PROVINCIAL FIGHT IS ON FEDERAL PARTY LINES

Mr. Michael McDade, Formerly With Opposition, Tells Why

Political History Leading in This Direction Outlined—Liberals Who Were in Opposition in 1903 Warmly Support Government Today

For more than a year past signs have indicated that the provincial political battle fixed for March 3rd would, in most counties, be fought on Dominion lines.

Why should it not be?

The Conservatives of the province, in convention assembled at Moncton nine years ago, declared in favor of drawing party lines in the provincial field. Although some prominent Conservaties opposed the proposal it was carried by a very large majority and finally made unanimous. As the result of that decision the stalwart Liberal premier of that day, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, lost the support of such strong Conservatives as Geo. W. Fowler of Kings county, now the leader of his party from this province in the Dominion parliament; George J. Clarke, M. P. P., one of Mr. Hazen's lieutenants; Col. Chipman, who succeded the late Premier Mitchell in the representation of Charlotte county, and hundreds of other prominent Conservatives whose names need not here be mentioned for the present purpose.

Why was not the challenge of the Conservative convention of 1898 accepted by the Liberal premier, Hon. Mr. Emmerson?

Because he believed it was not in the best interest of the premier or of the Liberal party that the challenge should be taken up by the Liberals just at that time. On taking the premiership, as the successor of Hon. James Mitchell, a Conservative, he found conditions for which he had been in no way responsible. To throw overboard the Conservative supporters with whom he had been associated in the government and in the legislative assembly—the ones who refused to be bound by the Moncton convention—would be an act of treachery to which Mr. Emmerson would be unwilling to descend. Besides, as a general provincial election was due soon after the Moncton convention, why should Mr. Emmerson not select his own time of accepting the challenge of the Conservative leaders? Perhaps, too, he saw an inclination on the part of Conservatives friendly in a provincial sense to judge fairly of the acts of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government in the Dominion field and thought a little delay would bring to the federal Liberal standard the Conservatives who refused to be bound by the Moncton convention.

Formation of Blair's Government

Mr. Blair could not have formed his cabinet in 1883 without taking into it such Conservatives as Hon. James Mitchell and Hon. P. G. Ryan. Stalwart Liberals of that day like Senator Ellis, Dr. Alward and the late Dr. Stockton only consented to Mr. Blair's associating Conservatives with himself in his first cabinet after they had found that such an arrangement, considering the federal political complexion of the legislature then, was absolutely necessary. It is believed, too, that Mr. Blair gave assurances to his Liberal friends that the government would be made Liberal at the earliest possible moment consistent with proper treatment of those Conservatives who had joined him in the overthrow of the Hanington-Landry government. Whether Mr. Blair was more concerned in building up a Blair party of Liberals and Conservatives, as some allege, or of carrying out his promises to Liberal friends need not be here discussed; but his course during the thirteen years of his premiership made conditions that could not be changed in a few months without dishonor or a political crisis, or both, and possibly defeat in the provincial election of 1899.

In 1901, Mr. Tweedie's first year in the legislature as Premier, Mr. Hazen charged him with having deserted the Conservative party in order to make sure of being Mr. Emmerson's successor as head of the New Brunswick government.

Mr. Tweedie Explains

Answering this, Mr. Tweedie among other things said: "There is no difference in general policy between the Liberal and Conservative parties; it is now a mere question between ins and outs. I have not changed my policy. I simply now am what I always was, a province man. I was against the policy of Mr. Foster with regard to this province. I was against the Moncton convention. I think that Mr. Foster did more to ruin the Conservative party by that convention than by any other act of his life. I believe that provincial politics should not be run on Dominion lines."

