

Rousing Receptions

AT BURTT'S CORNER.

A Successful Meeting.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DEFINES AND DEFENDS THE COURSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AT MARYSVILLE

Mr. Blair's Splendid Reception.

THE SMARTEST TOWN IN THE PROVINCE SOLD FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Gregory's Fallacies Exposed and Convincingly Answered.

In all the River Parishes the Government is gaining ground every day. Mr. Anderson is a tower of strength in Kingsclear, Prince William and Southampton, and both he and Mr. Bellamy will poll a magnificent vote. As the motives that inspire Mr. Gregory's appearance in the field are becoming more clearly apparent, the little strength of opposition that ever had in fact existed, the meeting at Burtt's Corner Wednesday evening was one of the best of the campaign. Despite the stormy weather the Hall was well filled with a most attentive and appreciative audience. Mr. Blair and Mr. Anderson were the speakers, and Mr. Thomas Murray occupied the chair.

HON. MR. BLAIR.

The Premier spoke with telling effect. He pointed out the reasons which had influenced the Government in bringing on the elections at the present time: namely,

The Extension of the Franchise.

The extension of the franchise, the expressed wishes of the members of the House, the necessity of the election to fill three seats must necessarily take place in the important constituency of Saint John, and the importance of avoiding three months of turmoil, excitement and prostration of business produced when the elections take place in the summer. He felt that after a three weeks' campaign the people would feel as well able to make their choice as though they had three months at their disposal. Viewed from the standpoint of his own personal interests he could have desired a longer time in which to put his case before the people, because he found the more opportunity the people were given of hearing the claims of the Government the more determined they became to vote down the malignant, personal opposition that was being raised against him. Mr. Gregory was perfectly prepared to show that the former administration left the Government in a position which he had always been identified, and which had given him in years past the only strength he ever had in this country, provided he could vent his ill-will against himself.

The real question was did the people of this country think the present Government was entitled to their confidence and support. He did not mean to say that the Government had made no mistakes; but he thought he could convince any really fair-minded man that the management of public affairs by this Government the past four years had been such as to command the approval of the people. Being human they had no doubt in some things erred, but he held himself in readiness now or at any time to place to give a substantial reason for every error the Government had committed during that period. It was quite possible that an astute lawyer like Mr. Gregory who desired to be very cautious and very technical, very critical and very suspicious, and who was wholly blinded by personal prejudice, might be able to go through all the transactions of the last seven years and say this thing was done wrong and that thing was done wrong and make quite a case against the Government, or any other Government that ever existed.

In reply to the charge that the Government had not fulfilled the pledges they had made, as contained in the Gleaner, he pointed out that up to two years ago when Mr. Gregory and himself had disagreed that paper had been a most warm, a most ardent supporter of his. Up to that very moment every editorial set forth the Government as approved by that paper without any qualification whatever. The very figures it now quoted against it were then quoted in its favor. For the last two years that paper had pursued a policy of

Falseness, Scandal and Venomous Hostility. To what that paper had said up to the present time he had no opportunity of replying. He thought however, the people of York condemned him on the strength of statements emanating from such a source and inspired by such motives they would at least afford him the opportunity of saying what he had to say about the evidence he heard. They would not condemn him because of these wholesale accusations with which the constituency had been flooded. But he was glad to say that by far the larger portion of those life-long friends would not condemn him before the evidence was heard. That paper had great opportunities of injuring him. It was almost exclusively among his own friends that it circulated and had taken it into their homes and there weak after week month after month it had deposited its poison of falsehood and slander. It was not surprising that such constant and reiterated attacks, to which he having no paper of his own had no opportunity to reply, should have taken the confidence of some of his friends. It would take him three weeks to refer to all the inventions of malignity that that paper had for the past two years

