

was possible for a government to do with the great and important agricultural interests of the province. On this ground he claimed the support of the farmers of York. (Applause.)

He saw by Mr. Gregory's card that the course of legislation under this government had been careless, uninteresting and unimproving. What he meant by those terms, the last particularly, he did not know. He had been unable to gather from that gentleman's Magazine speech in what respects the legislation of the country had been uninteresting and unimproving. He had no doubt from that gentleman's individual standpoint the proceedings of the last two years had been deeply monotonous and uninteresting. He had no doubt when he (Gregory) had gone down to the House as he had on several occasions to see the government turned out, and saw them sustained by an increased majority it was not an interesting circumstance to him. (Great applause.)

Had the government done no valuable legislative work? He defied that gentleman to point to a government of this province which has taken hold of larger questions, and dealt with them in a more comprehensive manner. Search the legislation of the last fifty years and you could not pick out seven years and say that those years had been distinguished by a higher class of legislation, by

A Broader and More Comprehensive Legislation

than that which had characterized the last seven years of our political history. (Applause.) He would mention the Franchise Act, the Liquor License Act, the Equity Act, the Act relating to Referees in Equity, the Act relating to Stenography in the courts and others in proof of that assertion. If there was one ground more than any other on which this government could stand and upon which it had a right to the support of the people, it was its legislative record. If there was one thing above all others to which in after life he would look back with pride it would be to the legislative record which the government had made. It was only within the last three years that this gentleman had waked up the fact that our legislation was of an interesting and unimproving character. He was willing to be tried before the people upon that issue. He claimed that, provincially speaking, this government had served the people well and that the country on the 20th would so declare. (Applause.) It might be true, though he did not believe it, that in the County of Northumberland, where some of the people were making unreasonable demands on the government in regard to stumps, fog men would be returned in opposition to the government. He thought there was no sentiment in this audience or in this country that beat in harmony with the unreasonable demands of some of the people in the Counties of Kent and Northumberland. (Applause.) The people of this county owned those lands as well as the people of those counties did. It was part of the property of the people of the whole province jointly with those of Kent and Northumberland. Though the government should get no supporters at all from Northumberland the people of the province as a whole were in perfect harmony with the policy of the government in that respect.

Was it the will of the People of York, regarding what the government had promised to do and what it had done, that they should administer the blow to the government which no other county was willing to administer? To Mr. Gregory, the people of York was a matter of small concern as long as he could get a seat in the Legislature to vent his personal antagonism against the government and against himself. (Applause.)

Mr. Gregory had claimed that the government had done for York nothing more than was its due. Granted it had not, he (Blair) did not think many governments in the past had succeeded in accomplishing what the present government had done. If they had not surely the present government was entitled to favorable consideration and support.

Why was the government opposed in this election? Was it because the government had secured the construction of a bridge across the river at Fredericton against all the hostile influence that could be arrayed against it? Were they opposed because they had succeeded in getting new Departmental Buildings erected in Fredericton? Were they opposed because the government had centralized all the business connected with the importation of stock in this city, bringing the people here in all quarters to attend the sales and thereby improving the business of the town? Was it because the government had been alive to the importance of rendering aid to the deaf and dumb children of the province and had made a grant sufficient to obtain the erection of a building here for their education? Was it because they had granted aid to secure the construction of the Prince William and Woodstock Railway in the face of strong opposition in the Legislature? During the last seven years, while not unmindful of the interests of the rest of the Province, he contended that the administration of the day had persistently and steadily kept in mind, that when these central and general institutions were being established, they should be established here where they properly belonged. (Applause.) But, while they had done all that the government had not neglected.

