

The Daily Mail

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THE SALARY GRABBERS

The late Sir Richard Cartwright once defined an advanced Liberal Conservative as "a person who possesses no fixed convictions, and would not know what to do with them if he had. What he possesses are certain instincts to feather his own nest by any means, fair or foul, preferably the latter and another to have the grits."

Sir Richard did not have the members of the Flemming government in mind when he gave utterance to the above quoted words, but the definition as applied to them is a remarkably correct one. By resorting to the grossest corruption during the last provincial campaign they succeeded in "hiving the grits" and they have since been busily engaged in feathering their own nests. A bill has been introduced in the Legislature this session to add \$2400 to the salary of Premier Flemming and now there is another scheme on foot to add \$400 to the salary of Hon. Dr. Landry, the Commissioner of Agriculture and increase the pay of the forecattle members of the executive.

Under the proposed legislation Premier Flemming's salary will be \$4,500 a year in addition to his sessional indemnity, traveling expenses, etc., which will bring the total up to about \$6000. Is he worth the money? There are a whole lot of people in this province—and they are not all Liberals either—who will be apt to answer this question in the negative. It is all very well for friends of the premier to say that he could command a larger salary than he is at present receiving, in some private occupation. This may all be true but it will be remembered that he did not have to be coaxed to accept a portfolio in the government. He knew what salary was attached to the office and nobody ever heard him say while in opposition that it was not sufficient. Indeed he is on record as stating that the members of the government were well paid in view of the fact that they are not required to devote their whole time to the public service. It is a pretty well known fact that Premier Flemming was a poor man when he entered public life. He is not a poor man today, therefore it cannot be urged on his behalf that he has found the game of politics unprofitable.

Then there is the case of Hon. Dr. Landry. His salary is to be increased from \$1700 to \$2100. The only argument that can be advanced in favor of the increase is that he should be placed on the same footing as the other Ministers. By no stretch of the imagination can it be justified on any other ground. He has not brought to bear in the administration of his department any great amount of expert knowledge. He can prescribe for the sick or set a broken limb, but all he does not know about farming would make a very large sized volume. He is nothing more than a figure head and his department is run by officials who would probably get along much better if he were not around to butt in.

Soon after assuming the reins of power the present government boosted the salary of two of its ministers. Now two more have been given an increase and probably next session there will be another raid on the treasury in which both Ministers and members will participate.

To provide the money to pay themselves the members of the government are looking about for new means of taxation. The lumbermen are to be squeezed and it is proposed to unload an additional burden on the municipalities in connection with the provincial hospital. The municipalities contributed \$6,500 last year to this institution. Under legislation now before the House they will next year contribute a much larger sum. When in opposition Premier Flemming and his colleagues howled about direct taxation and now when as a result of their reckless extravagance they have found it necessary to impose it upon the people, they

have the impudence to refer to it as "an excellent arrangement". They certainly work on the principle that the people like to be humbugged and can be made to believe almost anything.

Having substituted the title M.L.A. for the time-honored M.P.P., the members of the Flemming government propose carrying out another new fangled idea. They have a bill before the House to change the titles of the members of the government holding portfolios. The chief commissioner is to be made the minister of public works, the provincial secretary is to become the provincial secretary-treasurer, the surveyor general is to become the minister of lands and mines, and the commissioner of agriculture is to become the minister of agriculture. They have so far been unable to find a new title for the attorney general or the ministers without portfolios but the latter are to receive \$12 per day for attending meetings of the government, instead of \$8. If Commodore Stewart, the most democratic member of the House, does not raise his voice in solemn protest against the latest piece of tomfoolery he should resign his seat and hike for home.

Of the forty eight members of the present Legislature only three Messrs Pinder, Melanson and Lockart sat in the House when the late Hon. A. G. Blair was premier. At that time they posed as champions of the rights of the municipalities and were ever on the watch for legislation having a tendency to impose on the municipalities burdens which had previously been borne by the province. In view of their past record it will be interesting to watch their attitude with respect to the bill recently introduced by Premier Flemming to compel the municipalities to pay one third of the cost of maintaining the provincial hospital for nervous diseases. The people of the County of York will be terribly shocked if that renowned last ditch fighter, Mr. Pinder supports the bill.