Sent Broadside through this Country. But he would endeavor to deal with a few of the most utterly scandalous and disreputable of these statements and then ask whether a newspaper which could invent such falsehoods ought to be believed in anything it states at all. One statement made by that paper was that there had been a deficit in the seven years this Government had been in power of over \$400,000. How did the Gleaner arrive at those figures? By charging against this Government the \$221,000 of outstanding indebtedness which this Government found awaiting payment when they came into power, for not one dollar of which this administration was responsible. There had been no such deficit nor any deficit at all, the fact being that from 1883 down to 1887 the net surplus was \$56,000, of income over expenditure. The surplus in 1884 was \$17,000, in 1885 \$34,000, in 1886 \$11,000, in 1887 there was a deficit of \$2,000 and in 1888 of \$4,000, which small deficits were far more than accounted for by the exceptional and extraordinary damages wrought by freshets in those two years. The over-expenditure was in the Public Works Department alone—Department which was managed as never had been managed before, and as perhaps, when Mr. Ryan ceased to control it, it never would be managed again.

In addition to that the Gleaner charged them with expending on capital among other things \$1,000,000 in building the House of Assembly. Now, what possible evidence could be made that anything that paper said? The fact was that

the building was built and completed in 1881, and it was not until the second session after its completion that the present Government came into power. Every dollar of that \$1,000,000 was spent years before this Government came into power at all.

Then it was charged that the Frederick Bridge, although the accepted tender was \$58,000, had cost the Government \$125,000. The fact was that the total amount that had been spent on the Frederick Bridge in every way, shape or form was \$80,000, in which sum was included the cost of its maintenance and repairs ever since it was built, and all the very large alterations that had been made upon the original plans, and which alterations had made the Bridge what it was today one of the strongest and most substantial structures of its kind in America. Describing the Bridge as it stood today he asked the audience if they did not think they had received

Good Value for Their Money. (Loud Applause and Cries of Yes, we have.) The Premier charged bribery and corruption made against himself by that paper beneath contempt. There was not a man to be found in the County of York who would believe that he had put in his pocket a portion of every large contract that the Government had made, as that paper had stated. He did not think so scandalous a charge had ever before upon foundation been made against a public man.

Mr. Blair then dealt in a luminous way with the financial management of the Government, and showed the many ways in which the cost of administration had been diminished—except in those departments

The People Would Not Permit to be Diminished. such as roads and bridges and other necessary public works, and in those matters the Government had been very economical generally. He showed that over \$300,000 a year had been saved in contingencies alone by this Government and that in Executive Government the saving had been \$330,000 per year. In the case of the Legislature \$280,000 per year had been saved. He defied the face of day to challenge the accuracy of these figures.

Mr. Blair then dealt with the statement which he had heard Mr. Gregory had made, while it only cost Mr. Blair \$200 to go to Ottawa, while it only cost Mr. Gregory from \$80 to \$125. He was heartily cheered when he asked the audience if they wanted their province represented at Ottawa and elsewhere where the public men of other Provinces had to be met and entertained, in a way that would bring the Province into disrepute? He was

Not Going to Bring his Province into Disrepute. if it cost a thousand dollars to maintain its standing in that respect.

It was stated that the province which he had held its own financially had the benefit of a larger revenue than the old Government had. This was correct, but he pointed out that increased income had been got by charging an increased rate of postage and by the manner in which the fisheries had been managed. In his exposition of the way in which the Government had handled both these services Mr. Blair was loudly applauded. It was true that the expenditure was greater than that of the old Government. It was also true that the province had to spend at the present time \$50,000 more for interest than at the time the former administration left office, which was entirely owing to the railway subsidies authorized by their predecessors. For that item he neither claimed nor disclaimed responsibility. It was simply a fact, and it was also a fact that the way for interest would continue to increase until all the obligations thus incurred had been met.

He pointed out that on the **Great Roads and Bridges of the County of York**

from 1870 down to 1882 there had been spent \$44,700, while in the seven years the present Government had been in power there had been expended \$77,000, or a year's average of \$11,000. (Applause.) And while the expenditure for this important service had thus almost doubled the money had been spent to much greater advantage. Under the old Government a bridge was built across the Mouth of the Kawick costing \$400 that would not bear its own weight. The present bridge—a covered bridge—and a much superior structure in every way had cost little over half that amount.

