

The Opposition Leader Defines Issues of Campaign

**Able and Trenchant Speech at St. John by Mr. W. E. Foster--
Some Facts About Valley Ry. Financing--Where the Boodle
Fund Came From in 1912--A Straight Pronouncement on
the Subject of Prohibition.**

Mr. W. E. Foster, the Opposition leader, delivered an able and business-like address at the St. John convention on Wednesday. His speech, of which the following is an outline, should be read and carefully considered by all electors who have the interests of the province at heart.

After complimenting the convention on the splendid choice of candidates, Mr. Foster proceeded: "I occupied a very prominent position in the Standard," Mr. Foster continued. "In fact, I excluded the war news from the front page. (Laughter and applause.) It was stated that I had gone to Ottawa and was expected to return with a bagful of money. My business at Ottawa had nothing whatever to do with this convention or the Standard newspaper. Had I gone to Ottawa for money I would have fared badly. Thomas Bell, a director of the Standard, left Ottawa the night I arrived there, and you can readily understand that there was very little left for me had I wanted any. (Laughter.)"



MR. W. E. FOSTER.

The Globe, he said, had paid him a compliment which he appreciated, emanating from that source. The Globe was unable to see eye to eye with the Opposition party in the matter of the administration of the Crown Lands, stating that the placing of these lands in the hands of commissioners was departing from the principles of responsible government. "No man brought up as I have been, a democrat, would wish to depart from this principle, but there are times when it is necessary, and the Globe newspaper is on record as favoring it in an article which appeared Feb. 19, 1914, regarding the hospital and the municipal home."

"In that connection the Globe said: 'The better course would be to adopt that good old English method of electing independent commissioners to manage these institutions. Their control should be divorced as far as possible from civic and municipal influences.'"

"Commissions innumerable," Mr. Foster continued, "have been appointed with the same object in view that we have, namely, to divorce some important public matters from politics. For instance, I would mention the Borden purchasing commission, the liquor license commission of Ontario and the suggested tariff commission in the United States."

"The financial burden now imposed upon us," Mr. Foster continued, "demands that the chief assets from which we derive our great source of revenue, and the welfare of future generations demands that they be removed from the sphere of politics. The great landed assets of this province should be the important bulwark of strength from the standpoint of credit, and extraordinary methods must be resorted to. Hence our proposal." (Applause.)

Mr. Foster said that at the Opposition

ticket of 1912 on this year's ticket, John E. Wilson and C. B. Lockhart, who, he said, are under cover because otherwise they would have to take the platform and explain why they voted as they did in connection with the iniquitous exploitation of the province in the matter of the Valley railroad.

"There are two of that ticket left, however," he added, "Mr. Tilley and Mr. Grannan, and there are some questions which they should answer for the benefit of the people of the province in connection with their voting to increase the subsidy to the Valley Railroad \$10,000 per mile. They should be called upon to explain their votes on that occasion." (Applause.)

The St. John board of trade, he said, had supported the proposition on the strength of the railway entering St. John by the east side, and he himself had been on delegations, as president of the local board of trade, with reference to the proposed road.

Mr. Flemming's Promise.

He referred to the original subsidy of \$25,000 per mile and of the route which the government had assured the people would be followed. Mr. Flemming was on record in 1912 as saying:

"The bill called for the construction of a road from St. John, or a point on the I. C. R. near St. John, to Grand Falls. If the honorable gentlemen 'opposite' had any doubt as to where the road would run, he would refer them to the Enabling Act of 1910, the 'act in amendment thereof and the agreement to lease, which had been signed by the two governments and the St. John & Quebec Railway Co., all of which specified that the route of the railway should be from St. John, or a point on the I. C. R. near St. John, to Grand Falls. He was not 'surprised there were unbelievers. He expected that there would always be 'unbelievers and that there would be 'those people who, when the construction of the road on the first sections 'commenced, would go about saying 'that it would never be built past Centreville and Gagetown. He supposed 'that, even after the construction of 'the work was started beyond Centreville and Gagetown, these unbelievers 'would be going about with some new 'story trying to deceive the people in 'the belief that the rest of the road 'would never be built. To his honorable friends opposite he would say 'that scripture gave an awful illustration of the fate of unbelievers. The 'honorable gentlemen opposite would 'no doubt remember those people in 'the olden times who would not believe Noah when he told them there 'was going to be a flood, and they all 'perished.'"