That declaration on the part of Premier Tweedie did not go far enough to suit the Liberal party generally. Hundreds of independent Liberals throughout the province, including W. S. Loggie, the present Dominion Liberal representative for Northumberland, could not see their way clear to support the Tweedie-Pugsley government because of that statement of the Premier, and because of the belief that the local government should be entirely Liberal in order to command the united Liberal support. They therefore joined Mr. Hazen in the last election, in fighting the Tweedie-Pugsley government. While such Liberals gave Mr. Haben loyal and hearty support, few of them had any expectations of seeing Mr. Hazen succeed in the appeal that was made to the people in 1903. If the Conservative leader of the opposition succeeded in defeating the provincial government, composed as it then was of Liberals and Conservatives alike, the independent Liberals who declined to support a composite government, were willing to take the full responsibility of their conduct, but their chief object was to hasten as far as possible the advent of a purely Liberal government at Fredericton. Mr. Hazen knew from at least some of such independent Liberals that if the time ever came when the appeal would be made as between his party and a provincial government composed entirely of Liberals that his independent Liberal supporters in the last election would, almost to a man, be found with the party which they support in federal politics.

FEDERAL POLITICS A FACTOR.

Why should not such be the case? Why should Liberals help to put Mr. Hazen and his Conservative friends in power at Fredericton as against a thoroughly Liberal government, having at its head such a brilliant Liberal as Hon. C. W. Robinson. The present Premier is described by his opponents as a very young man, but nearly 12 years ago he was old enough and strong enough to come within a few votes of defeating one of the ablest Conservatives in Canada, H. A. Powell, in the County of Westmorland, when the latter had all the influence of the then Conservative Dominion government at his back.

It may be said that it would be better for a province to have provincial politics run independent of federal politics altogether. There is not the slightest doubt that it would be, if the theory could be worked out in practice. But can it? We find Mr. Borden, the Dominion opposition leader, speaking of the success of the Conservative leaders in the provincial fields of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia as evidence that the Conservatives are gaining strength all over Canada. Would he not hail with delight the defeat of the Robinson-McKeown government? Would not his fellow-Conservative members of parliament go almost wild with joy of the news reached Ottawa on the night of March 3rd that the Liberal government of New Brunswick had been defeated by Mr. Hazen, the talented young Conservative who had proposed the convention of Conservatives at Moncton which declared in favor of running provincial politics on Dominion lines? If then the Liberals at Ottawa were to point to the fact that Mr. Hazen had abandoned the Moncton convention resolutions would they not be laughed to scorn by our Conservative friends with some such statement as "the Conservatives and Hazen understood each other all right?"

Once Messrs. Tweedie and Labillois declared themselves as Liberals (Dr. Pugsley had done so before the election of 1903)—the independent Liberals who had supported Mr. Hazen's party as against a composite government could very well have withdrawn their support from Mr. Hazen. Many of them did so. More than a few, attracted by his genial personality, continued on friendly political terms with him until it became a question with them as to which step they must take—continue to support Mr. Hazen or withdraw from the Liberal party.

MAN SMALLER THAN PARTY.

Under party government there must be party discipline. No man, no matter how independent he may feel, can affort to be bigger than his party. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier selected Hon. Wm. Pugsley for the important position of Minister of Public Works it was assumed by most Liberals that he had exercised wise judgment and that that he considered Dr. Pugsley had all the qualifications necessary for the leadership of the Liberal party in New Brunswick. When, therefore, Dr. Pugsley as a Dominion cabinet member and leader of the Liberal party in this province, states his belief that the time has come when the Dominion Liberal government and the New Brunswick Liberal government must fight side by side what seems to be the duty of all good Liberals? Surely it is to respond to the call, unless of course it can be shown that the Liberal government at Fredericton is unworthy of support.

Mr. Hazen and his party declare that the government should be defeated on its record, and attack the Minister of Public Works with respect to his Dominion politics and as attorney general with a violence which shows an unequalled capacity for saying unpleasant things.

Among other things they claim that the Robinson-McKeown government should be defeated because of some of the amounts paid to Dr. Pugsley when he was attorney general in the Tweedie-Pugsley government. They charge that the province had to pay the private telegraphic bills of Dr. Pugsley; that his charges in connection with the collection of succession duties were excessive, and that he was paid many times more than he should have been for services for the province re the Eastern Extension claims, fisheries, representation and other cases. Such charges had been refuted many times over by Dr. Pugsley on the floors of the legislative assembly as well as on the public platform, but in the absence of Dr. Pugsley at Ottawa they are repeated by the opposition in every section of the province with the hope of injuring the minister and the Liberal governments at Ottawa and Fredericton.

OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN CHARGES.

