

The Union Advocate

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JOHN S. SCOTT,
Editor and Manager.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15th, 1917

EDITORIAL

SERVES THEM RIGHT

In the interests of clean politics—as clean as that field of activity can be at least—The Union Advocate hopes that both the Liberals and Conservatives, would be able to put full tickets of straight party men in the field. It is a pity that the Liberals have failed to do so. But they deserve little or no sympathy. Coalition is a vicious principle in politics and the fact that the Liberals attempted to make use of the principle, by taking a disgruntled conservative on their ticket, in face of the outrageous misgovernment that New Brunswick has suffered for years, is a very recent and simple because it has tolerated coalition governments of one sort or another, renders them richly deserving of the discouraging state in which they now find themselves. Undoubtedly straight tickets could have been found, and had such men been selected with a view to putting up a straight party ticket, without seeking to confuse principles and persons, the Liberal party in Northumberland county would now be a respected organization instead of the object of mirth which it is at present. The great body of Liberals, individually, are not to blame for the circumstance their party manipulators have forced upon them, and The Union Advocate has the most profound sympathy for those honest Liberals who want, and have a right to demand, that they have a straight party ticket to vote for. We have no quarrel with Liberals individually, nor with the Liberal party as a party. The existence of the Liberal party is just as essential to good government, as is the existence of the Conservative party. The party system of government is the only system by which good government can be attained, even approximately, and good government without two parties is impossible. The point we are driving at is that a party should be a party, bound together by principle, and not a hodge-podge of miscellaneous individuals banded together by a common hope of personal advantage. The experience of our Liberal friends in this instance should have a salutary effect.

MAKING A BEGINNING

The thin edge of the wedge of medical inspection of schools seems to be getting into Newcastle. Attention was called to the question at the Town Improvement League meeting last week and on Tuesday night at the Women's Institute meeting a move was made to actively interest the members in the subject. On Saturday Ald. H. H. Stuart proposed asking the candidates for the Legislative Assembly to state their views upon this very important matter. While no great progress has been made towards introducing medical inspection into Newcastle schools, the fact that people are beginning to seriously consider the subject is encouraging. If they think about it enough, medical inspection of school children will be an established fact before long in the local schools. The remediable physical defects that children suffer, and that would certainly be detected and cured through proper medical inspection are shocking in their extent and seriousness, and as community that aspires to be considered intelligent and progressive can afford to neglect such a momentous question.

Some finicky critics of the government find fault with Premier Murray for calling an election in the winter. The forthcoming election will be held on Feb. 24. The last election called by the friends of the present opposition was called on March 3. Mr. Murray does not seem to be very much more blameable in this respect than were some of his predecessors nine years ago.

THE OLD GANG

(St. John Standard)

In his acceptance of the leadership of the provincial opposition party by Mr. Walter E. Foster emphasizes his refusal to accept responsibility for the action of the Government which held control prior to 1908. That government, he says, was hurried from power in that year and the verdict then expressed by the people was approved in 1912. Mr. Foster's disclaimer would be more effective and would carry more weight if he also included in his statement of the men who endorsed that government, but who today are enlisted as soldiers of purity and political reform under his banner.

"One of the greatest thefts, perpetrated during the regime of the old government was that in connection with the Central Railway. An investigation—after that government had been turned from power—revealed a deplorable condition under which public money had been diverted from its proper course and used for the enrichment of politicians and their friends. The old

government had knowledge of these things but refused to investigate. In 1905, Hon. J. D. Hazen, then leader of the opposition, moved in the house for a commission to examine witnesses under oath and take evidence as to the affairs of the Central Railway. This was defeated on a straight party vote, and men who today are nominees of the party led by Mr. Foster, men Mr. Foster will use to publicly endorse whenever called upon, voted against that investigation which when finally held revealed a pilfering of \$134,000. The opposition leader does well to say that he will not defend the old government, yet he is prepared to help loist upon the people as apostles of purity men who did defend it and who helped to conceal the glaring evidence of public wrong-doing."

"Messrs. Robinson, Sweeney and Leger, in Westmorland County, Messrs. Osman and Ryan in Albert County, Messrs. Tweeddale and Burgess in Victoria County, were supporters of that government. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Sweeney were members of it. Yet Mr. Foster, who repudiates that government itself, is prepared to accept the men who comprised it, knowing very well that if the opportunity comes to them to again administer the affairs of New Brunswick their administration will be conducted on the same lines as those which, prior to 1908, plunged this province into disgrace."

