The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 21, 1908

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SITUATION REVIEWED

One opposition speaker has professed to be shocked that the minister of public works is so much "on the defensive."

If the opposition had not made gross personal charges against Dr. Pugsley, he would have been content to rest his case upon the great policy of winter port development which he has outlined. But charges were made against him which if true would have driven him from public life. The weight of the name and influence of the premier of the province and other well known men was behind these charges and insinuations. Dr. Pugsley had no choice. He had to meet and deny the truth of the charges. He had to discuss these matters and appeal to the record. He has done this so effectively that the brutal and outrageous character of the attack made upon him has been fully exposed. No doubt his baffled enemies would be glad now if he would drop the subject. They attempted to cheat in the game, and were found out. They assumed responsibility for Mr. Mayes, and the consequences are disastrous to themselves. The character of the minister has been vindicated. He was the chosen victim of as foul an attack as has ever been made upon a public man in the political history of New Brunswick. Had not his answer to his traducers been prompt and decisive, the public might have been deceived. It would be much more pleasing to him to be able to dwell upon the prospect of a greater winter port, and the plan by which it is to be accomplished, but the scandal charges were imported into the contest by his opponents to divert public attention from the real issue, and so if possible bring about his defeat.

Dr. Pugsley has proved beyond question that as minister he guarded the public interests. He refused to vary the Mayes contract in such a manner as would have increased the contractor's profits. He held the latter to his contract. He refused to be coerced by threats of alleged exposure into purchasing a dredge at a price some $50,000 or more in excess of what his own engineer declared to be its real value.

This is the kind of man the country needs as minister of public works—a man who will stand between the contractor and the public chest and guard the latter with a full consciousness of his duty to the people.

Unhappily this has been a scandal campaign. The opposition made it so, deliberately, all over Canada. In localities where the facts are not likely to be so well known or so clearly presented, the Mayes charges are made to do duty as a proof that the government should be defeated. In St. John the people are asked to believe all that is told them by Conservative speakers concerning alleged scandals in other parts of Canada.

The people are weary of all this. They are turning from it in disgust to a consideration of the real issues in the contest. These are the respective policies of the two parties and the special interests of the wintr port.

So far as policies are concerned, Mr. Borden does not offer anything that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not been earnestly endeavoring to give to the country. The opposition leader's boastful assertion that he would give a more honest administration must be read in connection with a list of the gentlemen from whom his cabinet would have to selected. This list does not afford any assurance that all the honest men are associated with Mr. Borden. As a matter of fact he could do no better than Sir Wilfrid has done.

Coming to the local issue, the interests of St. John, these were never looked after as well as at the present time. Dr. Pugsley is an ideal representative so far as the affairs of his own constituency are concerned. In addition to this fact, his position as minister of public works enables him to do full justice to the winter port, in the matter of providing terminal facilities. Already he has secured appropriations amounting to $730,000, and has inaugurated a policy which must result in the expenditure of several millions of dollars, not as a bribe for St. John, but as a part of a great national policy of transportation which regards St. John as a national port.

The citizens would be guilty of an act of supreme folly if at this critical period in the history of the winter port they substituted Dr. MacRae for Dr. Pugsley. They are not so blind to the vast importance of the issues at stake as to commit this act of folly. Dismissing the trumped up scandal charges with the contempt which the minister's clear vindication of himself shows that they deserve, the electors will on Monday next elect Dr. Pugsley and Mr. James Pender, to be their representatives in parliament, and to carry on the great national work so well begun at this port.

THE REACTION

It is not surprising that there should be a general reaction against the opposition leaders in this constituency because of the methods they have adopted in their attempt to destroy the minister of public works. There is always a pause, and a period of hesitancy after such an appeal to the public as was made by the spectacular presentation of the Mayes affidavit; but the people at heart desire a square deal. The charges seemed so definite and circumstantial that when they were made amid the clamor of Conservative rejoicing many persons were for the moment in doubt, and some were perhaps convinced that the minister of public works had done something which as a minister of the crown he should not have done. But when he was heard in reply, and the correspondence was submitted, and all the facts laid bare, the true character of the attack began to impress itself upon the public mind, and those who may have been in doubt rallied all the more earnestly to the support of the man who had been made the object of such a gross, unscrupulous attempt to destroy his reputation.

The reaction has gone steadily on, and the result will be shown on polling day, when every citizen will have an opportunity to give expression to his feelings with regard to persons who resort to the methods of the blackmailer and scandalmonger to reap a political advantage.

The campaign of slander and abuse to which the Conservatives resorted as their only source of hope has found a fitting climax in the importation into eastern Canada of copies of the Calgary Eye Opener, the vilest and most obscene publication in this country. That must indeed be a week cause which resorts to such props as this scandalous publication, which is not fit to take into the homes of decent people.

