

FINE GOVERNMENT RALLY AT FAIRVILLE

Hon. Mr. Baxter and T. B. Carson, the County's P. M. Candidates, Make Splendid Impression—Forceful Addresses by Commissioner Wigmore and L. A. Conlon—Attorney General, in Clear, Logical Address, Answers the Criticisms of the Opposition—Mr. Foster's Crazy Quilt Road Policy—Hon. W. P. Jones Approved of Government's Strong Prohibitory Bill.

Continued from page one.

Flattering Reception.

Hon. Mr. Baxter received a flattering reception from the electors assembled. In opening, he remarked that there seemed to be a conspiracy among his friends who had spoken to refer to him as one from whom an almost endless stream of information would flow. He wanted to bring a few matters to the attention of the electors and leave them in the possession of a few facts, as his friend, Mr. Carson, was able to leave them in the possession of the fact that there was never a better representative who looked after their roads and bridges and who kept the people safe and well served. His friend did not pose as the talking member of the combination, but he was simply invaluable as the working member of the combination, and he felt that the people of St. John county were well repaid for any trouble they had taken to elect his colleague.

Mr. Carson Faithful.

Mr. Carson had looked after the interests of the people of St. John county faithfully and well. In the east section, in which he was particularly active on account of an arrangement between them, much improvement had followed as a result of Mr. Carson's observation, and what his friend, Commissioner Wigmore, had said about Mr. Carson's influence with the Public Works Department at Fredericton had not been overdrawn. However, he was here to say so much about his friend, Mr. Carson and himself. The electors themselves would have an opportunity, so far as the practical results were concerned, to say whether the community had been well served and they could draw their own conclusions.

He felt that it was perfectly natural that there should be opposition in an election. It was only natural too that there should be a criticism and discussion of the conduct of the public business of the country. But it was also necessary that such criticism should be based on truth, that it should be fair and put forward in an honorable and temperate spirit. There might be a man who would come to Fairville who would indulge in vulgar abuse. The man with vulgar abuse might catch the ear of the crowd for a time, but as time went on, it is only the man who soberly and honestly deals with the facts, the man with something constructive to offer the electors who would be respected. It was only that kind of a man who would be able to hold the attention of the people and retain their confidence.

As To Mr. Foster.

His friend, Mr. Foster, had in some way been selected as leader of the opposition and he had as his colleague on the opposition ticket for the County of St. John, Mr. Bentley, with whom he (Baxter) had sat at Fredericton during the first session after he had been chosen by the people. Neither Mr. Carson nor himself had anything to say against the personal character of either of these gentlemen. They were entitled to just as much respect as they (Baxter and Carson) were. They were men, who, if elected, would not, by their private characters, be improper men to represent the county, but he wanted to point out that these men must not be tried by their business, family or social record, but by what they have to offer the public, the programme on which they appeal for their support.

Only Fair Way.

He said this because he believed it was the fair way to deal with the matter. He wanted to say further that the record of his friend, Mr. Carson, during a fairly long lifetime, coming in contact with the people who knew him well, being an employer for a number of years, was an honorable and clean one, personally, privately as well as politically, and while he did not feel that either Mr. Foster or Mr. Bentley would come here and throw mud at Mr. Carson, if in this hall

there should come a man, perhaps with more tongue than decency and attempt to defame Mr. Carson, the people would understand that though the leader may be honorable, the party was able to produce the muckraker whom he felt the people would not tolerate.

As regards himself, he would say that for nearly twenty-seven years he had been a member of the Bar of the Province of New Brunswick. He had been on the West Side, had lived there all his life, had grown up among his own people, had practised his profession among them. He had scarcely ever had what one might call a rich client, the most of those for whom he acted had been men of moderate means or very often men who were poor. "My own people know me and I will offer no other defense to my character when it is attacked than to say I will abide by the judgment of my own people who know me. If then, you believe that my character is creditable in private life, I will ask you whether it is possible for a man who is decent in private life to be otherwise in his public life," said Hon. Mr. Baxter.

Strong Timber.

Mr. Foster claimed that the whole government should be tried out of power as men who had been unfaithful. But of whom did the government consist. The Premier and leader of the government was the Hon. James A. Murray, and when his friend, Mr. Foster, came here he wanted him to give facts and to point out one thing that rendered Hon. Mr. Murray unfit for public life. Let him show where Hon. Dr. Landry ever fingered one dollar dishonestly. Let him show where Hon. B. Frank Smith had been dishonest. The opposition talked about Hon. Mr. Smith and the patriotic potatoes, but they had been given their answer. The opposition had the opportunity afforded them to inspect all the books and accounts in connection with every potato purchase in which the province of New Brunswick was concerned.