The Toronto Star—Though the days lengthen regularly and gradually, a few minutes a day yet there usually comes in February one day on which a man says to his neighbor "The days are growing longer." Perhaps it is a fine day following a cloudy week, and giving the impression of a great sudden gain in sunshine. After such a day winter is never again the same. The thermometer may fall to zero, the wind may roar and shake the windows, the snow may be piled fence-high, but everyone sees that it is the retreat of winter, not the advance. The grim old warrior rallies his forces and inspires fear or respect in the hearts of the pursuing host; but he is a dead one, and he knows it when his guns roar loudest.

The annual report of the Crown Land Department contains the following interesting statement published over the signature of Hon. J. K. Flemming: "The number of record heads of moose was perhaps not as large as in former years and old hunters claim the wet season had more to do with retarded growth of horns than any claim as to the game being shot off." One would infer from the above that "record heads" are very common in New Brunswick, which of course is not the case. The only record head in evidence this year is the head of the government, who has succeeded in making a record as a salary grabber.

In 1907, the last year of the old government there was paid for carpenter work about the legislative buildings the sum of \$351.15 and for similar work at the normal School \$159.25, a total of \$510.40. Under the economical Flemming administration last year carpenter work at the legislative buildings cost \$1199.24 and at the Normal School \$288.76, a total of \$1488—of this amount Mr. A. C. Flemming got \$894, while \$594 went to his deputy Mr. William Blair. The difference in the expenditure by an "extravagant Liberal government and an economical Tory government was only \$977.60.

London Free Press—It has been suggested that husbands and fathers who forget their responsibilities should be imprisoned, under circumstances which would permit of their being employed remuneratively, and their wages turned over to the pri-

soner's family. The man who will not work for his family willingly should do so under compulsion. Drastic application of a drastic law would do much to remove the pitiable incidents from family life in Canada, which upon police evidence have become common.

Parliament may be sued for false imprisonment. Mr. Miller is still in jail, but is not likely to be there long. A. E. Harvey, his counsel, says that has obtained the opinion of the best criminal lawyers in Canada, and the opinion is that the House of Commons acted absolutely without authority. There is also a question whether a provincial county jailer has the right to receive and retain a state prisoner.

Premier Flemming's little bill to extort more money from the various municipalities in support of the Provincial Hospital will furnish an excellent opportunity for the N. B. Union of Municipalities to demonstrate its usefulness. If we are not mistaken the principle object of the Union is to fight against bad legislation affecting the municipalities.

MARYSVILLE

(Continued from page 1)

spoken of as a good man for the position, Mr. Pond is at present Secretary of the School Board. Mr. Samuel Hallett, I. C. R. Station agent has also been mentioned as a good man to head the council. Ald. Red and Morrison both of whom have had experience at the board are also in demand for the office of Mayor. As yet it is not known who will be honored with the office. Any one of the men mentioned would be an improvement on what the town has been used to lately. Some rare gun is promised on nomination day.

Mr. E. A. Tapley and family are preparing to remove west early spring where Mr. Tapley has secured a position, through the influence of his son who is already located there. Mr. and Mrs. Tapley and their daughter Florence will be greatly missed by their large number of Marysville friends, among whom they were very popular. All Saint's Church will miss them as they were devoted to the upbuilding of that place of worship. Socially they will be greatly missed while Miss Tapley's departure will be a loss to the teaching staff of the Marysville School as she was esteemed by the trustees, parents and children as well. The Mail joining with the numerous friends in wishing them "God Speed" and "good luck."

Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Legislature during the present session for an act to amend "An Act to provide for the establishment of a Police Commission for the City of Fredericton," so as to provide for a Police Commission independent of the City Council, in accordance with the petition of a large number of the ratepayers of the said City of Fredericton.

W. H. STEEVES,
Chairman of Committee.
Feb. 14, 1913—130—March 3.

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