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Any returned men wishing to subscribe for the "Veteran" may do so by applying to Secretary E. H. Coy of the local G. W. V. A. at the G. W. V. A. rooms. The subscriptions have been taken out of the hands of the agents and in future will be subscribed to through the G. W. V. A. branches.

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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the post office of Tracey Station and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

H. W. WOODS,
Post Office Inspector.
Post Office Inspector's Office,
St. John, N. B., Oct. 3rd, 1919.

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When New Brunswick Had Honest Administration

Some Particulars of the Notorious Patriotic Potato Transaction

Recalled—Premier Foster's Masterly Review of the Evidence—An Important Matter for the Consideration of the Opposition Convention to be Held Next Month.



HON. W. E. FOSTER.

The announcement that the Provincial Opposition proposes to hold a Provincial Convention in the early part of November has caused quite a sensation among the local conservative supporters in this city and county. As a matter of fact, very many of those who used to be prominent in supporting the Hazen-Flemming and Clarke administrations do not care to be called upon at the present time to endorse the Government which was led for so short a time by the Honorable James Murray. They feel that when the Convention assembles they must either clean house peremptorily and dismiss the men who were responsible for the timber and potato and Valley Railway graft or if they accept the leadership of Murray et al., they will be held responsible for all of their misdeeds.

The Standards editorial statement would indicate that there is going to be some severe thinking between now and Convention day. This paragraph in particular has been read and re-read with some interest:

"There is ample time during the next month for full discussion of the topics to be brought before this Provincial assemblage and for consideration of the respective qualifications of those names mentioned as local delegates. In the interest of good government in New Brunswick it is to be hoped that in every ward and Parish in this Province the electors will choose the very best men, will seriously consider such policies as would result in progress, prosperity and honest administration of this province, and will send to this convention men prepared to actively participate in the important affairs to be brought before them."

The words "honest administration" must appeal to very many as somewhat misplaced, particularly in the light of all that happened and the proceedings in the legislature during the session of 1919. A portion of the speech made at that time by the Premier of the Province, Hon. Mr. Foster makes interesting reading just now. Only a portion of it is needed to be quoted and yet every line of his speech in reference to the matters before the House on that day is of vital interest to the people of the Province. Those who have the official record of the proceedings, sometimes called the Synoptic Report of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, will find the Premier's speech from pages 160 to 171 inclusive. It has never yet been published in full in the newspapers of the Province and it will particularly interest not only the supporters of the Government but supporters of the opposition as well at the present time.

Here are the Premier's words: "After the money had been raised out of the Valley Railway to pay the bills, the change of Government came, and an inquiry was instituted into the affairs of the Railway. As you know, it was held before Mr. Stevens. At a session of that inquiry held in the fifth day of June, 1917, Mr. Thomas Cozzolino declared for the first time that \$100,000 had been paid to Mr. W. B. Tennant by the Nova Scotia Construction Company in connection with their contract. It was then announced that the inquiry would be adjourned until the 19th day of June and that Mr. Tennant would be subpoenaed to attend at that time. Mr. Tennant was subpoenaed. On the 18th day of June Mr. Tennant prepared himself to give evidence the next day. He announced to everybody in sight, as he says, that he would not go on the stand and give evidence that he still had the money in his business, unless he had it there. So there was nothing for the gentlemen who were interested in it being shown that the money was in his business, but to get it there. So Mr. George B. Jones put up \$20,000, and Mr. J. B. M. Baxter advanced \$40,000 on an order of Mr. Tennant to his executors to turn over some stocks to Mr. Baxter in the event of his (Tennant's) death in His Business.

And soon on the next day, having been so strengthened and fortified by the money which he had so received from Mr. Jones and Mr. Baxter, Mr. Tennant went on the stand and swore as follows:— (page 120)

"Q. What did you do with the \$100,000 when you got it?
(Objected to by Mr. Teed and al-

lowed).
"Q. What did you do with it
"A. I put it in my business.
"Q. How did you put it in your business.
"A. That would be a very difficult thing to say. In the course of months it gradually broadened out into my business and various avenues. It is in my business."

Mr. Jones' Case

Mr. George B. Jones, M. L. A. of Kings also gave evidence on the enquiry before Commissioner McQueen. He told of having got the \$61,500 from Mr. Tennant in the summer of 1916, and of having distributed it in the way I have indicated.

Mr. Jones also gave evidence on the enquiry before Commissioner Stevens. On that occasion he admitted during the election campaign of 1917 of getting a package of \$20,000 from Mr. Tennant, and of having turned it over to Mr. Bell for election purposes, and on that hearing when pressed on two separate occasions as to whether he had ever at any other time got any other money from Mr. W. B. Tennant, he positively swore that he had not. Now both statements cannot be true. Both statements were made under oath. That he got the \$61,500 from Tennant in 1916 is overwhelmingly established, and Mr. Jones admits it. That he got that \$20,000 from Tennant in 1917 is equally well established, and

he admitted it. It is impossible for a minute to suppose that he could have forgotten the transaction. In fact, he had assisted Tennant in preparing the stage to cover up the transaction by loaning him the sum of \$20,000.

Who, therefore, for a moment can say that the finding of Commissioner McQueen that the statement was deliberate prejury is not well founded.

How Baxter Helped

Then we have the finding of the Commissioner concerning the member for the County of St. John. Now Mr. Baxter is a sharp business man. He follows public questions very closely. It is inconceivable to me that on the 18th day of June, 1917, he did not

(Continued on page three.)

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