"Another of the practices of which the old government was guilty, and for which it was roundly condemned was the system under which the public money of the province was received and disbursed. During the year before, when Hon. C. W. Robinson was provincial secretary, conditions were very bad. In the Public Works Department and Crown Lands Department the system was so loose that officials who desired to be dishonest were, in reality, encouraged in that direction. In one department for instance the deputy was permitted to keep public money mixed with his private account—the result was a defalcation and one of the most painful tragedies this province has ever known. Yet in that the man who suffered most and who paid with his life for his offence was less to blame than the men responsible for the pernicious system under which such things were possible. It is these men and their supporters Mr. Foster welcomes today with open arms, while at the same time he calls on the people of this province to witness that it is his intention to give New Brunswick a business government."

"Particularly reprehensible under the old government was the system by which overdraws and suspense accounts were authorized. Mr. Sweeney, when surveyor general, authorized an increase of the overdrafts in his department—certainly poor business to say the least of it—yet Mr. Sweeney today is one of the good business men of whom Mr. Foster hopes to form his first cabinet."

"If the situation were less serious it would be positively ludicrous. Here is the leader of an opposition party condemning a Government, not one single member of which has defrauded the province of one cent; under whose wise administration the revenues of the province have been increased as the direct result of honest collection; who have improved the public services and expended wisely and liberally for the support of education and agriculture; who have always kept current expenses within the bounds of current revenues; who have not increased the public debt by one cent—except to pay some of the shameful bills of the men who misruled prior to 1908, or for the establishment of permanent improvements which will be a lasting benefit to New Brunswick. An administration which has ruled prudently, aggressively and with a single eye to good public service. Mr. Foster condemns this and asks the people of the province to help him turn it out and replace it by a motley collection of self-centered and self-seeking politicians who either had a direct hand in the shameful transaction which came to an end with the advent to power of Hon. Mr. Hazen, or who, as members of the legislature, voted to stifle enquiry into these transactions and so long as the lid could be kept on endorsed and applauded the men responsible for them."

Mr. Foster does not dare to approve the government before 1908; he does approve of some of the men who composed it and his effort today, undertaken in the name of public reform, is directed to giving those men or their friends, supporters, and imitators, another opportunity to loot the treasury and defraud the people. It will not do. New Brunswick has had experience with good government and does not desire a change. That is why the people of this province on February 24th will vote to endorse Hon. J. A. Murray and his associates. That is why the Foster party recognizes even now that the fight is a losing one."

PERSONALS

Mrs. A. B. Copp arrived in town last Friday from Ottawa and will visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bell for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McCordy returned home on Tuesday from a visit to Montreal.

Miss Glenna Young, a student of Provincial Normal School, suffered a broken thigh last Thursday, when she was knocked to the ground by a large block of ice that fell from the Normal school roof. The young girl was picked up in an unconscious condition, and carried by her companions back into the building. Dr. G. G. Vanwart, who was summoned, found the patient had sustained a number of serious bruises and had a large laceration on the right side of her head. Miss Young is a daughter of Mrs. (Dr.) D. R. Moore of this town, who is at present in Fredericton with her daughter.

How The Old Gang Ran The Government

Premier Murray has unmasked the provincial party of "purity" and revealed them in their true light as the party that had almost bankrupted the province, and had been hurried from power by an indignant electorate nine years ago.

In his manifesto to the electors of the province Hon. Mr. Murray referred to the condition of chaos that existed in 1908 and for some years previous, under the party that had misruled New Brunswick for so many years.

For a quarter of a century—from the time the Blair government came into power in 1883 down to the defeat of the Robinson government in 1908—the government system of bookkeeping was the worst possible, encouraging the plundering of the provincial finances and giving every chance for kite-flying by dishonest public officials.

Under the old system members of the government and other officials not only had a chance of being dishonest—of using the public funds for their own private use—but were rather encouraged in the direction of dishonesty.

Under such a system men like Hon. William Pugsley and Hon. L. J. Tweedie had tremendous scope for their speculative proclivities.

