## ST. JOHN NOMINATIONS.

tended that the prices were not extravagant and that the firm of C. Flood & Sons, who had the contract, did not make half as much profit on school books as they did on ordinary ones, and as for their being printed out of the province, he assured Mr. Anderson that as soon as any New Brunswick publishing firm should tender and show they could do the work they would be given the contract. He touched lightly on the Muskoka lumber deal, claiming that the people of Restigouche county, who were most affected, had shown by their lack of support to Mr. Mott how little interest was taken in the matter.

Taking up Mr. Agar's speech, Mr. McKeown said that the opposition candidate had declared this was not a federal contest. Well, Mr. Blair said it was, and the speaker preferred to follow Mr. Blair rather than Mr. Agar. Referring to the outcry against Mr. Pugsley's connection with the Fort Kent dam scheme, he stated that every mill owner in the vicinity of St. John was friendly to the government, which would not be the case if any member of the government was acting inimically to their interest. He thought the opposition candidates were worrying themselves unnecessarily in this matter, especially since Mr. Pugsley had withdrawn from all connection with the scheme.

Continuing, Mr. McKeown contended that the present government deserved to be sustained on its record, and in proof thereof he enlarged upon the benefits that had accrued to the province from the government's dairying and wheat growing policy. During the present administration, he said, the exports of cheese had increased from $37,000 to $188,000, and of butter from $7,000 to $158,000. As a result of their wheat policy a half million bushels of wheat had been grown and made into flour in the province, which meant a direct saving to the people of $100,000. The dominion subsidies matter and the Fishery Award were also dwelt upon, and great credit therein placed with the government, and especially with the attorney general. If the fishery award were decided in our favor, he said, the province would get $2,000,000 with the interest, on which the government could pay the fishermen the bounties they were at present receiving and have $60,000 or more left over annually.

Mr. McKeown next took up the platform of the labor candidates, and began to repeat almost verbatim the speech he had made in the same place last Monday night. But his attempt to introduce federal politics into the discussion provoked another disturbance, which prevented his continuing until the sheriff called for order. So he had to give that up again, and concluded his speech with a brief discussion of the labor platform in a local sense, and a prophecy that the present government was bound to be sustained.

"We'll show you on the 28th," yelled the audience as he sat down.