The Opposition still protested that the company was not sound, whereupon Mr. Flemming said:

"The company was a sound one financially and were able to furnish all the capital required. They had undertaken in the contract to provide '\$2,000 per mile in excess of the sum 'the engineers estimated it would 'take to build the road, and it was generally thought that these estimates 'were high. When the terms of the 'contract were studied, it would be 'seen that no contingency could arise 'whereby the province could lose. If 'a contingency did arise and the province had to take the road off the 'hands of the company, it would be 'found that they would have the property on their hands on which the 'company had expended far more than 'the amount of the bonds guaranteed 'and the road would be under lease to 'the Intercolonial to operate and pay 'the province forty per cent. of the 'gross earnings. The financial interests of the province were absolutely 'safeguarded.'"

Some Timely Questions.

"What became of Lisman's check for \$100,000, handed the government as a guarantee when the contract was signed?" asked Mr. Foster.

"What became of the underwriting agreement of F. J. Lisman & Co., whereby they agreed to take the second mortgage bonds and pay \$1,500,000 for them?" he also asked.

"When announcing the signing of the contract with Gould and his associates," he continued, "the Government boasted of these guarantees. Now will Mr. Baxter tell the people of New Brunswick what became of this check for \$100,000 and the agreement to provide \$1,500,000?"

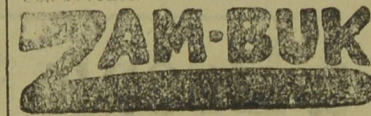
Prohibition.

Mr. Foster said that in his opinion the temperance question is not a ques-

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Arthur LeBlanc.

Kent.

Phileas McManison.
A. A. Dymart.
A. Z. Boudage.

Manitou City.

Hon. C. W. Robinson.
Westmorland.

Dr. E. A. Smith.
Fred Magee.

G. M. Legere.
Francis J. Sweeney.

Kings.

Edward S. Carter.
Dr. George N. Pearson.

Fred E. Sharpe.

St. John County.

Walter E. Foster.
Alfred F. Bantley.

Sunbury.

Robert Smith.
David Mercereau.

Victoria.

J. F. Tweeddale.
James Burgess.

Madawaska.

L. A. Dugal.
J. E. Michaud.

Albert.

S. S. Ryan.
W. J. Carnworth.

Carleton.

Hon. W. P. Jones.
Andrew McCain.

George W. Upham.

York.

Elwood Burtt.
Alphons B. Kitchen.

Peter J. Hughes.
William P. Lawson.

Northumberland.

D. V. Allain.
Robert Murray.

D. J. Schofield.
Robert McGrath.

Gloucester.

J. P. Byrne.
P. J. Veniot.

C. R. Leger.

J. G. Robichaud.

St. John City.

W. H. Barnaby.
W. E. Scully.

J. A. Sinclair.

Dr. W. E. Roberts.

Charlotte.

W. F. Todd.
H. R. Lawrence.

Burton E. Hill.
Joseph Gaskill.

tion of party politics. When the Attorney General had introduced the bill he had baptized it with politics. A child can be baptized but once. Prohibition affects all, directly or indirectly, and is therefore too big and broad a matter to be dealt with politically. The law is today on the statute books.

"If we are returned to power," Mr. Foster said, when May 1 comes the prohibition bill will be put into effect and we will enforce it, as far as it lies in our power to do so, just as we will every other law that is on the books."

He said he wanted this set down strongly in order to stop the carnival of misrepresentation in which the supporters of the government are indulging in this matter, and in order that the position of the Opposition in the matter may be plainly set forth.

A Fight for the People.

In conclusion, Mr. Foster said that this election is not altogether a fight between Liberals and Conservatives. It is a fight of the people for clean government. On many occasions the question has been asked, why do not more business men and leading citizens give some time to public affairs? "Are the people of St. John sincere when they ask this question? If so they will elect the nominees of the Opposition. The four candidates are the type of men for which the citizens ask. Now is their opportunity, and I hope that on election day St. John will elect the full Opposition ticket."

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