One of the opposition campaign charges is that "the provincial treasury has been plundered by the ex-atorney general to the amount of $48,000 in the last six years." The amount as stated in the legislature was $41,000. Here is Dr. Pugsley's answer to some of these charges:

"That amount included all the payments he had received for his services for ten years back, even before he was a member of the legislature or of the government. It extended back to the time when he was carrying on the case of the Eastern Extension claim for the province against the Dominion, which resulted in the addition of $283,000 to the provincial treasury. It included all his sessional indemnities, all his salary as attorney general, all the expenses in connection with the collection of succession duties, all travelling expenses and office contingencies. It even took in payments made to other counsel employed in cases on behalf of the province. When this charge had been made against him on the floor of the house he had challenged the opposition to point out one improper item in this amount, and they had been dumb. He had asked them to appoint a reputable barrister of the province, he would appoint another, and the two could appoint a third, as a commission to go over the whole account and if any improper item was found he would give a bond guaranteeing to refund it. They had refused to take this course, they were fully aware of the circumstances, and yet Mr. Hazen allows his associates to go on the platform and repeat these exploded charges. He thought that public men were entitled to fairer treatment than this.

"He had also been accused of charging up to the province his private telegraph bills to a considerable amount. That had also been fully explained in the legislature. Repeating the explanation to the audience, he pointed out that many of the telegrams which came to him as minister were charged up in a lump sum by the telegraph company, and it was his custom at the end of every quarter to go over the bill and separate the telegrams which referred to his private affairs from those which concerned the public business. But once when he was absent and his office management was in the hands of clerks this had been neglected and a considerable amount of private business telegrams had been charged to the government account. He discovered this error himself, called the attention of the auditor general to it and sent him a check for the amount. Mr. Hazen was very well aware of this, and yet opposition speakers referred to this as something very improper, which was wholly unwarranted."

HON. MR. HILL'S OPINION.

The leader of the opposition has a high opinion of Hon. Mr. Hill, speaking of him in the legislature as "one of the ablest, most experienced and respected gentlemen in public life today"—an opinion with which all who know the ex-member for Charlotte will thoroughly agree.

Well, this is how Mr. Hill answered the opposition criticism regarding amounts paid Dr. Pugsley for services:

"I cannot think that the gentlemen opposite can be sincere in their remarks. They must be just as proud as we are to have such a man as the attorney general with his great ability. When I came to this house 20 years ago the government was pressing for the payment of the Eastern Extension claim. Every government since has pressed for the amount, but it was not until the able hand of the attorney general was placed that the government was paid its share. Not only is he the ablest man in the province but he is the peer of any in the Dominion in his sphere of action. In regard to the valuation of his services I think they are very moderate, since he could easily earn ten times as much if he devoted his time to his private practice. No man devoted more time and energy to the public business than the honorable attorney general. I have opposed the government on some measures which I did not consider in the interest of the province, but this is by no means a condemnation of their policy, which in general is most commendable and worthy of support."

Mr. Hazen and his supporters do not seem to take kindly to Dr. Pugsley as the federal Liberal leader of New Brunswick. They charge him with having been a Conservative and of having expressed want of confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier before the Liberal party came into power, and some of their charges are intended to excite prejudice and passion.

DR. PUGSLEY ANSWERS CHARGES

Here are some of Dr. Pugsley's answers to such charges:

"As to the change in my political relations I do not wonder that the leader of the opposition feels sore as to what took place in 1896. I had been nominated by the Conservatives of Kings before the party took up the Remedial Bill. I took the view that the people of Manitoba should be left alone.

"I retired. My retirement was made with the consent of Mr. Foster. When I retired I was happy and free to do as I pleased. I owed the party nothing. All the money that had been spent in connection with my candidature had been my own. Then came the great act of injustice which was done to the city of St. John in connection with the contract for the fast line. A great wave of indignation swept over that city, for all the hopes of our people with respect to St. John as a winter port of Canada were about to be blighted. Then arose the Independent party. I became a candidate of that party, as I had a right to do, and my honorable friend (Mr. Hazen) went down in that fight. He has quoted a speech of mine in which I said that the Independents could not trust Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has since proved himself worthy of trust, for he has settled the Manitoba school question. Instead of being merely the representative of one province we have found him to be a truly representative Canadian, and no man stands in a grander position than the Premier of Canada. I broke away from the Conservative party not when they were in distress, but in the height of their prosperity. I left their ship when it was sailing smooth seas, and on what principle could I go back to it in view of the manner in which the Liberal party dealt with the affairs of the country and with the city of St. John?"