When

GEO. V. McINERNEY

was called upon to address the gathering the electors applauded enthusiastically and cheer after cheer went up. Some one called out three cheers for the labor candidate, and they were given with a will. A moment elapsed before Mr. McInerney could make himself heard. He began by assuring the audience that the reception given him warmed the cockles of his heart. He thanked the electors for it, but it was only in keeping with the kindness and generous hospitality extended to him ever since he came to St. John. The people here had treated him with great kindness, and he desired to thank them for it. He would ever hold in the deepest sense of gratitude the universal kindness shown him. The Telegraph asked why the people of St. John should vote for him, considering that he was too recent. Mr. McAlpine, kind and generous soul that he was, added that the speaker should get acquainted with the people before he looked for their suffrages. He could assure these people that he was trying to make the acquaintance of the people of this city, and he hoped they would make his acquaintance. When that was accomplished he did not think his opinion of them or theirs of him would be any worse. (Applause). He had lived in St. John only 16 months, but during that time he had done his utmost to advance the interests of the city. He had done more to increase the population of St. John than half the men on the government ticket had done in all their natural lives. This statement was based on the public records. Some people seemed to consider him a target for attack, and all sorts of darts of slander were aimed at him. Mr. Carleton, one of his friends, had stated that the wish of his heart was to meet the speaker on the hustings. Mr. McInerney was sorry Mr. Carleton was not there, but he did not deny him that privilege. It was the liberal party who put Mr. Lantalum on the ticket over the head of Mr. Carleton. (Applause). Mr. Lantalum was a good citizen, but he was always around where there was a wreck. (Laughter). Mr. McKeown had poked fun at the labor candidates. Mr. McInerney thought the labor unions had a right to select candidates. The fact that those candidates were in opposition to the government was rending the heart strings of Mr. McKeown. (Applause). How delighted Mr. McKeown would have been to have received that nomination. The labor people had a perfect right to meet and select whom they pleased as their candidates. He did not think he would have been in the field if he had not been named by the labor party. (Applause). It was held that he had no right, owing to his recent coming to St. John, to seek to be a candidate. Some months ago three men representing the labor unions waited upon him at his office. One of those gentlemen sat before him and he called upon that man to contradict him if he told otherwise than what was the truth. These delegates asked him if he would allow his name to be placed before the laborers' organizations as a possible candidate for the legislature. He asked the delegates what they were and they reported laborers. He then told them that he was opposed to the local government, and they said they were also against it. They showed him resolutions passed by the laborers, showing that they proposed to place two candidates in the field against the government. The delegates informed him that two of their number were liberals and the third a conservative. Mr. McInerney said he mentioned the fact that Mr. Mullin talked of running, and suggested that they see him. They reported having already seen Mr. Mullin. Mr. McInerney then told the delegates that if the laboring men nominated him and the opposition party saw fit to endorse that nomination he would consider the matter. The nomination from the laborers came to him soon after, and then the local opposition put him upon their ticket. (Applause). It was a compliment indeed. He did not get these nominations at his own solicitation at all. He defied the face of clay to say he ever sought this position. (Cheers). He stood there in a position he had never solicited, so that it came with bad grace from the Telegraph and Mr. McAlpine to say what they did. He, as one of the labor candidates, wanted to call attention to the fact that certain legislation ought to be passed along the line of labor. (Applause). Why were the united laborers against the government? Last fall a delegation from the unions waited on Premier Tweedie, Dr. Pugsley and Mr. Dunn, and laid before them a proposition to pass a laborers' compensation act. The matter was discussed and they asked the government to pass the law. Mr. Tweedie said he believed it fair, and told Dr. Pugsley to draft a bill and send it down for the laborers to look into it. The bill came to them and they made some slight amendments, which they asked to be made. The bill went back to Fredericton, but it was never passed. The government broke their pledge and word to these people and forfeited their confidence. (Applause.) They promised as a government and failed to do as they agreed. One would imagine that the principle of the bill was something ferocious, but that very principle was embodied in bills which were in force in Great Britain, New Zealand, Ontario and Nova Scotia. About the only change the laborers suggested was that the word "woman" be written in the bill as well as man. Was there any reason why a woman should not be given the same protection as a man? (Applause.) Mr. McKeown held out that Mr. Tweedie was disposed to pass this bill, but it appeared Mr. Tweedie was indisposed to do anything of the kind. Here Mr. McInerney paid some attention to the gentlemen associated with himself on the opposition ticket. Mr. Shaw had built up a record for honesty, integrity and fair dealing that recommended him to all classes. He had no doubt but that Mr. Shaw would again be elected. Mr. Wilson was a laboring man who knew what it was to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. He had built up a business here of which he had just reason to be proud. Mr. Hatheway, the other labor candidate, was a man against whose character the voice of slander could never be raised. There was not a man in the province so well versed in economic questions as Mr. Hatheway. He was a good debater. Refenence was next made to the members of the government ticket. Mr. McKeown was a man of ability, and his knowledge of public affairs recommended him for a better position than being a forecastle member of the government. It was strange he let others take the good things and was himself content with the crumbs that fell from the rich men's table. (Applause.) Mr. Robertson was a Kent county man, like himself. He did not think Mr. Robertson had given to his duties at Fredericton all the time he should have. He was scarcely ever in the house. His excuse was that he was away looking after the dry dock. Mr. McKeown had already read a telegram, and the electors might look for Mr. Robertson to read another, which would probably tell us the dry dock was coming down by mail. The people of St. John heard a lot about that dock the last election. Mr. Robertson ran his election on it. It was then to be an 850 feet stone dock, now it was reduced to 650 feet and was to be of wood. Mr. Purdy showed some independence in the house, but the most of the backing he got was from the opposition. An opposition was valuable, and Mr. Purdy would not have won his way in his efforts in behalf of the Indiantown fire sufferers but for them. (Applause.) Mr. McKeown opposed it, as did also all the government members except Mr. Farris, and he left the house rather than vote. Mr. McInerney had nothing to say against Mr. Lantalum. Passing to the issues between the two parties, Mr. McInerney said the attempt had been made to make the people believe this was a liberal and conservative fight. It was no such thing. Why had they taken up this issue so suddenly? The position taken by the Globe was logical. That of the government was sophistical and illogical. If the government intended to run the election on these lines why did they not call a liberal convention and announce it? They had not done so. In St. John the government sought to have it on liberal and conservative lines because they knew the liberal party were stronger here than the local government party. (Applause.)