The Roads and Bridges of the County. The grants to this service had been largely increased. During the past seven years the amount expended for roads and bridges in York had averaged over \$11,000 a year compared with an average of \$6,000 per year for the last seven years of the old government. In the face of such a record as that, he would have thought it not unreasonable that the people of this county would have been willing to allow the government to go back to the Legislature with undiminished support. In the City of St. John the people were quarrelling over a matter of purely local patronage. In the County of Kent Mr. Phinney was opposing the government on the stumpage question, and because the government was not prepared to embark in another large

measure of railway subsidies involving an expenditure of something like \$2,000,000. In the County of Carleton where Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Gregory's particular friend was contesting the election against the government the only reason for his opposition was that the government would not consent to embark on this same description of railway legislation as he had already referred to. Dr. Atkinson had withdrawn his support because the government would not consent to subsidize a railway in every county in the province, including his own. Did the people of York sympathize with that opposition? Did they sympathize with the stumpage agitation in Kent and Northumberland? Did they sympathize with the sectional question that was being raised in St. John? If they did not surely it was not too much to ask that they should give the government their hearty and united support. (Applause.) If they did then they should send Mr. Gregory to the Legislature in company with the railway subsidizers in Carleton and Kent, and the sectionalists in St. John, and see what kind of a combination he could make of.

These Discordant Elements. Mr. Gregory had implied, rather than stated, that the convention of the friends of the government was unwilling to allow him an opportunity of taking a seat in the Legislature but had filled up the entire ticket. So they did. But what occurred before the ticket was filled up. Why, Mr. Gregory had been trying to get candidates to run with him all summer and had failed in the attempt. And not satisfied with this county as a field of operations he had been trying to form a ticket in Carleton county to oppose the government.

Mr. Gregory—I deny that a meeting was held in Mr. Appleby's office to secure a ticket to run in opposition to the government. Mr. Blair—Well, all I know is that Dr. Atkinson says so, and that Mr. Drysdale of Woodstock was the man Mr. Gregory endeavored to get to run. (Great applause.) He does not deny that gentleman. Neither will he deny that he was approaching people all up through Canterbury and Prince William and was unsuccessful in making any combination until he induced Mr. Allen to come under the shadow of his wing. (Applause.)

Mr. Gregory was not willing that this election should go by default. He held that the government in 1886 by unexpectedly springing the election on the people had secured a snap verdict at the polls, so that the opposition had so diminished its usual physical force over the government that they had become secretly, arrogantly assuming to a degree therefore unknown and the course of legislation had been careless, uninteresting and unimproving. At no time in the history of the province, said Mr. Gregory, had the necessity for a strong and righteous opposition been more painfully apparent than during the life of the House just dissolved. Well in 1886 Mr. Gregory had supported the Government.

He had attended the convention held in Fredericton, and expressed his approval of the election of four men to contest the county in support of the government. Down to the winter of 1887 when a difference arose between Mr. Gregory and himself the cause of which Mr. Blair could not tell—all he knew was that Mr. Gregory had been suspicious, morbidly suspicious of himself—down to that very hour the course of legislation had been satisfactory and the legislation which previous to that had been most interesting. (Laughter) the legislation which had been most careful, because suddenly careless. The government which up to that time had been so conscientious and administration at once became most tyrannical and arrogant. (Applause.) The government which up to that time had been open and day, suddenly became secretive and dark in its ways. A complete rearrangement took place just as Jonah's gourd sprang up in a night, and Mr. Gregory withdrew the light of his countenance from the government, an account of personal differences that had sprung up between Mr. Blair and himself. That was the precise moment when the government commenced to care nothing for the people, and when they commenced to ride roughshod over their rights and liberties. Mr. Gregory's unfitness to Mr. Blair gave that which was before a thing of beauty and a joy forever, most repulsive and distorted appearance. And now he asked the people to support him for reasons that are personal, and because he could not regard the government in the name of the people as before that they should take to the same view he does and go into direct antagonism to everything they had previously supported and approved.

But when they followed Mr. Gregory's Card down to its close what would they find. In the early stages of that remarkable card it would be inferred that Mr. Gregory was determined to come out in open and avowed antagonism to the Government. Had he not practically said he wanted the opportunity of going in, in order to hurt the Government from power? Had he not proclaimed himself an out-and-out opponent to the Government? But did they find him in opposition? Not at all. He wanted to be elected as what? An "independent representative." (Applause and laughter.) The man who thought the legislation had been careless and the Government arrogant and false to the trusts of the people, and who ought to have a vigilant opposition, lands himself at last fair and square on top of the fence. (Applause.) He wanted to be elected as a watchman, as a spy and detective upon the Government. The duty of watchman was not very exalted for a man of such ponderous mental acumen as Mr. Gregory to aspire to. Perhaps the sole claim to favor which he had, was the extreme modesty of his ambition. The position of a watch-dog in any case is not an extremely exalted position.

