

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1917

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CHEERS FOR FLEMING

Premier Murray may as well bring Mr. J. K. Fleming out of his temporary concealment, and take him throughout the province to plead with him the cause of honesty and high ideals in public life. The Hon. B. Frank Smith would be delighted, for he said at Gibson on Wednesday evening of this week:

"You have today those who go about this province scandalizing and abusing the Hon. J. K. Fleming. Not one of these men is fit to unlace Mr. Fleming's shoes. He did more for the province in good and substantial work in one year than his abusers and the promoters of the past ever accomplished."

There it is, in all its naked effrontery. Has the province ever heard anything like it—with the possible exception of Premier Murray's eulogy of Fleming in the recent Carleton county by-election?

Who is this Fleming whose shoes the people are not fit to unlace, and in whose presence, presumably, the people should take their own shoes from off their feet as if on holy ground?

He is the man who knew all about the \$71,000 hoolie fund taken from the lumber operators. He is the man who took "by compulsion," \$2,000 from a railway contractor. He is the man who had to resign the premiership in utter disgrace, but is still the guide and counselor of the men who betrayed their trust and whitewashed him.

The Hon. B. Frank Smith has taken off the mask. The government stands revealed as a Fleming government. The condemnation contained in the report of the royal commission falls on every man who upholds the Fleming conception of public duty and responsibility. The issue cannot be dodged by any government candidate. It is not a question of roads, or crown lands, or agricultural development, or the care of soldiers, or of immigration. It is a question of honor in public life. If the people fail to insist upon that they will give the grafters a new lease of life. Is it to be Fleming and dishonor, or Foster and good government, after Feb. 24?

ONLY ONE WEEK MORE

With one clear week for canvassing the electorate the opposition party stands today with strong candidates in every constituency. The government party, as it scanned the list developed an entirely new feeling of respect, mingled with fear, of its opponents. Its press has not altogether ceased to be abusive, but it has discovered that it cannot by abuse and sneers and ridicule dispose of the able and influential men who have responded to the call to join in bringing about a change of government. These strong men cannot be whittled down the wind as worthless chaff. For the very fact that they were today nominated proves that behind them is a great body of public opinion, and a widespread desire and determination to put an end to graft and dishonesty in the public life of New Brunswick.

There is a week of strenuous work ahead. The government has the advantage in organization and will not hesitate to spend money and use every influence, legitimate and otherwise, to gain a victory. The result rests with the people. If they feel that New Brunswick should do as Manitoba and British Columbia have done, there is not enough money or any other influence in existence to save the Fleming-Murray government.

DO YOUR BIT, GENTLEMEN

A great army of men who cannot go overseas will be able next Saturday to do their bit effectively by helping to rid the province of a government which has proved itself false to the principles for which the sons of New Brunswick overseas are fighting. Graft is an enemy, and the man who gives encouragement to the grafter is guilty of a crime against his country. No man will dispute the truth of this statement. Very well, let us make the application. Royal commissions in this province have exposed graft and the grafters, and next Saturday is the day of reckoning. What will people who have sons fighting the enemy overseas do with the enemy at home? The latter is entrenched in power and armed with patronage and other weapons well known to grafting politicians. If the fathers are as good as their sons, and the brothers at home are as good as the brothers in France, they will go over and through the government trenches like a whirlwind. They will not wait to be urged or coaxed, but will do their duty as men who want to be able to say when the boys come home that they too served their country in her hour of need. And if ever a country needed unselfish service the province of New Brunswick

needs it now. One week from today should see the grafters put to flight, and a government true to British traditions summoned by the sovereign will of the people to restore honor to public life.

A WORD TO CONSERVATIVES

There are some people in St. John and in every constituency who are supporting the Murray government, but who would not support it for one moment if they were persuaded that the opposition would refuse to countenance the grafter. They know that graft has flourished and that the province has been disgraced; but they have always been Conservatives, with strong political prejudices, and they have their doubts about the opposition.

But how can graft be rooted out unless by turning out one government after another until public sentiment has so impressed public men that they will remain true to their pledges and to the public interest? Mr. Fleming was forced to retire. But the men now seeking renewed power whitewashed Fleming, and today a number of the government boldly asserts that Fleming's critics are not fit to unlace his shoes. If this government is sustained the grafter will continue to flourish. If it is turned out the lesson will not be lost on its successors, and a glance over the list of opposition candidates shows that there is ample material from which to form a strong, fearless and honest government. Moreover, these men, and all the opposition candidates, are pledged to put an end to the reign of graft. They should be given the opportunity to make good that pledge, and the Conservatives who help will be doing their own party a great service; for no party can afford to ally itself with the grafters.