From observations taken through the city and county it was evident that unless these movements had been taken to dragoon the liberal party the government candidates would have been defeated with ease. (Applause). He was surprised to find Geo. Robertson standing up for liberal principles. Mr. Blair was urging all liberals to vote for the local government. Look up the record of Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley. Are they liberals? The Globe said it was nonsensical and outrageous that such men would attempt to pull the wool over the people's eyes and get a verdict such as they sought. What would the late Sir A. J. Smith, the late T. W. Anglin or the late Isaac Burpee think if they could come out of the grave and find Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley leading the liberals of New Brunswick? (Laughter). Mr. Blair came here and said it was a liberal and conservative fight, because he said so. The speaker thought there was too much independence in the hearts and minds of the liberals to be whipped into line on an issue that was false and not right. (Applause). Mr. Blair in the legislature and in parliament claimed that the worst thing that could happen would be the introduction of federal politics into provincial affairs. Mr. Blair found that the Globe would not be bulldozed and asked what the liberal party would be if led by Mr. Ellis. Mr. McInerney said he would tell the gathering what would not have happened. Mr. Ellis would never have voted for a liberal in Sunbury county and a conservative in York. Mr. Ellis would not have packed up his grip and gone to Ottawa to take a place in the Mackenzie Bowell administration. Mr. Ellis would not have stood on a platform and told that he had advised Mr. Tweedie to go to Northumberland to use grit money and government influence against the liberal candidates. This was stultifying to a man of principle. Mr. Blair would not have been down here if he (McInerney) were not a candidate. He came here in the hope that he could crush the speaker. Mr. Blair sent $15,000 into Kent county the last election to defeat him, and the speaker supposed the minister would do the same thing here. But he thought Mr. Blair would make a mistake here. He would find that there was a large vote which would not be bulldozed. Mr. Blair had slandered the speaker on what was known as the Weldon letter. Mr. Blair asked how a man could be trusted who had been guilty of a breach of confidence. As far as honesty and fair dealing were concerned Mr. Blair was not fit to tie the lachets of the late C. W. Weldon's boots. Mr. McInerney did not wish to make any reflection on Mr. Weldon. In 1891 in the federal election in Kent county O. J. Leblanc was the candidate of the liberal party. He was a poor man and had no funds even to pay the legitimate election expenses. The speaker at that time was in sympathy with the liberals.

Mr. Robertson—Yes, you were.

