

FACE TO FACE!

The Government Candidates Triumph on the Hustings

Ringling Speeches of Messrs. Jones, Shaw and Good.

The Opposition Charges Fully Met and Satisfactorily Explained.

Nomination proceedings at the Court House, Saturday, were of an unusually interesting character. The building was completely filled with electors from every section of the County, two-thirds of whom were enthusiastic supporters of the government ticket. It had been the boast of the opposition that the government ticket would be mere weaklings on the platform compared with their opponents, but such did not prove the case. The straightforward, manly addresses of Messrs. Shaw, Jones and Good, were in marked contrast to the labored efforts of the opposition candidates. The honors of the day were clearly with the government, and are a happy forerunner of the greater victory to be won on the 28th.

Sharp at two o'clock the returning officer, Sheriff Hayward, announced that he had received the following nominations:—Frank R. Shaw, Wendell P. Jones, William C. Good; J. Kidd Fleming, B. Frank Smith and J. Chipman Hartley.

The nomination papers of Frank R. Shaw, Wendell P. Jones and William C. Good were signed by G. W. Vanwart, Alex. Henderson, John McCormac, H. Paxton Baird, Williamson Fisher, J. J. Hale, Allen Bradley, Thos. Bohan, C. E. Gallagher, H. H. McCain, A. S. Estey, Hugh Hay, Bradford Palmer, C. P. Bull, Alex. Simonson, J. R. Murphy, John N. Harper, W. N. Hand, John Grass, C. M. Donnelly, J. Corkery, W. B. Nicholson, John D. Baird, Jos. Fewer, Geo. H. Saunders, J. Wesley Slipp and A. B. Jones.

J. Chipman Hartley, B. Frank Smith and J. Kidd Fleming were nominated by J. T. A. Dibble, W. D. Smith, A. B. Connell, John Connor, B. B. Manzer, H. E. Burt, J. C. Gibson, E. J. Clarke, A. G. Bailey, G. E. Balmain, Wm. Balmain, C. R. Watson, A. C. Burden, C. Comben, H. W. Bourne, J. R. Lindow, Fred Scoville, C. J. Tabor, G. F. Smith, C. B. Snow, R. J. Lindsay, F. Byron Bull, W. D. Rankin, J. W. Bull, H. G. Noble, Murray Saunders and D. McLeod Vince.

A poll was demanded by Col. Vince, after which the returning officer adjourned the court until Tuesday, March 3rd, at 10 o'clock.

On motion of F. B. Carvell, seconded by Col. D. McLeod Vince, Sheriff Hayward was elected chairman, and without any preliminaries introduced J. Kidd Fleming as the first speaker, who was received with applause. He was very happy to be the recipient of such a reception, and deprecated any personalities in the campaign. He said it was the duty of a representative to stand up for the interests of all his constituents, and that he had tried to do so irrespective of party. He admitted that the government had promoted some very excellent measures and promised if elected to continue to support any worthy enactment. The Dry Dock in St. John was spoken of as one of these, and was admitted to be a very praiseworthy measure. The government had also put forward a cold storage measure, which he thought entirely in the interests of the farmers of the province. The present contest was referred to by the speaker as not being a party fight. He admitted that the opposition in its frantic efforts to secure votes was willing to do anything and even take backwater from their famous Moncton convention platform. The exploded bridge charges were referred to by the speaker, and in a labored effort he endeavored to make capital against the government, but his efforts fell flat. No enthusiasm whatever could be aroused, the electors evidently being tired of an issue upon which the people of the province had so effectually pronounced at the last election. The agricultural policy was touched upon, and once again Mr. Fleming had to acknowledge the efforts that had been put forward by the Tweedie administration to assist the farmers of the province, his only complaint being that larger sums had not been spent in this regard. The money spent in bounties on butter factories, cheese factories and flour mills was admitted to be a worthy use of the public funds and received his hearty approval. The change of school books was spoken of as a grievance, but he

evidently forgot the fact that the readers now in use take the place of others that had been introduced nearly forty years ago, and in that length of time had become entirely out of date. Not knowing anything of a serious nature to prefer against the executive, the matter of cab fare was threshed out, the speaker being unwilling that the representatives of the people should be hauled to and from their hotels while engaged in public business.