The management of the fisheries had been called in question. He dealt with this subject at length and justified the course of the Government. It was said to be a grievance that they should issue grants to settlers bounding them four rods off the water.

Many of these Settlers Were Mere Speculators.

who desired to get possession of valuable fishing privileges. Was it right that the Government should give these privileges to these people for a mere song in order that the grantees might lease them to foreign fishermen for hundreds and thousands of dollars a year? He held that those valuable privileges should not be sold to anybody for their own benefit and speculation, but should be used to derive a revenue for the whole people to whom they properly belonged. This was a policy which Mr. Gregory was now condemning but which he had heartily supported and justified when it was adopted and down to the time of this personal attack upon himself. As to whether however, these streams should be leased as at present or retained for the use of fishermen by the day at so much per rod, the Government had no opportunity to take the subject into consideration.

Mr. Blair then described the efforts he had made to abolish the Legislative Council. He assured the audience that not a solitary appeal would be made to that Council until enough could be made

to Wipe it out of Existence.

which was what the Government intended to do at the earliest opportunity that offered. Referring to the statement that Mr. Bourke and others had been offered seats in the Legislative Council he said: there is not that man living to whom I would dare to say that he was offered or tendered or had suggested to him by anybody authorized to speak on the Government's behalf, a seat in the Legislative Council. He would venture to say when he came to address the electors of the City of Saint John within a few days that

Mr. Bourke Would Not Dare to Say that directly or indirectly in any shape or form any such offer was ever made to him.

The audience became convulsed with laughter when he described the efforts of the Hon. Robert Young to entrap him into filling the vacancies in the Council in the hope that Mr. Young would assist to bowl them out. He was the man that had fought the Government for all these years from the beginning to the end and had fought nothing harder than he had fought abolition. "I know too much of my friend Robert to act on any suggestion Robert would make. If those appointments were made at the present time the plausible Robert would not be long in introducing a resolution for a change of base. And if the Council were not abolished it would be said that it was a scheme got up between Mr. Blair and Mr. Young to defame the abolition of the Council. No, no, Robert, no, I don't fall into any such trap as that." (Laughter.)

The speaker then pointed out the **Inconsistent Attitude Mr. Gregory Occupied.**

He posed as an Independent because he dared not avow his real intentions toward the Government, which was one of compromising hostility. Mr. Gregory had charged the Government in his card with having become arrogant; said that the Government had been careless, had been uninteresting and unimproving; and that at no time during the history of the Province had the necessity of a strong and vigilant opposition to the Government been more apparent than during the life of the House just dissolved. Well, for two and a half years of the life of the House just dissolved, Mr. Gregory had supported the Government

and approved of its acts, and had never changed his mind until he fell out with himself. Mr. Gregory gave reasons in his card which were sufficient if true to turn out any Government; yet he had not the fairness nor courage to claim that the Government should be turned out. He knows that if he were to proclaim that the Government should be turned out he would stand no earthly chance of election. He (Mr. Blair) would submit that a man who was not honest and fair in avowing his Opposition to the Government was not a man to be elected to look after the honest Government.

If the casting vote in the House was Mr. Gregory's how many seconds would he deliberate as to whether he should turn the Government out? Yet he wants to be returned as an independent representative. It was perfectly paralyzing that a man of Mr. Gregory's experience should put himself in such a position as he had. The people did not want to give any man a roving commission to go into the Legislature and do just what his sweet will impelled him to do.

He Should Avow His Intentions Openly and then let the people say whether they want him or not. He (Gregory) had associated Mr. Allen, a very worthy young man indeed, with himself on his ticket—in fact he had written Mr. Allen's card—yet Mr. Allen avowed himself as a straight oppositionist. Mr. Allen's appearance in the field was accounted for solely because the Government had not seen fit to make a certain appointment which Mr. Allen desired to have made. Did Mr. Gregory propose to take Mr. Allen into the House and deposit him in the dark valley of opposition and then leave him there while for the mountain of independence Mr. Gregory in his capacity of watchman looked calmly down upon the scene? (Great laughter.)