Again: "I opposed the remedial bill, not from religious prejudices, but because I regarded it as contrary to the provisions of constitution and as an attempt to force upon the people of Manitoba a law to which they were opposed. I believe that if an attempt had been made to enforce it, it would have caused a rebellion in the province. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when he became Premier, settled the question in a manner satisfactory to all, and instead of almost a rebellion we have peace, harmony and prosperity. I trust that my honorable friend will not again, on the discussion of the question of supply, attempt to drag in those old religious issues which are long since dead and buried."

And again—this time after having been selected by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the important post of Minister of Public Works and leader of the federal Liberal party in New Brunswick, Dr. Pugsley said that he left the Conservative party before the election of 1906 being forced to take issue with his party on account of their injustice to Canadian ports. "But," he said, "if I had not joined the Liberals then, having in mind the grand and patriotic Liberal leader Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who, whether at home or abroad, whether in the Canadian parliament or in conference with statesmen of the Empire, always so conducted himself as to win universal admiration and universal recognition of the fact that he could always be depended upon to do the right thing at the right time, having this in mind and the splendid work done by the Liberal party since it came into power—if I had not become a Liberal then, I would consider it my duty to become a Liberal now and to join with them in making Canada a great and prosperous nation."

DR. STOCKTON'S POLITICAL CHANGE.

Mr. Hazen seems to think that Dr. Pugsley is not a good enough Liberal to be the leader of the Liberal party in New Brunswick because he at one time had been a Conservative. How does he reconcile that view with his support of the late gifted Dr. Stockton, who, after having been a Liberal all his life, until 1889, became a most distinguished Conservative? It will be remembered that in the legislature Dr. Stockton previous to 1889 declared:

"He would be ashamed to belong to a party which had never done anything for the progress of the world, or the elevation of the race. Mr. Wetmore (the then Conservative opposition leader) might boast that he was a lineal descendant of the old blue blood tory party, but what had that party ever done in England or the colonies for the enfranchisement of the masses or the promotion of human happiness? He (Stockton) had been brought up a Liberal, his views were Liberal, and he trusted he would always be found fighting the battles of the people at large against the exclusiveness or pretensions of any class."

Having accepted Dr. Stockton with open arms into the Conservative party, notwithstanding the doctor's former declaration regarding Conservatives generally, why should Mr. Hazen object to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's selection of Dr. Pugsley as the New Brunswick Liberal leader because the latter had at one time been a Conservative?

How many of the hundreds of Liberals who supported Mr. Hazen's party in 1903 as against a composite government are now with him against the Robinson-McKeown Liberal administration? Will Mr. Hazen kindly call the roll? Has he not discovered before now that ninety-nine out of every one hundred Liberals who were with him in 1903 are with the Fredericton Liberal government in the present campaign, and that Dr. Pugsley as the federal Liberal leader has the support and confidence of all sections of the Liberal party?

MICHAEL McDADE.

CHIPMAN, QUEENS CO., GIVES AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO LIBERAL SPEAKERS

CHIPMAN, N. B., Feb. 13.—"We are going to carry Chipman," is being put forward by the opposition candidates in Queens, and with this end in view they have been for the past few weeks making a dead set on the parish of Chipman, but that their efforts are in vain was plainly shown at the meeting held in the public hall last evening in support of the government candidates, by Colonel McLean of St. John and Senator King. The meeting was undoubtedly the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in Chipman.

The large Chipman hall, which has a large seating capacity, would not contain the crowd even after 150 chairs were brought in from outside. The large platform was especially reserved for ladies and this was so completely crowded that only room for the speakers was left.

Despite that all this was done, standing room could not be obtained and nearly one hundred persons were turned away. The crowd were wildly enthusiastic and time and time again greeted the speakers with cheers. Besides this number over 100 Chipman voters are in the lumber camps and could not attend.