Frank Rowe Shaw was received with a perfect torrent of applause. He expressed his faith in the election of the whole ticket, which sentiment was followed by prolonged applause. The defeat of the speaker at the by-election of 1899 was referred to as not being of any avail, in so far as the opposition was concerned. As a farmer he could thoroughly endorse the actions of the administration. The so-called "progressive policy" of the opposition was not so good as the really progressive policy of the Tweedie and the Emerson administrations. A few years ago Hon. Henry R. Emerson, then premier of the province, was far seeing enough to see that immense sums were being sent out of the province for flour, that might be kept at home. As a result, the bounties on flour mills was inaugurated and to-day the waving fields of wheat produced every year proved the wisdom of that policy. Even Mr. Fleming dare not stand up before an audience and say he disapproved of that policy.

At this juncture a number of hoodlums tried to interrupt the speaker, but the vigorous action of the sheriff quickly restored order.

The importation of horses was referred to as a policy that was self-evident as one entirely beneficial. Cheese factories that to any dairymen country are necessary were fostered and encouraged by the present government. The leader of the opposition had gone up and down the country raving about the New Brunswick ballot, but was it a desire for greater purity in elections that prompted him? Was it the opinion of any fair minded man that greater purity had been brought about by the introduction of the secret ballot in federal politics? The policy of Mr. Hazen in proposing a gerrymander of the province into ridings was severely condemned as only a repetition of the effort accomplished by the Tory party in 1882 in the province of Ontario. The audience was thoroughly aroused as Mr. Shaw condemned the proposed gerrymander. Under the policy of the opposition there would be thirty-eight contests in the province, whereas at the present only sixteen electoral divisions exist. This would greatly encourage bribery and corruption. In reference to the claim of the previous speaker that extravagance existed at Fredericton, Mr. Shaw, amid great applause, read the report of the committee on public accounts, signed by the committee, including Messrs. Humphrey and Melanson, both opposition members, which entirely exonerated the administration from charges of extravagance. Here was the opportunity for the opposition members of that committee to make a minority report if anything existed that could be condemned, but like good business men as they are, they could not but sign the report. It was only a question of fighting for office on the part of the opposition. As this sentiment was expressed the applause was deafening. In closing, the electors were promised that if elected the speaker would go to the legislative halls and discharge the duties of the office with diligence and care. (Great applause.)

J. Chipman Hartley was received with cheers. He was flattered at the reception tendered him. It was not his personal desire to become a candidate but he had yielded to the request of the party. With reference to the importation of horses he labored to show that carelessness had existed, but the effort was in vain. Carleton county people have seen some of these animals and are good judges of horseflesh, and no amount of opposition campaign literature can induce them to condemn the

policy of the government in regard to the importation of pure blooded stock. In speaking of the fact that some members of the present administration were at one time conservatives, the speaker while claiming to be a conservative forgot to mention that he at one time supported the Blair administration. If elected he hoped that he would so discharge his trust that he would not have to buy his way back into the house.

