

The Daily Mail

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DONALD FRASER.....President

Fredericton, N. B., May 29, 1912

THE FLEMMING MANIFESTO

The manifesto to the electors of New Brunswick issued by the Hon. J. Kidd Flemming is beyond a doubt the greatest piece of political buncombe ever foisted upon the intelligent people of this province by a man occupying a representative position. The premier has never been given the credit of being endowed with a sense of humor, but if he penned the document which appeared in the Tory press this week over his signature he deserves to rank in a class with Artemus Ward, Mark Twain, Bill Nye and other noted funny men who have in the past furnished entertainment and amusement for the public.

The premier labors under the belief that the audit act which his government enacted is the greatest piece of legislation ever conceived by the mind of man. Why he should have such an idea in his noddle is not quite clear, for the record of the past three years show that the act has been grossly violated by the very men who placed it upon the statute books. Thousands of dollars have been expended without authority from the Legislature and in many cases details of the expenditure have been concealed from the public eye. Only last year the government was able to expend \$56,000 over and above the total revenue of the province.

The increased revenue from crown lands is made much of by the Premier, and he sets up the claim that the increase is due to an "honest collection of stumpage." If this is so how comes it that the amount collected in 1911 was much greater than the amounts collected in 1910 and 1909? If there was no increase in the lumber cut as claimed, why was not the stumpage revenue the same for the three years? We would like to see the Premier take the public into his confidence and satisfactorily answer this query.

Mr. Flemming tells of the great work his government has done on behalf of agriculture, but he does not say that the staff of officials has been doubled and their salaries greatly increased. Neither does he say that the government expends less in proportion to its revenue for the encouragement of agriculture than did the old administration.

The Premier as might well be expected takes all the credit to himself for what has been accomplished towards providing the people of the St. John Valley with railway facilities. He entirely ignores the work performed in this connection by many earnest Liberals and he also omits to make mention of the strenuous efforts put forth by his government to saddle the country with an electric trolley line. The intelligent electors of the province however, are familiar with the record and know that Premier Flemming did nothing towards securing this great boon for the St. John Valley until driven to it by force of public opinion. They know that he states an untruth when he says that the amendment proposed by Mr. Tweeddale, calling for simultaneous work on all sections of the road between St. John and Grand Falls, would have killed the project. Mr. Tweeddale's amendment was decidedly in the public interest and will be so regarded by the people.

The Premier says that his government has expended a lot of money on roads and bridges, but admits that there is much more to be done before they will be put in perfect condition. Nobody who has had occasion to travel over the roads of the province during the past few weeks will be inclined to dispute the Premier's word that much more remains to be done. As a matter of fact the greater portion of the money expended by the government on roads and bridges has found its way into the pockets of an army of useless officials, with the result that the roads are really in a worse condition than they were previous to 1908, when the revenue was less by half a million dollars than it is today.

For months past the Premier has been going about the province speak-

ing at banquet and telling of the great things he is going to do to improve conditions in New Brunswick and keep our young men at home. When it comes to a show down he has nothing to propose but his ready made farm scheme and even that is to be held in abeyance until after the elections. The Premier has in more ways than one given evidence that he is not big enough for the job and if the signs of the times can be read correctly the electors will on June 20th give him to understand in a very forcible manner that his services are no longer required.

The local hack organ which has been drawing \$20 a day from the provincial treasury since 1908, rises to remark that the Tories of York "are a very contented party, a party without cliques, and in which small jealousies and friction are at all times absent." The hack organ has evidently dropped into the Rip Van Winkle class. It should wake up long enough to ask Mr. Pinder what he thinks of Mr. McLeod, and vice versa; it might also ask Mr. McLeod what he thinks of Mr. Shipp and vice versa, and it might also get Mr. Young's candid opinion of the St. Mary's doctor and vice versa. Finally the organ might then make an effort to find out why Hon. George J. Colter resigned the presidency of the Conservative Association, and having obtained this information it might ask him confidentially what he thinks of the whole bunch.

The Tory organs have been palming off on their readers a cock and bull story in connection with the retirement of Mr. F. C. Squires from the York ticket in Carleton County. They say that he did not know that the elections were coming off so soon, and that he has to be in Baston on June 25th to graduate. The most hidebound Tory must have smiled when he read that yarn, and no Liberal would be silly enough to swallow it. The fact is the Tory convention at the dictation of Premier Flemming nominated the wrong man and as soon as the mistake was discovered a retreat was ordered. Mr. Squires' successor is a brother-in-law of Mr. Andy Humble, the erstwhile claims agent of the I. C. R.