Colonel McLean, who was heard for the first time in Chipman, received a grand reception when he was introduced by the chairman.

His witty remarks caught the crowd. He said that he heard that Chipman was going opposition. This was greeted with laughter and cries, "We will show them whether it is or not." but that this meeting did not look like it. He wished all who were in favor of the government candidates to stand up and give three cheers for them, with the result that only a few of the opposition leaders sitting near the door, in the large audience who did not stand up and join in giving three rousing cheers for Farris and Carpenter.

The colonel then struck right into the financial question and showed the absolute absurdity of the opposition charges in this respect.

He showed that Hazen and Fleming themselves could not agree as to the debt, going into their statements very minutely. He showed that the debt of New Brunswick was less per capita than any other province in the Dominion.

He then dealt with Morrissey's charges in reference to the lumber question.

In concluding his speech Colonel McLean showed that the present government is a constructive government, while the opposition have only shown themselves unfair critics.

Senator King upon being called upon was greeted with great applause, showing that he has lost none of his old time strength in Chipman. He was in excellent form and delivered one of the ablest speeches ever given by him, and at frequent intervals caused his audience to break out into cheer after cheer.

In opening he said, "It is being reported around Chipman that I am receiving ten dollars per day for my services as a commissioner for the Central Railway. I want to give this lie a flat denial as it is absolutely false." (Cheers.) "I want any reporters who are present, to take that down and every word and every line that I may say as I am prepared at any future time to stand by every statement which I shall make here tonight." The Senator then went at length into the history of the Central Railway and showed that the first subsidy given to the Central Railway was by the Conservative government and this subsidy was for only 40 miles which would only bring it within a half mile of Chipman. "If," he said, "the Conservatives had done as they should have at that time the Central Railway would have been to Newcastle 20 years ago." He showed in a clear way how the Newcastle coal had formerly had such a poor reputation. This coal was handled nine times before it reached the consumer, and it was then so full of dirt and broken up that it was no good.

"I have," he said, "been accused of grafting off the Central Railway. Let me say right here that I have never handled one dollar of the money belonging to the Central Railway, nor have I signed a single check as a commissioner of that road. We have had the accounts of the road audited frequently by an expert auditor and we are prepared at any time to open up all the accounts and books of the Central Railway for inspection and if it can be shown that I have received a single cent from that road I am prepared to pay it back." (Cheers.)

Senator King then dealt with the statement made by Mr. Maxwell in St. John on Monday night, in which speech Mr. Maxwell accused the government of keeping the road open at large loss for the sake of helping out a few of the miners who were supporters of the government. Mr. King stated that this was false as one of the largest coal shippers, Harvey Welton, who is a Conservative and probably always will be, and who was present at the meeting, was receiving the same rates as the friends of the government. He said that for the last two months 200 tons of coal per day was passing over the Central Railway.

The Senator said that Queens and Sunbury counties had been known for many years as a leading lumber producing centre, and he was prepared to say that all the lumber cut on the Newcastle Stream, Salmon Creek, Salmon River and its tributaries, Coal Creek, the Washademoak, including the Canaan River and its tributaries, will not produce half the amount in value of the coal at the present rate of production which will go over the Central Railway this year.

He said that during the past seven years he had gone across the continent twenty times and three times in the last year, and he was satisfied that there was not a place in Canada or the United States where better wages are being paid than in New Brunswick, especially in Minto and Chipman. He further went on to speak of the increase of production at the mines to 300 tons per day which could be easily accomplished, as labor was more abundant than formerly. Two hundred miners in addition to those now working would produce daily the additional 300 tons required, would give an output of 500 tons per day. This could be easily transported by two additional trains costing $45 per day. The freight on the 300 tons at 55 cents would amount to $165 per day, which, after deducting cost of three trains, would mean a net profit of $112 per day. This added to the net profit since 1st December, at which time the repairs of the road were completed and bridges fully strengthened so as to enable the handling the heavier loads with safety, the net earnings or profit from that time showing $1,200 per month. Add this to $3,120, which would be additional profit if the extra 300 tons was being sent over the road would make net earnings or profits $4,320 per month. This multiplied by 12 gives a net profit of $51,840 for the year. No additional expense would be requred for office staff at Norton or for section men or station agents.