Wendell P. Jones received an ovation as he stepped to the front. In his initial appearance as a candidate he could truthfully say that he had not sought a nomination, but being requested by a convention of the government party of the county of Carleton, he accepted the nomination and made it his determination to do everything lawful to ensure the election of the government ticket. He had been proud to accept the nomination and was fifty times prouder now that he had been over a large part of the county and met with such splendid and spontaneous expressions of support. In all probability the speaker said that notwithstanding the flowery speech of Mr. Fleming he would venture the assertion that it was the fiftieth time that gentleman had delivered the oration (Prolonged applause). Would not the electors expect a candidate like Mr. Fleming to come back with a smooth story but would they believe his assertions of extravagance? The speaker did not consider it possible that a gentleman of Mr. Fleming's stamp would come before an intelligent audience and repeat the threadbare bridge charges that had been so completely exploded. The very people who are finding fault with the Tweedie government are the men who to-day oppose the federal government and the very men who for eighteen years supported one of the most corrupt administrations that ever existed. If you have a tried and trusted servant will he be turned aside to make way for an untried stranger? What would the gain be if the present administration were turned down? The present fight is one between the liberal and the conservative parties. The Hon. Minister of Railways has said the present local administration is composed of good enough liberals for him. Then said the speaker, "they are good enough liberals for me." (Applause.) The only criticism Mr. Fleming could make against the agricultural policy of the government was a flimsy question of book-keeping, one that the opposition could not put forward with seriousness. Why does not Mr. Hazen come out and say what amounts he will spend on the various services? The platform of the opposition was a hazy, indefinite fabric that amounted to nothing. The opposition do not oppose the agricultural policy of the government. When Mr. Emerson inaugurated the wheat policy he was ridiculed by the whole opposition. What to-day is the case? Mr. Fleming, the chief lieutenant of the opposition leader, stands up and acknowledges the criticism of his party at that time as being entirely wrong. Just so would it be five years hence. Mr. Fleming would then stand up and acknowledge his criticism of to-day just as inaccurate as those of five years ago. (Great applause.) The opposition tried hard to prove the inefficiency of the Hon. Wm. Pugsley. Who was it that Fred Hale, M. P., employed recently in an equity suit involving thousands of dollars? It was this same William Pugsley. (Great applause.) The Sun and Mr. Fleming were shown to be at variance. While the Sun throws discredit upon and pokes fun at the efforts of the attorney general in his pursuit of the provincial policy, Mr. Fleming has promised, if elected, he will support the opposition in pursuing that policy if they be returned to power. It was a matter of great concern that the ablest member of the New Brunswick bar be kept at the helm while such important cases were unfinished. The public debt was referred to and it was shown that enormous additions had been made, \$2,215,000, during the time from 1870 up to 1883.

by the conservative administrations. In the twenty years that have gone by since then, only an average of \$30,000 per year had been added, against an average of \$170,000 during conservative rule. (Cheers.) The opposition had never dared in any instance to stand up in the house and be recorded as opposed to a single item of expenditure proposed by the government. (Applause.)

And now Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I wish to speak to you about a matter which has not been referred to by any of the speakers here to-day, but which has been made an issue in this campaign by the friends of the opposition party.

Some days ago there appeared in the St. John Sun a statement which had been made by Titus J. Carter at Grand Falls, at a political meeting, in which statement Mr. Carter reflected upon the government in a contemptible and false manner, for what he called their mismanagement and dishonesty in connection with the estate of a lunatic who was confined in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. This statement was wholly misleading. And while Mr. Carter's charges reflected upon the government they also reflected upon myself in such a manner that I feel called upon to more particularly to reply to them here to-day. And this the more because this garbled statement has been published in circular form by the opposition party in this province and cast broadcast throughout the country. The facts are these: Daniel Bell became insane and went to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum from this County early in the year 1899. When Mr. Bell went into the asylum he left some property. Some time after he was admitted, an application was made by Mr. Vince, on behalf of one of his sons, to Mr. Justice Landry, for the appointment of a committee of his estate. I was instructed by the Asylum Commissioners to appear for them on the hearing of this application, and to guard their interests in the matter. I stated there that the commissioners were very desirous that a committee should be appointed, and would throw no obstacle in the way of the applicant, provided he complied with the law with reference to bonds. The result of this application was that an order was made appointing the applicant the committee, upon bonds being first given as security for the lawful administration of the estate. These bonds were never given and the matter dropped. There was then no person for some months who had any right to represent the estate. In the meantime there was an accumulation of account against Mr. Bell for maintenance in the asylum, and in July of that year I was instructed by the commissioners to take charge of the property of the lunatic, which was being scattered and wasted. I may explain to you that the law provides that when a person is confined in the asylum, and no provision made by his relatives or others for his support, and when the Municipality from which he comes refuses to pay for his support, on the ground that he has property, the commissioners of the asylum may take possession of a part or all of his property, whether actually required at the time for his maintenance or not.

And I wish to explain also that I was acting merely as a Solicitor; I was not in politics; I was open for business, and was willing to undertake a business for the commissioners as I would for any person. This personal property, with the exception of some promissory notes, to which I will refer later, was advertised and publicly sold by Albion R. Foster, deputy sheriff for the county of Carleton and an auctioneer for the county. The proceeds of this sale were then forwarded by me to Mr. Robert Marshall, who was then and had been for many years previous the secretary of the asylum. Mr. Marshall was an old and valuable public official, but he made a mistake in crediting this money, and instead of placing it to the credit of Daniel Bell, as instructed by me, he placed it to the credit of one William Briggs, who was also at that time an inmate of the asylum.