Mr. McInerney—I had a change of heart, but, Mr. Robertson, you changed after your party had gone out of power. (Applause.) Resuming the matter under discussion, Mr. McInerney said a couple of men knowing Mr. Leblanc's position went to Quebec and St. John to endeavor to get money to assist him in the election. They learned in Quebec that a large sum of money had been raised and that Kent county could get a fair proportion. The election was held, but the money did not reach Kent county. The men who were named to get the money were charged with appropriating what they secured to their own purposes. They wrote to Mr. Blair, who got the money, and he failed to clear them of the charge. They then communicated with Mr. Weldon, and he sent up to Kent a detailed statement, which was now known as the Weldon letter. Mr. Weldon stated in it that it was written for the purpose of being shown and published, so as to clear these men of the things of which they were accused. Would Mr. Weldon have gone into details as he did unless he meant the letter to be used? Mr. Pacaud of Montreal had sent a letter to Mr. Weldon to open. It contained a draft payable to Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair said it was payable to his order and that of Mr. Weldon. Mr. Weldon said it was payable to Mr. Blair alone. Mr. Weldon sent the draft to Mr. Blair, who signed it, but the money was kept up river and none of it found its way into Kent Co. Mr. Weldon declared that he got none of it. Mr. McInerney added that he did not receive any of it. The letter was not a confidential letter, but one to be made public. (Applause.) One of the men in whose defence it was written was dead, the other still lived. Mr. Blair had no reason to charge him (McInerney) with a breach of confidence. He could say things right here about Mr. Blair, but he would refrain from doing so. The government people slandered his character to make political capital. The government claimed that they had administered the affairs of the province in a proper way. The opposition charged that they had been extravagant. He pointed out that since 1884 the debt of the province had been increased by the present government from three-quarters of a million to over three millions. This was in a period of 18 years an increase of 400 per cent. The reckless expenditure of the government a few years since, when they had in addition to the regular subsidy, $275,000, paid over as Eestern Extension claims. Despite this they issued $200,000 of bonds. At the beginning of that year they had to their credit $96,000, and at the close of the year they had only $26,000. It was worth while to mention right here that the government had increased their revenue greatly by collecting annually $100,000 in taxes. Why could the government not get along with all this money without running into debt? When the attorney general, whose salary was $2,100 a year, took from the treasury in one year $9,000, it must be admitted that this was an extravagant way of doing things. And it must be remembered that the attorney general did not try a single criminal case in the courts. Shortly before the last provincial election thousands of dollars were expended on a quarter of a mile of road in Westmorland simply to catch votes. Extravagance was shown in the building of bridges, and the government had recently acknowledged that they had been acting wrongly by abandoning the old system and putting up bridges by tender and contract. The government were anxious to get the money from the fishery claim. The speaker did not think they should be allowed to get it. He would rather trust the Hon. Messrs. Fielding and Sutherland with the money than Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley. The money was held by the dominion government, who paid out of it annually the bounties to the fishermen. Would Mr. Robertson stand on a platform and say he would take these bounties away from the fishermen?

Mr. Robertson—No, I would not.

Mr. McInerney—Then why give the money to the local government. What was the use of handing it over to them. Could they handle it better than the Ottawa ministers? (Cries of no). Sir Wilfrid Laurier was on record as saying that the government would not hand the money over, and Mr. Fielding had also so expressed himself. The local government wanted to get hold of another large sum of money. They were likewise after an increase in the government subsidy from the dominion. With reference to the proposed Fort Kent dam Mr. McInerney said the company were asking the Maine legislature for permission to dam the river from the Maine bank to the centre of the river. When this consent were obtained they would approach the New Brunswick legislature for authority to dam in the New Brunswick side of the dividing line in the centre of the river. Attorney General Pugsley had entered into the combination for the accomplishment of the dam. If it went through mills could be built below the dam and logs which now came to St. John would be manufactured up there. The mill owners here were very anxious about this scheme, and declared that it would prove of great injury to St. John. Think of the diversion of 100,000,000 feet of logs, which now come to St. John for manufacture, from this city to Maine. It meant an awful blow to St. John. Government people held that Mr. Pugsley was not in the scheme, but he was. Mr. Pugsley's name appeared among the applicants for incorporation. Now it was said Mr. Pugsley had dropped out of the concern. He is said to have gone out after he was discovered. The government sought a new lease of power. They thought this application would meet with favor at the hands of the Maine legislators. Then it would have been slipped through the New Brunswick legislature. But a Bangor paper made public the scheme and Mr. Pugsley's connection with it. (Applause). Reference was here made to the act of Mr. Tweedie in insulting prominent St. John men on the occasion of the visit of the Duke and Duchess. Not satisfied with this conduct Mr. Tweedie said these gentlemen went to the depot to be insulted. Years ago when a resolution was moved in the house favoring the granting of subsidies for the establishment of a winter steamship service to St. John Mr. Tweedie opposed it. He was then a conservative he said. Now he appealed to the liberals for support. Mr. Tweedie called on the people to support him, saying he was in dire peril of losing his political existence. Would St. John attempt to save this man who had done his utmost to defeat everything that was for the benefit of St. John? The opposition candidates did not appeal to either party but to those who wanted good government. Mr. Hazen's platform was broad. They appealed on it to all shades of politics and to the honest man of every race and creed to turn out this opportunist government. (Applause).