It would be noticed that no credit is taken in this calculation for increased passenger traffic and general freight, which the additional number of miners employed would give to the railway.

In addition to the above the government would receive by way of royalty on coal mined, say 500 tons at 10 cents per ton, amounts to $50 per day, or $15,650 per annum. This added to the net earnings as above stated, would make a total of $67,490 per year. From this it would be fair to deduct for maintenance of way and other incidental expenses, $7,490, which would leave net profit for the year of $60,000. But in this we have not figured on increased business which must necessarily be derived from the building of the G. T. Pacific, and which will doubtless amount to a very large sum.

The net profit would provide for the interest on $800,000 bonds at 4 per cent, amounting to $32,000 and $28,000 to go to the credit of the road after paying interest on the bonds. Mr. King referred briefly to the statements which were made in reference to the thinness of the coal seams in the Queens and Sunbury mines. He showed that the quantity was there and that if the quantity was there and the quality and price were right, it did not make any difference whether the seams were thick or thin. "It has been clearly demonstrated," he said, "that there is a cash market now available for more than 500 tons per day. The Intercolonial railway would have taken that amount right along if it could have been produced, and are now and have been using it for some time on their trains between St. John and Moncton and their only complaint is that they don't get enough of it."

"I have it on good authority that Mr. Hays of the G. T. P. Railway, has stated that when that road is completed its acquirements from the Minto mines will exceed 200,000 tons per annum. For instance it is known that they intend to erect a coaling plant at Chipman for their locomotives. Messrs. Corbett and Floesct contractors are about placing an order for 700 tons for early spring for use in construction. The coal from the Minto mines is already finding its way up into Quebec. The Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway is using it and the manager of that road informed me a few days ago that he preferred to any other coal he had used on his road.

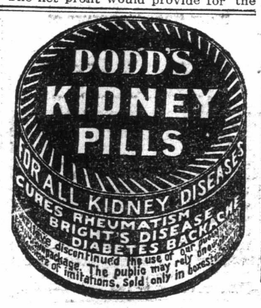
"Practically all the branch roads in New Brunswick have tested the coal and are absolutely satisfied with its quality. If the road should be taken over by the Grand Trunk Pacific or any other organization the amount of royalty referred to will still be paid into the provincial treasury.

"I have very strong doubts whether Mr. Maxwell who has been doing so much talking about the Central Railway has ever seen that road and who still presists in characterizing it as a right of way and two streaks of rust.

"I want to say that since the time the road has been taken over by the government that it has given a daily service without interruption and has been absolutely free from an accident of serious character." Mr. King went on to say that in the history of the Central Railway given by Mr. Hazen in the Telegraph he stated that the Central Railway between Norton and Chipman, distance 45 miles, received a subsidy amounting to $190,000, while the report of the Minister of Railways and Canals gives the amount at $142,400, or a difference of nearly $48,000 in this item alone. "This blunder of Mr. Hazen should have been corrected before this statement was reproduced in the Telegraph a few weeks ago."

In concluding the senator said that as a paying proposition he put the Central Railway against all the branch lines reported upon by Messrs. Burns and Brown, this being due to the fact that it has a traffic in coal which no other branch line in New Brunswick has.

The meeting came to a close with ringing cheers for the King, Premier Robinson, the candidates, Col. McLean and Senator King.



GOOD MEETING AT ST. GEORGE

ST. GEORGE, N. B., Feb. 13.—By an immense concourse of people and with the inspiring music of the St. George Cornet Band, Premier Robinson was met at the depot and escorted to his hotel.

It has been many years since so big a demonstration has been held here. At the meeting in the hall in the evening one of the largest audiences ever seen here assembled to listen to the speeches from Geo. B. Byron, Geo. J. Hill, R. E. Armstrong and Andrew McGee, the government candidates.

Premier Robinson was in good form and dealt with every phase of the questions at issue. He dwelt on the financial condition of the province, and in spite of the talk and bluster of the opposition showed that no province in Canada was in better financial standing today than New Brunswick.

He showed that Mr. Hazen's statement of the debt of the province being nine millions of dollars was absurd. He spoke at length on education matters and said the present government had made an increase of $25,000 in the salaries of teachers, and also provided a pension fund.