Was he going to be a sentinel in that lofty watch-tower to tell the Government whether there was any danger approaching? Was he going to sound the bugle and give the horse call to arms so that the Government might resist the onslaught of the enemy? (Laughter.) He was in a position, but it was not the position you would expect to find a fair minded, candid man—who was not guilty of secretiveness himself—occupying. Mr. Gregory had accused him (Blair) of being arrogant and tyrannical. Well, he did not know but that he was nearly as sociable, nearly as cheerful, nearly as agreeable a man to meet as Mr. Gregory. He did not think that if the people's representatives had found him arrogant and tyrannical he would have continued to hold their confidence to a greater extent now than at any time since he had assumed the reins of power.

The Attorney General then urged the people **to Stand by the Ticket.**

and to strengthen his hands in the Government. It was a fact that the outside the country were complaining of all he had done for York, and while he did not think York had received one whit more than his fair share, yet it required at times a strong man to hold the Government together. He was charged with being domineering. Well, if it was permissible at any time for a man to be domineering it was when he was standing up for the rights of his country.

He Had Never Yielded the Just Claims of the County

for the purpose of strengthening the Government in other counties. He had stood up firmly and strongly and continuously in the interests of this county even when he felt that the consequences might be to weaken the Government in other counties without perhaps strengthening it to any extent in York. If the people had confidence in him and in his Government—knowing not what combinations the future might bring forth—he appealed to them to elect the Government ticket in York. Had they not been well served by their four representatives the past term of the house, working actively and harmoniously and unitedly for the county? Had he asked them, as he felt assured they would, to strengthen his hands in the Government in the only way they could strengthen them—the election of the full ticket now in the field. (Hearty Applause.)

MR. ANDERSON

made a brief but practical speech. He asked the people to support him in order that he might be able to get the meeting out of the hall. **The Best Government the People of York Ever Had.**

a Government which had done more in a practical way for the county than all previous Governments previously from Confederation to the present time.

At the close of the meeting far the larger portion of those present assured the speaker candidates of their undivided support.

THE PREMIER AT MARYSVILLE.

Thursday night was bitterly cold and stormy, and a few hours notice could not be given of the meeting. At what had been the hall at Marysville being occupied by a large and enthusiastic audience, when Mr. Blair addressed the people. It was an audience larger than that which Mr. Gregory and Mr. Allen had addressed the evening before, and the enthusiastic reception Mr. Blair received contrasted greatly with the rigour of Mr. Gregory's greeting.

Mr. John Gibson, Mr. Rowley and all the old stand-bys of the party that has always been invincible in Marysville were present and a letter was received from Mr. Alexander Gibson conveying his regrets that unexpected business hindered him from coming. It is safe to say that the Premier has seldom appeared to greater advantage on the stump than he did on Thursday evening. Those who have watched through Mr. Gregory's two years a bitter speech as preliminary to the see by the Herald's report how completely all his petty canvasses and

Childish Accusations were Demolished.

After expressing his regret that circumstances would not admit of his giving longer notice of the meeting, and that what he said at the very large number present, the Premier stated that it would not be possible in the brief time at his disposal for him to deal with all the administrative acts of the Government, his remarks were entirely limited to replying to the arguments advanced by Mr. Gregory on Monday night.

He could not help thinking that the position of the Government in York was a very strange one. He pointed out the new Departmental Buildings, the horse importation and buildings erected for their accommodation, the bridge, the New Dock and Dumb Barge, the very very increased amount expended on roads and bridges in this county, and the fact that the county had a larger number of Agricultural Societies than ever before, as evidence that the side-walk of the Frederick bridge, which could have been constructed for \$500 had cost the country \$3000. Mr. Gregory was simply guessing when he used those figures. He did not know that he had applied to Public Works Dept. for the figures and would cause them made known at the earliest opportunity.