How Pugsley Used The People's Money

When the new government came into power they found that when Mr. Pugsley left the New Brunswick premiership he owed between four and five thousand dollars to the province and that it was not until after the defeat of the Robinson government in 1908 that he (Pugsley) returned this money to the province. They found, further, that there was not one solitary year from 1901 to 1907, when he withdrew from provincial politics that Mr. Pugsley had not overdrawn his account very largely.

By a vicious system of suspense accounts he was able to keep the exact facts from the legislature, but when the change of government came in 1908 some idea of how Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Tweedie had played ducks and drakes with the provincial finances was obtained.

At the close of the fiscal year 1901 Mr. Pugsley owed the province \$2,163.00. At the close of the fiscal year 1902 the amount was reduced to \$1,748.00. The following year, however, it was raised to \$6,227.00. In 1904 he owed the province \$7,314.00, on October 31st, 1905, the balance against him was \$7,030.00. In 1906 this amount was reduced to \$6,695.00 and in 1907, when he left the premiership, he owed the province \$4,431.00.

Besides this indebtedness of Mr. Pugsley to the province the public accounts show that he had drawn in salary, travelling expenses, sessional indemnity, for settling succession duties, counsel fees, etc., the following amounts for the years named:

Under Mr. Sweeney's Regime

At the time of his tragic death the late deputy surveyor general's defalcation was \$18,592.00. The deceased gentleman was the victim of a vicious system, and was probably more sinned against than sinning. He had been permitted for years to keep the finances of the province mixed up with his own private bank account—indeed, it looks almost as though he had been encouraged to do so. The late deputy surveyor general had the written authority of Surveyor General Dunn and Hon. L. J. Tweedie to overdraw his account at the Bank of British North America, Fredericton, to the extent of \$10,000.00, for which the guarantee of the province was given for principal and interest. That authority was dated October 31st, 1899. On June 1st, 1905, on the authority of Francis J. Sweeney, the then surveyor general, this authority was increased to \$15,000, and on October 28th, 1906, there was a further increase, on the authority of Surveyor General Sweeney, of \$10,000, making a total of \$25,000, in addition to the interest, for which the province was responsible. Mr. Sweeney's connection with that and other matters of public concern will not add to his strength as one of the candidates for the party of "purity" in the present campaign.

Conditions in Crown Lands Department

It was immediately following the tragedy in the surveyor general's department in 1908 that the new government ordered an investigation into the affairs of that department, by Mr. Robert Miller, the well known accountant of Montreal. The investigation revealed a shocking condition of affairs, and in the light of it the great independent body of electors of the province—the men who want an honest administration of public affairs—are not likely to give support to any public man who was a member of the legislature previous to 1908 and who had supported the affairs of that department, and in its many refusals, when serious charges were made against the government of the day, to have the charges properly investigated.

Tweedie Fared Well

Mr. Miller, in his investigation, made a discovery that did not place Hon. L. J. Tweedie, former premier and surveyor general of the province in a very favorable light, and had he not been governor of the province when the discovery was made a great deal more might have been heard of the matter at the time. Mr. Miller's report is as follows:

"Dear Sir:—In pursuing my investigation into the books of the late W. P. Flewelling I came upon an account which I think it right to draw your attention to, as I understand the government meets tomorrow and it may be well that you be in possession of the facts so far as I am at present able to lay them before you. The account starts in Mr. Flewelling's books in February, 1893, and continues in these books down to the 8th of October, 1896. Then the account disappears from Mr. Flewelling's books thus: 'By amount arranged with Mr. Babbitt' I endeavored to follow this item into Mr. Babbitt's books, but failed. In face of it, however, I find that there was a suspense account for a very much larger sum carried on the books of the receiver general since 1895 in connection with the Crown Land Department, details of which are as follows:

J. Robinson	\$1,604.26
W. P. Flewelling	4,904.03
W. Salter	1,800.00
W. Richards	503.40
J. B. Snowball	1,003.48
E. Sinclair	950.00
Thomas Hetherington	1,521.00
St. Lawrence Lumber Co.	1,000.00
S. P. Richards	401.59
Total	\$13,686.76

Dft. stampage due to 1895.

"This balance was carried forward each year in the receiver general's book until the 23rd October, 1906" (shortly before Mr. Tweedie's appointment to the position of lieutenant governor of the province) "on which date the Hon. L. J. Tweedie paid cash to Mr. G. N. Babbitt, deputy receiver general, amounting to \$13,686.76. This sum was placed to the credit of the crown land suspense account and so closed the account. Three days later, namely, the 26th of October, 1906, the Bank of British North America was authorized to grant an additional \$10,000 overdraft to Mr. W. P. Flewelling, bringing the total amount of overdraft authorized up to \$25,000.