Liberal conventions were held yesterday in the Counties of Albert and Gloucester and selected strong candidates for the Legislature. The Liberals of Carleton and St. John Counties hold nominating conventions on Friday. The Queens Liberal convention is called for Monday next at Gagetown, and the Liberals of Sunbury will meet at Burton on Tuesday next. The ranks are fast closing up and it is expected by the end of next week, there will be opposition candidates in the field in every county in the province.

It is announced that Col. McLeod has received from a Yankee militia officer a medal for competition among the men of the 71st regiment. Great oaks from little acorns grown. Who knows but this may be a scheme on the part of the wicked Yankees to bring about the annexation of Canada. We are surprised that such a noted flag-flapper as Col. McLeod should have any truck with the Yankees.

The local hack organ yesterday suppressed the news of the great Liberal victory in Alberta, but the headlines escaped the vigilance of the editor and, bobbed up on the first page over a report of a meeting of the executive of the Presbyterian Foreign Mission. It is rather early in the game for the hack organ to become panicky.

The annual controllable expenditure in 1907, the last year of the old government was \$969,000. Last year under the economical Flemming administration it was \$1,403,546.85 an increase of \$434,546. It is time for a change.

It is beginning to look as if the Tory ship of state commanded by Capt. Kidd, which since October last has been running before the wind with her jib aft, and the crew in a state of mutiny, will soon be high and dry upon the rocks.

Judging by the way Liberals are winning elections these days it does not look as if the good old party would be out of power very long.

Will the Flemming government's ready made farm scheme make you rich.

The Liberals of Westmorland at a rousing convention at Sackville on Monday nominated Mr. A. B. Copp of Sackville, C. W. Leger of Westmorland, Coun. I. W. Killam of Salisbury and Fred Magee of Port Elgin Hon. F. J. Sweeney who has faithfully represented the county for nine years was offered a nomination but declined. All of the candidates made speeches of acceptance and great enthusiasm prevailed.

Premier Flemming in his manifesto referring to the agricultural department says: "Today there is no more busy department in the whole administration." The official duties of Secretary Hubbard may be very onerous but he manages to find time to attend Tory love feasts, talk politics and contribute articles to the Tory press in praise of the Flemming government.

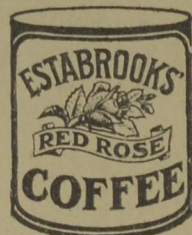
Mr. John Wilson, M.P.P., Col. Andy Armstrong, a retired government official, Daniel Mullin, K.C., and C. B. Lockhart are likely to be the Tory candidates in St. John. Even the support of the hoodoo globe will be scarcely sufficient to elect such a fearful and wonderful combination.

The Liberals carried the Quebec local elections by an enormous majority, and now comes word that they made a clean sweep in five bye-election in Alberta. The tide of Liberalism seems to be rising in both east and west. It will be New Brunswick's turn next.

Premier Flemming in his manifesto takes credit to himself for amending the Liquor License Act so that any community by a majority vote of the ratepayers can adopt prohibition. Why, bless you this amendment was adopted years before the present administration came into power.

Farmers of York, has the Flemming agricultural policy made you rich?

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Hon. Robert Maxwell has resigned from the Flemming government and will be succeeded by Mr. John E. Wilson, M.P.P. for St. John. Rats have a habit of deserting a sinking ship.

Telegraph: Mr. Flemming should find time during the next few days to explain how he proposes to build 221 miles of railway with a bond guarantee which covers only 169 miles. The people of the river valley who do not want C.P.R. control and C.P.R. rates will have a bone to pick with Mr. Flemming right away.

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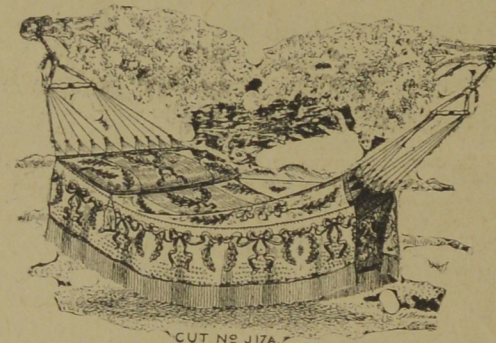
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