D. J. PURDY

thanked the audience for the reception accorded him. He had been a member of the local legislature for about four years, and had done the best he could for the city and province. He had heard a good deal said about the extravagance of the present administration. But as far as he knew every bill that came before the bills committee, composed of as shrewd men as could be found in the legislature, was scrutinized to the greatest extent, and all the members of the committee appeared to be satisfied that they were correct. He had voted against the government on some measures which he didn't agree with them on, and he would do so again if the occasion should arise.

Mr Purdy then criticized the labor candidates of the opposition, saying that they had not invested any money in St. John industries, and therefore had not afforded any employment for laborers. He himself had put several thousand dollars in St. John industries.

As to the agricultural policy of the present government, Mr. Purdy was right in accord with it. He might not have been a candidate in the last election had not Mr. Emmerson brought forth the agricultural policy which he did. The government had given bonuses to about 21 mills, and thousands of dollars were saved by the people grinding their own flour. They had encouraged all industries. They had given assistance to the development of coal mines at Newcastle. He heard that an aluminum establishment was to be put up there by American capitalists at a cost of $1,000,000. That would mean the employment of a lot of labor. He had an interest in the oil wells in Westmorland county, and he could now sell his shares for a figure far in advance of what he paid. These industries, he said, needed assistance, and he would stand by them.

In closing, Mr. Purdy said that he was not a representative for his own interest. He had his own business to look after and couldn't go around very much. He advised the electors to vote for the government candidates, who, he thought, would be elected. If they didn't vote for the government, he thought that their prospects of getting favors would be slim, in case the government were sustained.

WM. SHAW.

Mr. Shaw was given a splendid reception, being wildly cheered. He referred in a friendly and humorous way to Mr. McKeown's eloquence. Taking up the agricultural policy of the government, the speaker said he was not in sympathy with the bonusing of so many roller flour mills. He favored the establishing of one or two mills at railway centres, where wheat from the west could be secured and an excellent grade of flour made. The government had subsidized 21 or 22 mills, and he doubted if the benefits received justified the large expenditure. Referring to the labor lien law, the speaker said that the measure had been supported by all the opposition members, while some of the government supporters opposed the bill, which was a private one. (Applause.) Mr. Shaw next turned his attention to the Fort Kent dam project. When he was a lad if a boy said "damn" he would be licked. Pugsley was trying to crawl from under, fearing he would get licked. If the bill was as smooth an article as some of the promoters, there was reason to be alarmed that it might slip through. Mr. Shaw referred to the taxes the government had imposed on the province, and also to the condition of the roads.

A voice—What would the opposition do to improve the roads?

If the opposition were given the reins of power he would force them to look after the roads in a proper manner. (Cheers.) They could depend upon it he would guard their interests well. (Cheers and applause.)

MR. LANTALUM

said that he was not a platform speaker, but what he lacked in that respect he hoped to make up in looking after the interests of all classes of the people. He was a member of the Common Council for some time, and he asked the electors to judge him on his record while there. He hoped that all the liberals would go to the polls and return the government candidates with a big majority.

JOHN E. WILSON

said that dominion politics had nothing to do with this contest. The question was whether the government carried on the affairs of the country in a business and economic manner. The government candidates were appealing to the electorate on dominion issues in one part of the province and on other issues in other parts. But he didn't think that the electors were easily misled, and they would set things all right when the proper time came.

Mr. Wilson then alluded to the extravagant expenditure of the government. They had added $310,000 to the funded debt within a short time. They would put a flour mill in every farmer's back yard, provided they thought it would be to their own advantage. He thought that Mr. Pugsley could not draw $9,000 a year from the provincial treasury, and sit in his office attending to his private affairs, and then expect to be supported.