But if Mr. Gregory was elected would he be an independent representative, prepared to deal fairly and justly with the Government and vote according to the merits of the legislation they advanced? An Oppositionist is a man who would be prepared to vote the Government out on every opportunity. That was where Mr. Allen stood and he was all events to be respected for saying where he stood. Did the people think if Mr. Gregory was elected and the chance offered to vote the government out he would not vote them out without a word? He thought

It was Unreasonable to Suppose that Mr. Gregory would go back upon the Gleaser which during the last three years had been out-and-out opposition to the Government. Why, the Gleaser predicted that Mr. Gregory was to be the Premier a few days after the House met. (Great laughter.) Well, if Mr. Gregory was Independent he could hardly hope for that distinction to be conferred upon him, but was he an Independent? Why? Let the people read this speech at Maryville. The man who delivered that speech could never be an independent representative, or other than a violent and venomous opponent of the government. Could anybody be other than an opponent to the government after making that speech and do justice to his own intelligence and integrity? What else was there to show that Mr. Gregory was in opposition? Did not Mr. Gregory induce Mr. Allen to come out as an oppositionist and was not the card of Mr. Allen drafted by Mr. Gregory in his own writing? (Was not he and Mr. Allen going arm and arm through Carleton and Kent, and the sectionalists in St. John, and see what kind of a combination he could make of?)

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The Most Trifling and Insignificant Character. Reading the eulogiums of the Gleaser as to Mr. Gregory's transcendent abilities and administrative qualities, and the certainty of his being immediately called to fill the position of premier of this province, one would think that he would have been able to rise somewhat above the childish criticisms which distinguished the whole of that address. He had looked in vain for Mr. Gregory's platform. That speech was simply the product of an ingenious lawyer who was looking for an opportunity to attack the government. What government had ever lived which had never made a mistake or offered a chance for criticism. It would be hard for a man to follow the movements of himself for three whole years, note-book in hand and not be able to find some slight defects which he could disclose to public view. This grand pronouncement was barren of anything but criticism. It was the product

of a mind warped from all sense of justice and fair play by spite, suspicion and unmitigated personal hostility, anxious by conglomerating minor matters together, to throw it all together in a lump in the hope that some one of those things would stick and produce the desired effect. He would have thought it not unreasonable that a man who in a few short weeks to be perched in the chair of the leader of the government would have had some substantial food with which to feed the barens of this country instead of these barren husks. But he would assume that gentleman that even had he known that he was following him with stealthy step, ear outstretched, and nose extended all these years, to hear what he might hear, and smell what he might smell, he would have pursued exactly the course he had pursued.

Mr. Gregory charged the government with disregarding its pledges. Well, there were four years and upwards during which the government was in office that Mr. Gregory had made no complaint. His criticism upon the financial position of the province was a most lame and barren one. It was true that the gross debt of the province now amounted to over \$2,000,000. But how was it increased. It was increased by the expenditure of one or two items. The subsidies given to the railways that have been built and which had been authorized by the legislature, before the present government came into power. The subsidy to the Northern and Western railway and the Central railway and others had increased the debt up to \$2,000,000. Laid in that sum was the \$250,000 the government had been compelled to borrow to wipe out the floating indebtedness left by the old administration. The people could not condemn that funded debt without condemning the course that created it.

How did the government stand with reference to revenue and expenses. The fact was that from 1884 to 1888 inclusive the government had succeeded in keeping its expenditure within its income and had also a surplus of \$56,000. He pointed out that the expenses of the Executive Government were the least of the province's expenses. The nearly all these items which were controllable exhibited a substantial saving to the people. The expenditure on public works and on education the people of the county had no wish to see diminished.