Why had Mr. Gregory never investigated the Commission of Public Works? He had made a list of his scandalous charges. That side-walk was a matter of Chief Commissioner was entitled to be heard by Mr. Blair. He thought the men who had had lost money of that bridge, desp

say to the contrary—should have benefited, if benefit there was, in any extra work that was to be performed. (Applause.) If there was any meaning to be attached to the charge Mr. Gregory had made it was an attack on the honesty and integrity of Mr. Ryan. The work was not done by him (Mr. Blair) nor any other member from the County of York. He had no justification in saying that if there was one man holding office in the Government

Whose Character was Spotted and Defiled

it was Chief Commissioner Ryan. (Applause.) An honest, a true man was not connected with the Government of any country, and though he had presided at the head of that department for a period of seven years, this was the first occasion on which any man in the House or out of it had dared to breathe a syllable to the detriment or dishonour of that gentleman. It would surprise everybody who had any dealings with that gentleman in his department to hear that Mr. Gregory had had the supreme authority to come upon this platform and heap reproaches upon his name. For two and a half years since this side-walk was built Mr. Gregory and his newspaper alike had supported the Government and had been heard with regard to this outrageous transaction. He thought they had held back these accusations thinking they could successfully spring them upon the country a week or ten days before the election.

The people would gather from Mr. Gregory's speech the other night that ever since the difference between that gentleman and himself occurred Mr. Gregory had been dogging his footsteps, note-book in hand and that every time he (Blair) happened to see he had made a note of it. (Laughter.) All these cat-like movements had been reported on after the week or month after month apparently for the purpose of springing them on the people when the elections came on. If Gregory or any man really had any confidence in the Government, why did he keep their arrests in the quiet all this time was in itself a most suspicious circumstance. The Government was entitled to fair play, but fair-play was not what it was now receiving from the opposition in York. Mr. Gregory had charged against the Government that Mr. Wilson was holding positions which he had secured by Government influence and therefore he was an independent representative and could not criticize, as people would expect their representatives to criticize the acts of the Government. How had he proved that? Well, he mentioned Mr. Wilson as being a member of a commission to arrange the terms of Union between St. John and Portland; that he had got that position from the Government and therefore was under obligations to the Government and not a free agent.

What Were the Facts?

He pointed out that when the Legislature passed the Act which authorized the appointment of commissioners to prepare a Bill of Union between St. John and Portland, these two cities sent delegates to Frederick asking that the Bill should be so framed that Portland should appoint a commissioner. St. John should appoint another. It was the duty of the Government to see that the Bill was so framed that it would be approved by both cities. Mr. Wilson was a gentleman well-fitted for the position and had no objection to being appointed. He was Registrar of the University. Well, that appointment was not made by the Government. There were only two members of the Legislature on the Senate. They were elected by the Alumni of the University. The fact that two of the men they selected to be members of the Senate were members of the Government was surely no disqualification to them. And being members of the Senate why should they not have the same right as any other members of the Senate to say who should fill a position of that kind? Mr. Mitchell and Pugsley were only two of the 12; their votes did not appoint Mr. Wilson. He pointed out that for 18 or 20 years the late respected Chief Justice was a member of the Senate and he was never wanted for a Registrar of the University and it was never suggested that he was not an independent representative. He thought the exclusive right of having a seat in the Senate

Unearthed this Mighty Man's-Neat

belonged to the astute gentleman who is now a candidate in this county. Then Mr. Gregory had been examining his account of the Attorney General for stationery. He had seen that he had been wearing out his arithmetical mind by calculating how many sheets of paper could be bought for \$281 and how long it would take him (Blair) to consume that paper. Mr. Gregory had also been calculating the cost of trouble by simply ascertaining what the items were. A large proportion of that sum was made up by the cost of a type, writer, which he thought was a reasonable thing for a man to spend on a number of the Government. Without the help of a typewriter and the services of a shorthand writer no man could possibly attend to all the correspondence in the Attorney General's office. It was not until he had thought the Opposition was getting down to a very small point indeed, seeing that the Government of the county handled hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of business year and controlled tremendous interests, when the critic's gigantic mind soared to the sublime height of criticising a stationery bill of \$281. (Applause.)