One of the government candidates in Northumberland county pleads for the return of the Murray government because he says a change in New Brunswick now would be bad for the government at Ottawa. Have we really sunk so low that a man seeking legislative honors puts forth such a plea as that? According to this man the government at Fredericton might burn his barn, bite off his nose, and run off with his cattle, and he would forgive them if the government at Ottawa asked him to do it.

Mr. George H. King and Dr. J. E. Hetherington are the opposition candidates in Queens county. The convention which nominated them was much larger than that which named the government candidates, despite the fact that roads are almost blocked with snow. Mr. King and Dr. Hetherington are able and influential men. Their election would be a credit to Queens county, and the prospects of their election are excellent.

The Standard concedes a reduced majority in Carleton county. It says the government expects a majority of 400, in the by-election last fall. Hon. B. Frank Smith had a majority of 566 over McCain and 600 over Upham. Evidently things are not going well, even in Carleton county, or the government would not concede such a drop in the majority.

While the Hon. A. R. Slipp was telling the Standard yesterday that the opposition in Queens county was having great difficulty in securing candidates the big convention at Gagetown was nominating an opposition ticket that will keep Mr. Slipp very busy for the next week, and that has given further encouragement to the friends of better government all over the province.

Well, what are you going to do with the government next week? one citizen asked of another. And the other promptly replied:—"You mean what are WE going to do. This is your fight, my friend, as well as mine. And if graft goes on it will be because too many people overlooked the fact that it was their fight."

Mr. E. M. McDonald points out that both in Manitoba and British Columbia the discredited government got a new leader before going to the people, but the pretence was too thin. The people saw behind the leader the old gang of grafters and as Commodore Stewart would say, they kicked them out.

The time seems opportune to recall that famous remark of Mr. J. K. Fleming when he said: "Well, after all, the Globe is the best of them. It always comes to our assistance just when we need it most."

The nomination of the opposition ticket in St. John has put the skeptics out of business. The strength of the ticket is universally conceded. And its members ought to be elected next Saturday.

Temperance men who believe in a square deal will resent the insinuation that Dr. Roberts would betray them and their cause.

Mr. J. L. Stewart wanted the Clarke government kicked out. Yet he supports the Murray government, which is another name for the Fleming government.

Why does not the Standard feature Hon. B. Frank Smith's eulogy of Fleming? Is it afraid?

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Bessie Norton, aged twenty-one, and Joseph Bowling, twenty-six, were married on top of a 200-foot concrete smokestack in an oil plant in Florence, Colo. Practically the entire city witnessed the ceremony.

"Has your boy Josh completed his education?"

"I reckon so," replied Farmer Corns. "I don't say that he's got all he needs, but I suspect he's got about all he's able to hold."

What America Can Do In War With Germany

If there is any American citizen who feels alarmed as to how the United States would fare in a war with Germany, he should read THE LITERARY DIGEST for February 17th and learn the exact facts regarding our immediate military, financial, and industrial preparedness, and the immense resources which can be drawn upon.

While the Chicago Tribune declares that the present crisis "finds us unprepared," and our Navy "grossly unmanned," and a few other editors agree that this is the situation, there are still others who brush such statements aside and cite a mass of statistics and facts that will astonish and cheer American readers.

In this article, drawn from various sources, the military, financial, and industrial resources of the country are shown and they are indeed impressive.

A typical expression is that of the Wall Street Journal which declares that, "If the short-sighted Kaiser sees nothing but a mobilization of untrained men behind our little army, he makes his last and greatest mistake. Well in the forefront is a mobilization that can begin at once to feed, finance, and furnish the Entente Powers, and in such an avalanche as to give the 'War Lord' a dose of war which should cure him and his militarist bodyguard forever."

No feature that has been published in THE LITERARY DIGEST in many months will challenge the interest of American men and women more than this, coming as it does, at this critical moment.

Other articles of importance in this number of "The Digest," are:

Congress Overrides Presidential Veto and Ends 20-Year Fight to Restrict Immigration

Where German-Americans Stand
Japan's Insistence on Land-Rights
Karl I. Is Housecleaning
Two Ways of Marketing Food
Can We Foresee the Future?
Nitrate-Plants for War-Needs
The Languishing British Stage
England Can Not Be Starved

Can the Submarine Boat Win the War?
How the Railroads May Save Millions
Do We Need More City Managers?
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Death Claims a Great American Cartoonist
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