He would refer also to his friend, Hon. A. R. Slipp, the Minister of Lands and Mines, a man whose career had been honorable in York county, where he practised his profession. Let Mr. Foster or the opposition point to one thing against the minister either in his private or his public life. The other members of the government were equally free from the suspicion of wrong. These were fair tests for the people to apply, not the vague statement that the government was rotten. If the government was rotten, let Mr. Foster and the opposition place their fingers on what was rotten and show the public the men in the government who had done wrong. The opposition said that there were scandals in the government, but let them show one man who had done wrong. There had been men who were not now sitting in the House of Assembly against whom charges had been made.

Not Now in House.

These men were not now sitting in the house and it was not the voice of the opposition that had separated them from the House of Assembly. The government had insisted on every occasion when a charge of any weight had been made that it should be sifted to the very bottom by outside and independent judges.

What would the electors think of a man who had been accused of doing something wrong and who was allowed to appoint his father, brother and two cousins to investigate his charge. This was exactly the way the committees of the house in the days prior to 1908 had been formed, composed largely of men of the same political faith as the accused. That was the record of the government prior to 1908, when all charges were investigated by committees of the house, composed largely of partizan members of the government. His first experience at close range with these committees of the house had been in connection with the three-bridged charges—charges of incapacity against the late Hon. Mr. Emmerson. It was

clearly proved that several bridges had cost three times as much as they should, while in some cases it was established that bridges had cost as high as eleven times the normal cost. Mr. F. B. Carvell was the chairman of that investigation, while Mr. Pusey was paid for his services as a lawyer to defend the government of which he was a supporter. Let brother-jobs continue. Was this not the trial of a man by his father, brother and cousins?

The Reform Government.

Since the Hazen government came into power in 1908 there had not been a committee of the house appointed to try any man, but a fair and absolutely impartial tribunal had been selected. He wanted the electors to ask themselves why there were no royal commissions under the old government. He wanted them to put that question to the opposition candidates, who would come here to address them. Let them ask them why it was that the old government, which Mr. C. W. Robinson said had been barely held together and was well out of existence, carried on an investigation of charges by partizan committees of the house.

The Big Steal.

One of the first acts of this government had been to appoint an independent commission to investigate the affairs of the Central Railway and they found a shortage of \$131,900, an amount which to this day had not been accounted for. It was clear that this money of the people did not go into any of the things connected with the building of the railway. Where was it? There was an entry of "W. P. \$5,000," apparently a "white paint," \$5,000, which would be a little more enduring than whitewash. This was the condition of affairs that had been tolerated under the old government until the last. They had sat on the lid and never let the truth come out.

All Moneys Accounted For.

But conditions are different under this government. "And I want to say with the full responsibility of a public man making an important statement that since 1908 not one dollar of the moneys of the people of the province of New Brunswick has been diverted by any member of the government or of the house," declared the Attorney-General. Anything which the lumbermen may have given since 1908 had been contributed out of their own pockets, not out of the public chest, and this government had managed to keep the public chest from being looted. One of the spouters of the other side (Carvell) who was not in the class with either Mr. Foster or Mr. Bentley, had sat on the lid both at Fredericton and Ottawa, and his love for the people had only burst out after his party had gone out of power.

Hon. Mr. Baxter then discussed Mr. Foster's alleged statement on the finances of the province, pointing out the many inaccuracies in the opposition leader's statements. Mr. Foster had quoted the ordinary revenue, although both amounts were plainly printed in the Royal Gazette containing the financial statement. Mr. Foster had complained of the increase in the debt, but would he come to Fairville and declare that the government was not justified in erecting the splendid bridge across the Reversing Falls, or would he go to the other sections of the province and make the statement that the magnificent permanent structures that had been erected there were not a necessity, and that the government had not been justified in erecting them?

Dare Not Condemn Them.

Mr. Foster must either approve of these structures or condemn them—and he dare not condemn them. The erection of the new steel bridges meant a consequent increase in the public debt and it was a fact that this increase was absolutely justified. In connection with the item of interest when the old government went out of

power it appeared at \$178,569, while at the present time it amounted to \$261,000. That represented an increase of \$172,000. But immediately after taking office this government had to borrow \$2,100,000 to meet obligations at the banks which had been incurred under the old government. At four per cent, the interest of this loan would reach \$87,600, and if it took that amount to meet the obligations which the old government had created, there was \$55,000 remaining which this government was responsible for. Since 1908 this government had spent money on reasonable and prudent services. They had been neither parsimonious nor extravagant.