"At the close of the fiscal year 1906 (31st October), I find the bank passbook shows an overdraft balance of \$28,467.14, an amount, which, being in excess of the authorized overdraft, I have today asked the manager to explain as to what security he held for the excess.

If Mr. Tweedie was entitled to pay the principal he was also entitled to pay the interest, which in 1908 amounted to over eight thousand dollars. An investigation into this matter might show how far Mr. Tweedie was moved by motives of philanthropy when he paid in to the treasury of the province such a large sum of money on the eve of his appointment as lieutenant governor of the province, after having had the matter carried in suspense accounts for so many years.

In view of their dealings with the organized departments of the local government, as shown above, the public will be better understood how eminently fitted were both Messrs. Pugsley and Tweedie for their duties as ex-officio directors of the company controlling the Central Railway finances.

The Central Railway

In 1905 Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley made a fresh demand upon the people of the province for more provincial aid for the Central Railway. Mr. Hazen, then leading the opposition, strongly opposed the demand, showing that the province had first been asked for \$250,000 and guaranteed that that would secure the building of the road and the development of the coal areas. Then another \$250,000 was required and was forthcoming from the provincial treasury. Continuing, Mr. Hazen said: "Now another \$250,000 is demanded, and who can tell how much will be asked for next year and the year after, and the argument in favor of these new demands will be just as plausible as are the arguments of this demand."

Hon. Mr. Hazen Active

Mr. Hazen was able to show that the Central Railway was not a business enterprise but a speculative scheme to exploit the resources of the province, and that from first to last this scheme had been a stu-

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hole of extravagance, mismanagement and speculation, and the exorbitant ground for hoodlums, speculators and political pets.

Letters to the Editor

AN EXPLANATION

Douglasdown, Feb. 12, 1917
Editor Advocate,
Newcastle

Dear Sir:—In your last issue I notice a correction made by Miss Victoria Williston of Bay Side, in regard to my being credited with the money handed in for the Belgian Relief Fund.

It was at her request that I sent the money to the Education Office, and in so doing gave her school equal credit with the Bay du Vin school, but I noticed that only the names of those who sent the money were mentioned in any of the combined school efforts.

I would be pleased to have you publish same as it was not my mistake that necessitated a correction.

Thanking you,
I am Sincerely
C. C. BREEN.

HOUSE WANTED

I want to buy a small house in good locality with sewerage connections, and sufficient land for garden etc. Apply Box 200, Advocate office

PUBLIC NOTICE

This section of the Act to amend the Rates and Taxes Act is published under a resolution of the County Council at their annual meeting in January 1917. The Assessors and non-resident ratepayers will take notice, as the section will be strictly enforced.

The said Act is further amended by adding thereto the following section: "153 It shall be the duty of the Board of Assessors for each Parish in each County to prepare before the first day of July in each year a schedule containing a description by metes and bounds of each parcel of real estate in the said Parishes respectively, in respect of which at least two years County school or highway taxes have accrued or respect of which the County school or highway taxes or any portion thereof shall have been due and unpaid for more than one year or in respect of which any special assessment or instalment or portion thereof shall have been due for more than one year with the name of the person or persons assessed as they appear upon the last assessment list of the said Parishes and a statement of the amount due in each case and such statement when so prepared shall be by the several Boards of Assessors for each Parish filed with the County Secretary."

(Sgd) E. P. WILLISTON,
Secretary-Treasurer, Northumberland County.
Newcastle, N. B., Jan 31st, 1917



At the Happy Hour Friday and Saturday.

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ALL
SUITS and OVERCOATS
FOR THE BALANCE OF JANUARY
RUSSELL & MORRISON

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 situated 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 therefrom along the northerly side of the Intercolonial Railway Station Road, thence northerly along the westerly side line of Chaplin Island Road aforesaid to its intersection with the southerly 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 the westerly side of Chaplin Island Road being the place of beginning, and 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 May, A. D. 1910, and also the lands conveyed to him by Kirk W. Hobart and Henrietta Hobart by Indenture bearing date the thirty-first day of September, A. D. 1907, and including and excepting that said part of the said last mentioned or Hobart land 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 John 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.