Never Had Any Free Passes

If they were going to select a watchman to watch the stationery bill, he thought it would be possible to get a man of less important attainments to discharge those important duties. If there were anything wrong with these accounts the audience thought that such men as Mr. Huntington, Mr. Tweedle, Mr. Phinney and Dr. Atkinson would have drawn attention to them. These men were not named in the account that they could not grapple with such a gigantic subject as that. If no better reasons than these could be assigned for hauling the Government for power than the Government had committed much less error than he (Blair) would be prepared himself to admit that they had committed.

Dealing with Mr. Gregory's charge against him that he spent \$200 on his Ottawa trip, even though he had a free pass over all the railways. Mr. Blair said the painful fact was that he

Never Had Any Free Passes

to go to Ottawa. The audience here, as elsewhere, heartily applauded the Premier's remarks. He said that he had not proposed to bring his Province into disrepute in Ottawa or anywhere else. When the people demanded that he should demand himself and his Government, then he would propose to bring his Province into disrepute in Ottawa or anywhere else. He pointed out that the old Government had done nothing to do in the matter, but that he had obtained his grant before the Government came into power, that he had sold or leased his fishing privilege to a certain man, and that he had pocketed a handsome sum of money. That one fact alone furnished a sufficient commentary upon Mr. Blair's contentions. He would not stand or fall as a public man he held on of the position he held on

that subject. The Tobique murders were whom Mr. Gregory sympathized, and whom he had unsuccessfully defended, were not fishing on Crown Lands but in front of ground belonging to private individuals. There were some people, Mr. Gregory among them, who seemed determined to mislead the minds of the public upon this question. Nobody knew better than he knew that the Government of this Province had nothing to do with the regulation and control of the inland fisheries of this province. That belonged exclusively to the Dominion Government. The Provincial Government had just the same control over their water-fronts on these streams as any private owner had and no more.

A Private Owner Need not let his Fisheries Suffer.

In front of his land unless he liked; neither need the crown. Years ago all the lands on that part of the Tobique where this tragedy occurred were granted to the New Brunswick railway company. That company had the same control over its property as any private owner would have over his. To charge the Government with doing wrong in connection with the fisheries in a matter that they had nothing to do with was not only with grossly unfair. The people living along the fishing rivers of the Province derived ten times as much benefit from the money spent in their midst by these foreign named others as if they had the free right of fishing themselves. Employment was given them and also a market for what they raised. If these people thought it was not better to sell their water-fronts they would have held on to them, but they did not hold on.

This brought him to the specific charge made against him in connection with the St. John's fishing. He was glad that Mr. Gregory had had the courage to make this charge for it required some courage to make it. "It was deemed better," said Mr. Blair, "to leave all these rivers in the hands of the fishermen than to see that the pools are not swept out and destroyed and the fish destroyed by other means. It was a means to an end and out of season. The Government may have been wrong in leasing these rivers, but we formed the best judgment we could on the question. The gentleman who is now condemning us for leasing the rivers, who says our fishery policy is the worst of condemnation, you will be surprised to hear heartily endorsed that policy and until he felt out upon grounds which he says were political, though I was not aware of—down to the very moment when he fell out with me, extending over a period of four years approval and

Endorsed the Policy Which he now

condemns. In 1883 we adopted the system of leasing these rivers. The leases that were made when he was supporting the Government and at the time when it appears I used to advise with him on such a variety of important subjects. Well, I am happy to say that when I advised with him I did not always take his advice. (Laughter.) He approved of that policy when it was adopted and for four years afterward. Can you attach much value to this sudden reversal of opinion which he has held for these last four years? It may be that the privilege belongs exclusively to him to approve to-day what he condemned yesterday and condemn to-day what he yesterday approved. It is not a privilege claimed by many, and certainly one that is accorded to but few. If a man says to-day that a certain policy is wrong when a short time ago he had it both in support of it, I think you would be justified in investigating the childlike innocence and sincerity of that man. Of course he has got to give some reasons for changing his views, but the mere fact that he has changed his views is not sufficient to sell these rivers. Here are the official records of that transaction. These rivers were offered for sale in March 1885 at the upset price of \$100 for the Dunbar and \$50 for the Renous. Whoever took the lease had to bind themselves in a penalty that they would keep on each a number of guardians for such a period in the year as the governor in council would prescribe.