Mr. Blair then dealt with Mr. Gregory's charge that it cost him \$200 to Ottawa. He denied that he had any passes over the railroads to Ottawa, and as at the other meetings he has addressed was loudly applauded over the people if they were decently before the public men of other places or not. That item of \$200 was indeed a ponderous subject to engage the attention of the people and to excite the Gleaser scribbled to his opponent. As to the charges for stationery he showed that many other items were included under that heading. He asserted that the people of the province were not so stupid as to be deceived by the absolute sincerity of the government on the question of

The Abolition of the Legislative Council said at the very first opportunity that presented itself that the abolition of the Legislative Council was a most desirable measure. He described in a graphic manner the repeated attempts the government had made to effect that object. Neither Mr. Rourke nor any other living man could say that he ever had been promised by the government a seat in that House. He defended the government's course on the fishery question, showing that a large revenue was now derived from this formerly neglected source; that it was unreasonable to expect the government to grant away these fishing rights to settlers under the Labor Act to sell for fabulous sums of money; and that it was absurd to expect the government to preserve what was remaining of these valuable rights for the benefit of the whole people. It was impossible now to name an individual living on any of these northern rivers who had not sold or leased to these fishermen, whom the government were accused of favoring. He mentioned a grant of about 500 acres of land made by the old government to the late hon. Mr. Blair, the intention that was now worth over \$50,000. Mr. Gregory's intention was that he would grant the whole four-foot fronts to those people and let the Government sustain the loss. He did not think that was sound policy. Mr. Blair said he was in power to-morrow he would reverse in that respect at all events.

The Policy the Government had Pursued. He then took up Mr. Gregory's charge that the members of the government had been tampering with these fishing privileges; pointed out that he had had nothing whatever to do with the Renous and Dunganston Club until after the fact; that he had purchased these rivers and formed a club which he was invited to join, and was heartily applauded by the audience when at his request Mr. James S. Neil, Mr. Tennant and Mr. John W. Wilton, who were in the hall and endorsed his statements. It was unworthy of a gentleman, however blinded by personal animosity that he should make such utterly ungrounded charges against any man holding a public position with no proof upon which to support it. As to the fact that he had ordered these streams to be combined in one case, Mr. Gregory knew very well that Mr. Fraser when in power, did all about the ordering in the various departments of the government when the other members were absent from the city. That always had been the practice and it always continued to be the practice, when any member of the government resided in Fredericton.

After disposing of the Blaster Rock Marens he showed that Mr. Gregory had falsified the record in regard to the cost of the sidewalk of the Fredericton Bridge. He said it had cost \$3000. The fact was that it had only cost a trifle over \$200, though Mr. Haines, the engineer had estimated that it would cost about \$2400. (Mr. Alfred Haines rose in the audience and corroborated this statement.) If there was anything in that charge whatever it was a charge against the personal character of Mr. Chief Commissioner Ryan, a man whose honesty and integrity were absolutely above reproach. (Applause.)

He appealed to the electors to give the government an opportunity of continuing on the lines which it had adopted. He thought the administration deserved well at their hands and if they desired to see the Administration sustained they should not give strength to their opponents by selecting gentlemen to oppose the

government in the House. What better service could Mr. Gregory render to the county of York than he (Blair) had rendered? How much better could he stand by the interests of York than he (Blair) had done? It had been his study night and day to stand by and promote to the fullest extent he justly could, the interests of his own county. He had not lost sight of what was reasonable fair to the other portions of the province, but when he could get anything for York that Mr. Gregory desired, it had been his constant aim to secure it. The gentlemen opposed to him had charged their course but he did not think they could successfully ask the people to change theirs. "I ask you to say on the 20th instant that the ticket which the friends of the government have nominated ought not to receive discouragement and defeat at your hands but a loyal and hearty support. Let the people of this province know that in this county at all events you appreciate the efforts we have made, and that you are determined to assist and strengthen our hands by giving as the benefit of an undivided support in the Legislature." (Loud and long-continued applause.)