Mr. Carvell gave the Mayes charges a passing kick last night, as they proceeded on their way to the oblivion of exploded slanders against cabinet ministers. The mourners are the Conservative leaders in St. John. As Mr. Carvell points out, the leaders at Ottawa were too foxy to be caught, but the child-like Premier Hazen walked into the trap.

Mr. Borden suggests rather than asserts that the Conservative tarriff is not quite to his liking. It is good enough for Mr. W. K. George, of Toronto, one of the most prominent leaders of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, who has taken the platform in support of the Liberal party.

In every constituency in New Brunswick the Liberals have a strong candidate, worthy to represent the people. Everywhere there is the confident note of victory.

Dr. Pugsley continues to receive on every hand assurances of confidence which compensate him for the brutal attacks made by some Conservative leaders.

All this boasting in the opposition press about a general victory is unworthy of a moment's attention. The government will be sustained. Keep St. John in line.

The Hon. Mr. Brodeur is elected by acclamation. So is Mr. W. F. MacLean, the advocate of government ownership and an all-round critic.

Stores open till 8 p.m. St. John, Oct. 21st, 1908.

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AT SUSSEX

The Conservatives of Kings-Albert will no longer go about boasting of an easy victory over Dr. McAlister. Last night's great meeting in Sussex revealed the fact that the Liberal party is lined up for the hottest fight that has ever been waged against Mr. Fowler. This meeting revealed something else of importance. It showed that the result of the late provincial contest in Kings and in Albert is no criterion from which to judge the present one. Those Liberals who voted for a change in the provincial administration are united with all other Liberals to vote for the return of the present government at Ottawa.

The joint debate was held in Mr. Fowler's home town. His opponent in the discussion was a stranger to most of the people. And yet, in this, the greatest political meeting ever held in Sussex the Liberal speaker was given such a reception as must have convinced Mr. Fowler that his own power in Kings has waned. The address of Mr. Carvell, clean cut and convincing drove home the facts with which he dealt, and the people cheered him again and again. Mr. Fowler wasted too much of his time in discussing the platform of 1893, while Mr. Carvell's exposition of government policy with respect to immigration, transportation, the tariff, the preference and other matters, and the splendid results in national growth and prosperity in these twelve years was a most conclusive and crushing answer. With regard to land deals and scandals Mr. Carvell turned the tables with telling effect, and showed that if there were black sheep they were not all in the Liberal fold.

The meeting had a dramatic ending. Mr. Fowler, greatly excited and much worried by constant interruptions, launched into a savage personal attack on Mr. Carvell and then proceeded to read from Hansard to vindicate himself. Mr. Carvell leaped to his feet and challenged Mr. Fowler to read an indicated paragraph from a blue book. Mr. Fowler refused. The crowd of course inferred that he was not anxious to have it read and became so insistent in its demand that he did so that he was unable to finish his reply and the meeting broke up. He was unable to command the attention of the audience any longer. The incident was prophetic of what will happen on Oct. 26th.

The minister of public works has announced that the Mayes affair will be made the subject of government enquiry, aside from the proceedings between Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity in the courts. This is not the attitude of a man who fears publicity.

Mr. Flemming would like very much to divert public attention from what Dr. Pugsley is doing for the development of the winter port. That is Mr. Flemming's little game. It will not succeed. The people of St. John know who are their friends.

A cynical observer says it would be just like St. John to go against the government when it had everything to gain by doing the very opposite. This observer is wrong. St. John will elect Pugsley and Pender and stand by the winter port.

Of more importance to St. John people than many scandals hatched for election purposes are the improvements in Courtenay Bay and on the west side of the harbor. These are the things the people will vote for on Monday next.

From being the attacking party Mr. Fowler last evening was forced to take the defensive, and the experience, in his home town, was not a soothing one. He lost his temper and stormed. The big storm is due next Monday evening.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley is quite right in his refusal to advertise Hon. Mr. Flemming by meeting him in the Queens Rink to discuss provincial politics. This is a federal campaign. In due time Mr. Flemming will be attended to.

The clear statement made last evening by the minister of public works, showing what the development of terminal facilities at Courtenay Bay means, is far more to the public taste than the sneering comments of Dr. Daniel.

The Standard does not give the workingmen of St. John credit for even ordinary intelligence. It says they will vote against the minister who is carrying out a great programme for the development of the winter port.

The Standard's great charge against Dr. Pugsley is that he promises too much. But Dr. Pugsley performs as well as promises, and the people see the evidence of the fact. That is why they will elect Pugsley and Pender.