Now I wish you carefully to remember how this mistake occurred, and it did occur because this mistake, which was merely a clerical error, was the sole ground of the Equity suit about which Mr. Carter speaks in his address. Now, sir, when Mr. Carter made that address he knew that this mistake had occurred, and yet he had not manliness enough to state the facts, and why? Because if he had stated the facts the foundation of his charges would have fallen to the ground.

Mr. Carter accuses the commissioners of taking from Mrs. Bell and keeping promissory notes amounting to \$2000, when he knows and when he

himself has stated in the bill which he brought in the Equity Court in this matter, that those notes were returned by the Commissioners to Mrs. Bell. The records of the Court prove this.

Now a mistake having been made in crediting the money to William Briggs, instead of to Daniel Bell, there did not appear any credit to Daniel Bell on the Asylum books, and the senior commissioner of the Asylum wrote to me and asked me to go to the record office and make a thorough search as to the real estate owned by the late Daniel W. Bell and to ascertain the value of the different parcels. This I did, and I spent two or three months off and on in searching and in investigating these matters. Mr. Bell had been a heavy dealer in real estate, and I had to examine more than 170 conveyances to and from Daniel Bell, most of them prepared in a Country district and with very loose descriptions of the property conveyed. But before this search had been completed, on the 27th July I wrote the following letter to the Hon. Mr. Tweedie:—

Woodstock, N. B., July 27, 1899.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie, Chatham.
Dear Sir:—Re Daniel G. Bell, a Lunatic. I have taken possession for the Commissioners of all the personal property which can be found. It consists of quite a number of promissory notes which I am endeavouring to collect, three horses and some other articles. The Act does not seem to give the Commissioners power to sue notes. Have they the power? I fancy that a good many notes will have to be sued, the most of them before Commissioners, as the amounts are small. I thought of advertising the horses and selling at Public Auction, after a few days notice. I suppose this would be your intention? I think more would be realized in that way, with less expense than in trying to sell privately. I have not yet completed the search of real estate but will finish soon. We will be in a position to send you a statement of same with value, &c. I find that there are some creditors. Have the Commissioners any and what rights as to payment of debts, and in what position do they stand with reference to Creditors? Suppose an estate were insolvent, could the creditors seize funds or property in hands of Commissioners?

Mrs. Bell, wife of the Lunatic, told me that she intends taking possession of a store at Bristol, with a dwelling overhead, and that she proposes to live in the dwelling and rent the store in order to maintain herself. There is no other place for her to live. She is now living with a son. So I suppose there will not be much objection to her doing this? At any rate the store now is in such a position as regards a lessee of Bell who assigned for the benefit of his creditors, and who it seems has paid the rent up to October, 1900, by the erection of buildings under the terms of the lease, that I would not feel like taking possession of it. I think that under the terms of the lease Bell would have no right to enter until the expiration of the term, so that if Mrs. Bell takes possession and lives there for a year or two it will affect no one very seriously. Will you please advise me about selling, &c., and collecting?

Yours truly,
(Sgd) W. P. JONES.

It is the latter part of this letter referring to the store at Bristol to which I wish to call your particular attention. This is the only piece of property that Mr. Bell left outside of the homestead which was mortgaged of any particular value. This was a valuable piece of property and had cost Mr. Bell upwards of \$3000. To this letter Mr. Tweedie replied as follows:—

Chatham, N. B., July 31st, 1899
Wendell P. Jones, Esq.,
Barrister, Woodstock, N. B.
Re Daniel G. Bell, a Lunatic.

My Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of yours of the 27th inst. and in reply beg to say that you had better sell the personal property as soon as possible. In regard to Mrs. Bell, I do not wish you to do anything that would injure her in any way. Let her take possession of the property if she requires it, to maintain her. In regard to the notes, I will look into the matter, but I think the Commissioners have the power to proceed to collect them. I will write you further about this.

Yours in haste,
(Sgd) L. J. TWEEDIE.