That Condition Seared Anybody

From Buying. They did not think they were good enough salmon-fishing rivers to warrant the expense involved. When they were offered in March, 1885, nobody would take them at any price. In March, 1886, they were offered and nobody wanted them. In March, 1887, they were offered but nobody wanted them. For three successive years they were offered and nobody would take them at all.

Now, I will tell you what occurred. Mr. James S. Neill and Mr. Matthew Tennant—the former of whom never moved for me in his life and has no claims on me whatever—whose gentlemen fond of fishing, ascertaining that these rivers had not been sold, without a shadow or a hint of knowledge on my part, as they will swear to if necessary, went down to the Crown Land Office and offered to take these rivers at the upset price. Well, they were told that they could have them. Up to this time I knew absolutely nothing of their movements. They organized a little club among themselves, composed of Dr. Coulthard, Mr. Wiley and a number of others who were not political friends of mine or associated or connected with me in any way whatever. They wanted a membership of twelve men and had secured ten and wanted two more. After they had got ten men Mr. Tennant met me on the street and said: "You are a fisherman, we have got ten men; why would you not make one of the two more we want?" Well, he said, "what is it going to cost me?" He explained what it would cost, and some days later I agreed to join. Mr. Gregory says I went to the Crown Land Office and directed that both leases should be joined in one. So I did. I suppose if you go into the Crown Land Office you will find it recorded on the back of hundreds of documents "the Attorney General directs so-and-so." If you do not happen to know it I will say that the Attorney General, if he happens to be a representative of the County of York, has a good deal of departmental work or authorizing to do in more than one way than one. When the Surveyor General is here he does his own business, but when he is away and something arises to be done, some member of the Government has to authorize it, and in this case I authorized.

As I Had a Perfect Right to Do,

the making out of one lease for \$150, instead of two leases of \$100 and \$50 respectively. That \$150 was then and there paid, notwithstanding what Mr. Gregory may say to the contrary, and has been paid yearly ever since. That is the whole head and front of my offending. After they got me into it they made me president. If any gentleman present fears for the honors and emoluments of that office, I am willing to surrender them to him. (Laughter.) The luxury is an expensive one to me.

No, it was anything wrong about these fisheries don't you think the people

themselves over there on the Restigouche and Unalutich and other rivers would discover it? Mr. Gregory who does not know a fishing rod from a broom-stick would hardly be the man you would select as being an authority about the fishing business of the North Shore. (Laughter.) Mr. Murray and Mr. Lablouis who represent Restigouche are being returned by acclamation. Through these papers I have better than he knew that the right there under their noses these people are so absolutely oblivious to the gross wrong that has been done them that they don't know enough to put anybody up against them. Well, is it worth while for us to get our backs up and work ourselves into a fury over this question when the people who live right where these things occur are not aware that anything has gone wrong? They must feel deeply indebted to the people over here in York for interesting themselves in this matter I should think. Go through Mr. Gregory's criticisms from beginning to end and you will discover that they are simply the invention of an ingenious mind driven to its wit's end to find something to find fault about. (Applause.)

Mr. Blair then took up the Plaster Rock canvass.

He pointed out that a man named Scholes on the North Shore had applied to the department to have this plaster rock on the Tobique put up for sale. He stated in his correspondence with the department that the Plaster Rock was not worth much and he was only

Willing to Pay a Trifling Rental.