It is about time the Conservatives produced their last roorback for this campaign. They surely have not exhausted their ingenuity, even if the Mayes affair did damage their own cause.

A Reform League and an obscene publication are not likely to be very effective co-workers.

The government will be sustained. Keep St. John in line.

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Corner Charlotte and South Market sts.
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Who would be the New Brunswick member of a Borden cabinet—Fowler, Sumner, Crocket, Mott or Wilmot. Of course there will be no Borden cabinet, but if there were, which of these gentlemen would be the choice? And what sort of an ideal statesman and reformer would he be when in office, with power to reward his friends for their support? Of course he would kill a middleman every few days, as a warning to others. Oh! Wouldn't he?

The Times yesterday quoted the reasons stated by a number of leading business men for their support of Pugsley and Pender. These are citizens who have a large interest in St. John and desire earnestly to promote its welfare. Today some more are given. These statements should be carefully read by the electors generally. They present the case for Pugsley, Pender, progress and prosperity with clearness and force.

"The Conservative campaign falters," says the Montreal Star because "it is preaching the sacredness of a public trust with Mr. Foster in the second place in the party and is denouncing lands deals with Mr. Fowler and Mr. Lefurgey as prominent candidates." Would some of these be included in Mr. Borden's cabinet of peerless and incorruptible statesmen?

Amid all the turmoil of the campaign Mr. James Pender goes peacefully on, making friends and gaining support on all sides. He will make a most valuable representative. He is honest, capable and fearless, and has a thorough knowledge of industrial and commercial affairs.

The man who could not get anywhere in provincial politics so long as Dr. Pugsley was a member of the legislature are still hounding him with all the bitter hatred born of long years of discomfiture.

The magnificent reception given to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Montreal last evening was an indication of what the result will be the country over on Monday next.

The Mayes affidavit is stated to have been signed in a Chinese laundry. "For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the Heathen Toree is peculiar."

Only three days more of active work before polling day. Close up the ranks and make them tell for the good of St. John.

The Conservatives are making large claims. They really expect defeat.

The importation of the Eye Opener into the contest by his enemies will greatly increase Sir Fred Borden's majority.

The Liberal party has given Canada twelve years of prosperity.

THE STEP ON THE STAIR.

In the silence of the night,
Airy, dainty, soft and light;
O'er the noises of the day,
Like the dropping of a spray;
I can hear it, it is near,
Like an echo in my ear,
That loved footstep, ever more
On the step and at the door.

In the morning when the trees
Shake their little hands in breeze;
In the noon when murmur reigns
And the flies buzz on the panes,
Soft and gentle, tippytoe,
I can hear her shadow go,
And her vision passes by
While we listen and we sigh.

In each home where death hath been
There are sounds above the din,
And below it; ah, they sway
Through the babble of the day;
In the dusk of eve they creep
In the silent halls of sleep;
Soft and gentle, they are there,
Little steps upon the stair.

—Baltimore Sun.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

A NEW SCHOOL.

"I fancy our family doctor is the least ambitious man in town."

"What is he—allopathic or homeopathic?"

"Well, he's mostly apathetic."—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

HEARD IN A PARIS SHOP.

"I would like to take my wife a souvenir of Mentone."

"We have mosaics from Florence, olive wood from Sorrento, corals from Naples."

"I should like something local."

"Very well; I will show you some English objects."—Petit Journal Pour Rire.

A RULE TO REMEMBER.

"I see that you look out for number one in all your financial and political transactions."

"Yes," answered Mr. Dustin Stax, "when I studied grammar as a boy, one of the first things I learned was that the first person singular should always be carefully capitalized."—Washington Star.

PA WAS WILLING.

His Daughter's Beau—"I—er—er—wan to ask you, sir, for your—er—er—daughter's hand, sir."

Her Father—"I'm not disposing of her in sections, but I'm willing to listen to any proposition involving all of her, sir."—Cleveland News.

NON-SUITED.

He pressed his suit at the summer resort
With girls who wealth possess,
But every one of them turned him down,
And now fall's coming and, here in town,
He hasn't a suit to press.

—Exchange.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Ostend—Pa, what kind of ships are courtships?

Pa—Soft ships, my son.

Ostend—And what kind of ships sail the sea of matrimony?

Pa—Hardships, my son.—Chicago News.

HOW TO MARK YOUR BALLOT

CITY OF ST. JOHN

1 JOHN WATERHOUSE DANIEL
of the City of Saint John,
Physician

2 JAMES PENDER X
of the City of Saint John,
Manufacturer

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1 ALEXANDER W. MACRAE
of the City of Saint John,
Barrister-at-Law

2 WILLIAM PUGSLEY X
of the City of Saint John,
Barrister-at-Law