Needed Public Works.

He was proud of any money that the government had expended because it had gone for needed public works. The amount of \$2,285,000 had been expended on the permanent bridges for the people of the province, and the interest on this bonded indebtedness would amount to more than \$100,000, which, with the \$87,000 in interest charges, would wipe out the obligations of the old administration, making a total of \$187,000. It would be seen that the net increase in interest under this government did not reach that figure as the government had been successful with the aid of sinking funds in paying off some of the debt.

The Crown Lands.

Mr. Baxter contrasted this government's administration of the crown lands of the province with the administration under the old government. According to the published figures the cut for the last eight years of the old government amounted to 1,925,000,000 superficial feet, while under this government it amounted to 2,152,000,000 superficial feet. However, the customs returns showed that no more lumber was shipped out of the country, and there was internal evidence to show that the cut had not been larger. This government had also passed an advanced measure to provide for the classification of the crown lands of the province, to take the stock of the public domain. The Tweedie legislature had passed legislation of somewhat similar character, but had added a section that the act should not come into effect until it had been proclaimed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. "And, Mr. Chairman, it was never proclaimed," said Hon. Mr. Baxter.

Roads and Bridges.

The increased expenditures on roads and bridges in St. John county and the province generally was referred to by the Attorney-General, who quoted the official figures showing the additional amounts which this government had been able to expend by reason of the large increase in revenue. He referred to the advanced road policy which was being inaugurated by Hon. Mr. Smith. Great improvement in the condition of the roads of the county had been made since 1908 and with the operation of the minister's progressive policy still better results would accrue. Under Hon. Mr. Smith's scheme there would be a central administration, the man in charge being responsible to the minister, and the money expended under the direction of the minister of the department. This administration would be accompanied by the patrol system, which provided that a man should look after ten miles in his own section. He would be on the roads making the necessary improvements. Improved road machinery would be used in connection with the work.

The Crazy Quilt Policy.

Mr. Foster said that his policy was to have each school district elect a man to make the roads. In the parish of Leinster there were sixteen school districts, and one could imagine sixteen different districts having elections to choose the man who would take charge of the roads. Then there would be the question of boundaries. Smith would have quit making roads at the end of his district, while Jones who had different ideas of road-making would carry the work on in his adjoining school district. He would call that a crazy-quilt road policy. He thought that Mr. Foster was too much of a business man to place such a policy before the people.

The Attorney-General also referred to the improvement in the bridges under this government. He discussed the building of the Valley Railway which was opening up such a large agricultural district. This railway would not have been necessary had Mr. Carvell and other Liberals not

voted for the routing of the Transcontinental Railway through the centre of the province. As soon as conditions permitted work would be commenced on the new bridge at the falls to bring the Valley Railway to the West Side and over to the new harbor at Courtenay Bay.

Lower School Book Prices.

Hon. Mr. Baxter referred to this government's action in reducing the cost of school books and in providing pensions for the school teachers. He also discussed the advanced legislation with respect to workmen in providing that the employer must make compensation if the workman was injured in the course of his employment.

The Attorney-General before closing repeated his statements at the nominating convention, that the government was sincere in its desire to have a strict enforcement of the prohibitory law. He referred to Opposition Leader Foster's statement that he (Foster) would patch up any loopholes in the act. Did Mr. Foster know that the Dominion Alliance had submitted the act to their solicitor, the

Hon. W. P. Jones, who had stated that the act was a strong one and that he had no fault to find with its provisions. "The act is there and so far as the government is concerned it is there to be enforced," said Hon. Mr. Baxter.

The meeting was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

PERSONALS

William Wilkie, of the import department of the C. P. R., left last night for Montreal to spend the week-end.

Hon. Senator Pascal Poirier, of Shediac, was in the city yesterday. The popular senator was 65 years of age yesterday, but he does not look it.

GIRL WILL NOT BE HANGED FOR MURDER.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—Sentence of death passed upon Tena Maloney at Minnedosa, Man., for the murder of her mistress, has been commuted to life imprisonment.

AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE THEIR RELIEF WORK

London, Feb. 15.—A Reuter despatch from The Hague says the German legation there states that Germany is permitting Americans to continue relief work in Belgium and Northern France. An official note to this effect, the legislation states, was addressed on Feb. 10 to the diplomatic controller of nutrition work. Furthermore, the American minister at Brussels was given the opportunity to participate in the central management of the nutrition work.

The German authorities further declare, the legation states, that in the future, as in the past, they would be willing to accede to every demand of the commission for relief in Belgium.



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