The Executive Council appointed a committee or authorized the Surveyor General, I forget which, to communicate with all the owners of plaster-rock or gypsum in the provinces of the Dominion to ascertain how much royalty should be charged. It was ascertained that the usual charge was five cents per ton, but in one case over in Nova Scotia as high as seven cents was charged. We concluded to try the experiment of charging ten cents a ton, three more than was charged anywhere else, and double the usual charge. The lot was advertised for sale and just before the sale Scholes wrote stating that he would have nothing to do with it as the rate charged was too high. Mr. James E. Simmons, who owns a mill on the Tobique, went to see and bid it in. The second notice of sale differed slightly from the first but not in favor of the purchaser. Now, you will be surprised when I tell you that that plaster had laid there year in and year out and never produced a farthing to the treasury until Scholes made this application and Simmons bid it in. I defy anyone to show that there is anything out of the way with either of those notices. They are here and I offer them for your inspection. Mr. Simmons bid the lot in and paid his money and notwithstanding what Mr. Gregory says to the contrary, for three years there has been paid \$100 a year into the provincial treasury and not one ton of that plaster has yet been raised. The previous administration had given away nominal figures hundreds of acres of that valuable plaster rock. The man who can discover anything wrong in that transaction has a privilege exceeding that which I possess and is really too full of suspicion to live comfortably and happily in this world. (Laughter.) There must be some other sphere to which he is better adapted than this and to which he should make haste to immediately reply. (Laughter.)

Mr. Blair then dealt with the Legislative Council canvass effectively, showing that they had allowed four vacancies to occur some years ago, with the intention of abolishing the Council, which they had

The Five Vacancies Would Never

be Filled until enough men could be appointed to make sure work of abolition. Respecting Hon. Mr. Young's offer of assistance he said the first intention he had of it, he would be a remark of Mr. Young's which he took at the time to be a joke, was the publication of it in the papers. The audience was convulsed with laughter as he diagnosed that gentleman.

Respecting the charge that the Government in part made up for their reduced salaries by charging for travelling expenses as Laticat Asylum commissioners, he pointed out that the allowance made for commissioners visiting that institution, the gross amount realized by him (Blair) last year from that source was \$48.

The Premier also dealt effectively with the anomalous position of his opponents in this country, travelling throughout the country as they were like Siamese twins. He pointed out that the one opposed to the Government and the other Independent. He appealed to the electors if they approved of the Government to signify their approval in the only way open to them, namely by supporting it at the polls on the 20th. Mr. Blair was loudly applauded.

The Chairman Mr. William P. Day said there was nothing more to be done to-night, but on the 20th there was work to be done which he knew they would do effectively and well.

TO THE ELECTORS

OF THE

COUNTY OF YORK.

GENTLEMEN.—

At a Convention of friends of the Local Government the undersigned were selected as candidates to contest the election of members to serve in the Legislature for the ensuing term, and having accepted the nomination tendered us, we are now before you respectfully soliciting your suffrages. It was the expressed opinion of the Convention that the present Government which is now on its trial before the people was the result of the confidence of the country, and that the electors of this County might reasonably be expected to accord to it their undiminished support.

GENTLEMEN.—Have not your interests been well served during the past four years? Are not your roads and bridges better than they have ever been before? Has not the County enjoyed an influential position in the Provincial Government? If they have, these results have been largely owing to the fact that your four members worked unitedly and harmoniously together in your service.

We ask you to give the Government your support in the election of your representatives to a divided representation, and should we be honored with a majority of your votes our best energies will be faithfully devoted to your service.

We remain, gentlemen, Respectfully yours,

A. G. BLAIR, WM. WILSON, BEAUCHAMPEL BELLAMY, JOHN ANDERSON.

Fredericton, January 6, 1890.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the semi-annual meeting of the County Council, of the Municipality of York, will be held in the Court House, in the City of Fredericton, on Tuesday, the 21st day of January, instant. Dated this 1st day of January, 1890.

WILLIAM WILSON, Sec.-Treasurer, York County.

'89 Christmas '89

GRAND DISPLAY OF

CHRISTMAS