was the Grand Falls power by the old government's agreement. It had to be sold for \$60,000 under prior agreement.

Prohibition would come into effect May 1st and be strictly enforced.

The Valley railway would be completed, and the Workmen's Compensation thoroughly investigated by the Labor Insurance and Employer's interests and then suitably amended. The government proposed to work a scheme of encouraging shipbuilding in the province.

In closing his address Hon. Mr. Murray emphasized the freedom from corrupt influences with which his government begins its career, in the following words:

"I want to say that neither I nor any member of my Government is linked up with any interests. There are no strings attached to this Government of which I have the honor to be the leader. I am linked up with no individual, firm or corporation. There are no lumber interests in control of this Government. There are no liquor interests who can dictate to us. There are no interests in this country who can interfere with this administration. I propose to be at the head of a government absolutely clean in every respect, and to carry on the business of the province solely in the interests of the people. I propose to give every man a square deal, and to see to it that the people will have an honest, pure and economical administration of their affairs, always keeping in mind the development of the province as a whole."

Is the County Council Asleep?

An Upper Nelson reader of The Union Advocate calls attention to a rather remarkable circumstance in connection with county council appointments. Says the correspondent:

"In reading over the list of officers appointed by the County Council for the coming year, I notice the names of two parties who are now deceased, one of these who resided in our own vicinity, died last spring. This is not the first occasion on which a similar oversight has occurred, and it seems to me that it shows a lack of knowledge on the part of our Council, in appointing deceased persons to hold office."

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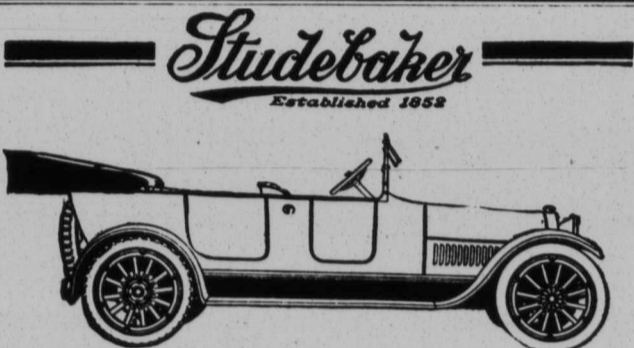
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Sheriffs Sale.  
There will be sold at Public Auction at the Court House in Newcastle, in the County of Northumberland, in the Province of New Brunswick, on Thursday the nineteenth day of April next, at the hour of Twelve O'clock Noon, all the estate, right, title, share and interest, both at law and in equity of James A. Rundle, of, in, and to the following lot or piece of land, viz:  
ALL that piece or parcel of land and premises situate lying and being in the said Town of Newcastle in the County of Northumberland aforesaid, and abutted and bounded as follows, viz:—Beginning on the westerly side line of Chaplin Island Road at its intersection with the northerly side line of a road or lane leading westerly from along the northerly side of the Intercolonial Railway Station lands, thence northerly along the westerly side line of Chaplin Island Road aforesaid, and abutted and bounded as follows, viz:—Beginning on the westerly side line of Chaplin Island Road at its intersection with the northerly side line of another road or lane also leading westerly from the said Chaplin Island Road, thence westerly along the said last mentioned line to the north easterly corner of lands owned by Mary T. Davidson and Allan A. Davidson Trustees and conveyed to them by the said James A. Rundle by Indenture bearing date the ninth day of November, A. D. 1910, thence southerly along the easterly side line of the said Davidson land to the northerly side line of the said first mentioned lane or road, and thence easterly along the same to another road or lane also leading westerly from the piece of land above described, which piece of land above described comprises and includes all the land and premises conveyed to the said James A. Rundle by Mary T. Davidson and Allan A. Davidson Trustees by Indenture bearing date the thirty-first day of September, A. D. 1907, saving and excepting that said part of the said last mentioned road or lane which was conveyed as aforesaid by the said James A. Rundle to the said Mary T. Davidson and Allan A. Davidson Trustees by the said Deed bearing date the ninth day of November, A. D. 1910, together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and every of them, and the privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, the same having been seized by me and to be sold under and by virtue of an execution issued out of the Supreme Court at the suit of J. T. Rundle against the said James A. Rundle.  
DATED at Nelson in the said County of Northumberland the seventh day of February, A. D. 1917.  
JOHN O'BRIEN,  
High Sheriff Northumberland County.

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