In the matter of school books he showed conclusively that the cost of school books in New Brunswick was less than in any province in the Dominion. Speaking of the highway act, he said this government would meet the demands of the people and make any change called for. In some sections the act worked well. He explained the attitude of the government in the Central Railway and considered it one of the best assets of the province. He was pleased to notice that Mr. Hazen in his Campbellton speech said the road should not be left in the woods. In a reference to the mineral deposits of the province he spoke of Lepreau and its deposits of iron ore and said the government would assist in every was in the development of this important industry. He urged the county to assist the government by returning the four government candidates, as important matters were now pending with the federal government and he wanted Charlotte to strengthen his hand.

Senator Gillmor, who came in during the evening, received a great ovation and made a telling speech. The reports from all over the county are most encouraging, and on March 3rd Charlotte will probably return four government supporters.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

GOVERNMENT MEETING AT WESTFIELD STATION

WESTFIELD, Feb. 13.—There was a good attendance at the meeting in the interest of the government candidates here tonight. Addresses were delivered by Major Wtmore, Dr. McAllister and G. G. Scovil, who all received a splendid reception and hearing. F. W. C. Nase was chairman, and for more than two hours the electors listened to a frank discussion of the public affairs of the province. Major Wetmore went carefully into the opposition statements of the debt of the province, exposing their falsity and showed how generously the government had treated the agricultural interests.

Dr. McAllister in a speech full of pleasant allusions to current opposition canvasses answered them happily and satisfactorily. The school book slander was thoroughly exposed and the difficulty in making a satisfactory road law was presented from the standpoint of intricate knowledge of all the circumstances—the unsatisfactory working of the old law, the attempts to place the new law into successful operation and the necessity for some change that will meet the views of the people. He made a splendid impression upon the audience by his convincing speech.

Mr. Scovil, though suffering from much hoarseness, compared the prices of the school books in the several provinces, showing New Brunswick's to be lower than any and in a brief but concise way told the story of the Central Railway, its failure under private management and of the decision of the government to save the subsidies, improve the road and operate it in the interests of the people. Mr. Scovil lives on the line of the Central railway, and he spoke with full knowledge of the facts when he told the people how it was carrying more coal than ever in its history and was paying handsomely today. In his opinion the government had as much right to operate this railway in the interests of the people as they had to build bridges and wharves.

Fred E. Sharpe addressed the meeting briefly and the parish committee men present held a meeting later.

WILLIAM SELLS, THE FAMOUS CIRCUS MAN, IS DEAD

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—William Sells, the last of the three brothers who organized the famous Sells Bros. circus combination, died suddenly in his apartments in West 35th street early today. He had been ill for several weeks but his condition had been improving steadily and it was believed he was on the road to recovery. Early this morning he had a sudden change for the worse and died before a physician reached the house. He was 42 years old.

WARM RECEPTION AWAITS DR. PUGSLEY IN RESTIGOUCHE

CAMPBELLTON, N. B., Feb. 16.—Messrs. Labillois and Currie are gaining friends daily in this county, and their election on March 3rd is a foregone conclusion. Last week the candidates accompanied by A. E. G. Mckenzie and Arthur T. Leblanc, addressed meetings in several places in the county, and they will continue to do so this week.

Every one is looking forward to the coming of Hon. Wm. Pugsley here on the 19th, and he will be accorded a magnificent reception. Mr. Labillois will speak in French on the same evening.

SCHOOLS REOPENED AFTER SMALLPOX SCARE

HOPEWELL HILL, Feb. 13.—The school here, which was closed for two weeks on account of the smallpox epidemic, reopened this week. Church services will be resumed next Sunday, February 16th. The school at Lower Cape was closed last week and will not reopen until next week or later, there being a case of smallpox there. The afflicted one is a two-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hawkes, and has had little more than a rash. The residents express no fear of contagion. A number of persons throughout the country have been very sick with vaccination.

Some parties paid a visit to McLaughlin's lumber camp one night recently after the crew had turned in for the night, and appropriated some luxuries as well as the necessaries of life, making off, it is told, with five pounds of tobacco and a quantity of beef. The camp was under quarantine at the time.

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