At the conclusion of Mr. Blair's speech there was some doubt as to what course to be taken as to who should take precedence. According to long established custom, the right belonged to Mr. Wilson, and the majority of the people in the hall were in favor of his right should be recognized. Mr. Gregory however, claimed the floor and the chairman decided that he should be the next speaker. Mr. Wilson said that he did not intend to speak, nor did he intend to give Mr. Gregory the privilege of replying to Mr. Blair's speech, and that if Mr. Gregory would confine his speech to the time occupied by the Attorney General, he would surrender his right to Mr. Gregory. He agreed to this and commenced his address. He claimed that it could not be gathered from his card that he was running the election as an Independent, and that the word should be read in connection with what immediately followed in the card, and that in reality he was an Independent oppositionist. He said that he had no policy and that he would not be bound by any party platform. He criticized the stationary accounts of the Board of Agriculture and commended the wisdom of the policy of the government in the importation of horses, said that the horses were not so good as those of fifteen years. In the matter of the Plaster Rock on the Tobique the speaker said that statements made by him from other platforms that the rent had not been paid was inaccurate. He said since he had been in the fact. In regard to the charges he had made against Mr. Blair at Maryville, on account of his connection with the Dunganston fishing club, the speaker took considerable exception to Mr. Blair's speech in that matter. He thought the matter in the hands of the audience for them to consider. In his other charge against Messrs. Wilson and Blair, Mr. Gregory did not speak with the same confident assurance that characterized his speech in the County, but rather sought to modify his attacks by mere suggestions from which the audience could gather little or no information. The speaker also referred to the statements in his card that the legislation had been careless uninteresting and unimproving, and sought to verify the allegations by reference to the Franchise Act, the Law Commission, and one or two other measures.

MR. WILSON. who was very warmly received, said this was the fourth time he had appeared as a candidate. He was not a self-nominated candidate, he was the candidate of a convention called in Fredericton to nominate supporters of the administration. He stated the position of the government was stated by the Attorney General, and the other members of the tickets appointed, and after a full consideration of the policy of the administration, that convention had determined to put into the field four men to sustain the government. There was a resolution passed at that convention by which it was declared that the government was the will of the County of York, and it was whatever might be done in other counties of the province, that in the County of York, where it was recognized that the administration had done well for the county, he would have no question as to the support the people would give to this administration. When he first appeared as a candidate he had endeavored to formulate a platform for the government, but he had been prevented by the fact that he had lived in the City of Fredericton as long as he had, could come before the people of this county, and say that he knew nothing about public affairs, yet this was the policy of the administration. Mr. Gregory had stated that he had no policy to present, and the whole tenor of his remarks was only carrying criticism.

When he (Wilson) had appeared in 1886 and announced himself as an independent supporter of the government, no man had been louder in his ridicule than Mr. Gregory. He (Gregory) had stated that no man taking the position that he (Wilson) had taken, could hope to succeed, but to-day Mr. Gregory appeared as an independent opponent of the government, and he gathered from that that he (Wilson) was ready to flip over in favor of the government, when the county favored the independent administration. He stated that he had no question as to the support the people would give to this administration. When he first appeared as a candidate he had endeavored to formulate a platform for the government, but he had been prevented by the fact that he had lived in the City of Fredericton as long as he had, could come before the people of this county, and say that he knew nothing about public affairs, yet this was the policy of the administration. Mr. Gregory had stated that he had no policy to present, and the whole tenor of his remarks was only carrying criticism.

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noticed a marked difference between the speech Mr. Gregory delivered here and the speech he delivered in Temperance Vale. He did not there undertake to say he might be mistaken about the charges he made against the Attorney General. Clearly and distinctly he made those charges there which he has now, as clearly and distinctly, withdrawn. The only opinion Mr. Gregory had been able to express to-day was as to his ability to represent this county.

Mr. Wilson then dealt most effectively with the charge that he was not an independent member of the House, and not in a position to represent the county by reason of his appointment as Registrar of the University. Mr. Gregory had claimed that he (Wilson) had charged in 1885 that Mr. Hazen ought not to be elected because he held the position of Registrar. He denied that most emphatically. He appealed to the gentlemen present if they had ever heard anything of the kind. He (Wilson) did not hold that position as the gift of the government at all. Mr. Wilson said there were sufficient members of the Senate outside of the University. Mr. Gregory had claimed that he (Wilson) had charged in 1885 that Mr. Hazen ought not to be elected because he held the position of Registrar. He denied that most emphatically. He appealed to the gentlemen present if they had ever heard anything of the kind. He (Wilson) did not hold that position as the gift of the government at all. 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