And acting upon his instructions, I did nothing to disturb Mrs. Bell in the possession and control of the Bristol store (a voice, "who did") the President of the Conservative Association for the County of Carleton, Mr. J. Norman W. Winslow. After Mr. Bell went to the Asylum, Mr. Winslow issued a writ against him, served it on him when he was in the asylum and obtained a judgment against him. On this judgment the Sheriff of the County of Carleton seized and sold under the execution the Bristol store. This thing Mr. Winslow had a perfect right to do, just the same as the Commissioners had a perfect right to do it, but why should the Commissioners be falsely accused of turning Mrs. Bell out of her home when they did no such thing. Mr. Winslow also foreclosed the mortgage on the homestead, and after all this was done and I had re-

ported the matter to the Hon. Mr. Tweedie, and after I had reported to him also that there were other creditors of Daniel Bell who might seize upon remainder of his property, Mr. Tweedie instructed me to seize the remainder of the real estate for the protection of Mr. Bell and Mrs. Bell, for the protection of the Commissioners of the Asylum and the Municipality of Carleton. Now, sir, these other properties consisted of isolated pieces of land, of some value it is true. I do not think there was a building, that is a dwelling house, on any of them. Now you will remember that when these lands were sold by me more than a year had elapsed since Bell went to the asylum, and according to the books of the asylum, kept by Mr. Marshall, there appeared no credit on the account of Daniel Bell, so that Mr. Bell owed quite a large sum for maintenance.

These lands were advertised and sold at public auction by the Police Magistrate of Woodstock, who is a licensed auctioneer. They were not only advertised and sold at public auction, but I had informed myself previous to the sale of each lot as to its value and had communicated with certain persons who would likely purchase them, and the result was that when the sales took place, the very best prices that could have been obtained were realized for these lands; in fact the other day, in the parish of Kent, I learned that some of the parties who had bought the lands stated that if I had not had some person present at the sale to bid the lands up they would have got them for a very low price, and I have yet to learn that there was any of these purchasers who got their lands for any great bargain, but, on the contrary, I have been informed many times that the lands brought their full value at that sale.

Now Mr. Carter and gentlemen, what good were these lands to Mrs. Bell? The basis of Mr. Carter's accusations, remember, is that the commissioners persecuted Mrs. Bell. These lands were of no good whatever to Mrs. Bell. Under the law she could not take them, she had no right to the possession of them, she could not sell them and she had nothing but her dower in them. They were non-productive practically. We did not sell Mrs. Bell's dower in these lands. We had no right to sell Mrs. Bell's dower. Mrs. Bell still has a right to dower in these lands and has since the sale collected her dower from some of the purchasers and has a right in those lands from which she has not received her dower. We sold the lands subject to dower and it was so stated at the sale.

If this property had not been taken charge of by the commissioners it would have gone to creditors, because I am prepared to prove that there are legal claims still outstanding against Daniel Bell in the hands of creditors.

Now I wish to say a few words about the statements made by Mr. Carter that my account for expenses was double what it ought to have been. I emphatically deny this. I have given you some idea here to-day as to the nature of the services performed by me in connection with these lands, but my answer to Mr. Carter's contemptible accusation is this, that, as he was dragging this thing through the Equity Court he could have laid this bill of my expenses before Mr. Justice Barker, just as I lay my hand now on the desk before the Sheriff of the County of Carleton, and request him to tax my bill according to law. This Mr. Carter did not do, and why? because he knew that my bill was correct; and, further than that, when Mr. Carter became an attorney at law and before he began to practice law he took an oath, which every attorney must take, and the gist of which is that they will conserve the interest of their clients in every particular. Now, sir, if Mr. Carter believed, as he says he does, that my account was double what it should have been, he violated this oath when he allowed it to go without having it taxed by the judge. Mr. Carter is condemned out of his own mouth, but, gentlemen, as a matter of fact, he knows it to be correct. Mr. Carter had only one ground of suit against the commissioners of the lunatic asylum, and that was on account of the mistake made by the Hon. Mr. Marshall, as I have already stated. When that mistake was discovered by an investigation of the books after the commissioners had communicated with me and after I had informed them as to the date of my first remittance to them and when it was pointed out to Mr. Carter that this money from the sale of the personal property had been remitted, Mr. Carter knew that his ground of suit was

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