The government had been taxing almost everything in sight. He understood that they proposed to put a tax on sportsmen's guns, a tax which was levied in Ireland some years ago.

Mr. Wilson then took up the matter of school books being manufactured outside the province. Mr. McKeown has said that school books were not printed in the province because they couldn't be. He held a book in his hand manufactured in the city of another province, but which was in use in the public schools of this province. He mentioned a firm that received a commission on every school book sold here, and no one outside that firm could buy direct from the publishers. He wished the citizens of St. John to think of that, the printers included. The present geography was an old Boston book, at one time used in Ontario, but long since fired out of that province. The maps were so defective that it was necessary to use an atlas.

Mr. Wilson then referred to the ballot system now in vogue in this province. He asked what was Mr. Robertson's objection to a secret ballot. Mr. Robertson answered by asking another question. The audience then demanded an answer, but Mr. Robertson, hesitating for some time, declined to answer. The audience persisted in demanding an answer, and Mr. Robertson then in an excited mood advised them not to get excited.

Continuing, Mr. Wilson said that the auditor general of the province today was in the hands of the government, and his report was really the government's report. Mr. Pugsley would not have received $9,000 per year had not the auditor general been under the control of the government.

Continuing, Mr. Wilson stated that if he were elected to the provincial legislature he would not do any government job work. How could a man be expected to take an independent stand on matters in which he was financially interested? Such was contrary to human nature.

In closing, Mr. Wilson again stated that it was not a question of liberals and conservatives, but that of honest government that was at stake. He was of the opinion that a government of the province of New Brunswick that spent one-half of a million dollars over and above its revenue in two years should be turned out.

GEORGE ROBERTSON

was greeted with some little applause. He was sorry the auditorium was as empty as it was, but hoped before he was done talking the attendance would be larger.

A voice—We are all going.

Continuing, the speaker uttered but a word or so when a voice called out, How about the one-eyed steer?

Mr. Robertson became indignant; it was a shameful remark, he said, and the party who made it should be heartily ashamed of himself. He (the speaker) had not just come to the city and deserved a good hearing.

Mr. Robertson then took advantage of the lull in the audience to inform his hearers that the lord high chancellor of the party knew upon what lines the war was being waged. In the west Borden told the people to keep their eyes on this province, the defeat of the liberal party was a blow at Blair.

What are you? came from several voices.

The arm of the government, continued the speaker, when he was interrupted with cries of, "We are tired of that." "Read it in the Telegraph," etc.

Mr. Robertson once more made a start. The Moncton resolutions were never revoked, he said. He was in the camp eleven years ago and when the conservative party was in the height of its prosperity he left.

At this point there was such a racket in the hall that the chairman had to ask for a fair hearing for Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson made another start and when the row started again, appealed for a hearing, saying that they had listened attentively to McInerney. Some of the previous speakers had referred to the extraordinary expenditure of the government. Hazen and Melanson were members of the accounts committee that passed all the bills. There was good reason for the extraordinary expenditure last year. The heavy freshets damaged some 84 bridges, Smallpox caused an extraordinary expenditure, and as far as the royal reception went there was "no getting clear of it." The premier had asked him to take charge of the reception to the royal visitors. At his request an order in council was passed giving him absolute control; no one else could order the expenditure of five cents. The money had been well spent. If the government were spending so much money, how was it that they floated their bonds to such advantage? $275,000 had been received from the Eastern Extension claims. Where should it go if not expended? He only wished they could get $5,000,000.

W. FRANK HATHEWAY

said that he noticed that men of the staunch old liberal party and of the conservative party had dropped party lines and were considering in this contest the policy of the present administration. He was of the opinion that it was right and proper for the electorate to consider their record for the past five years.

Mr. Hatheway then proceeded to deal with the charges made against him by the Telegraph. Will Mr. Hatheway furnish the information how it was that he asked $45,000 for a $100 lot situated in Carleton? was a statement found in the columns of the Daily Telegraph on nomination day, said Mr. Hatheway. This, he said, was an infamous lie. An official statement dated Feb. 1st, 1897, was then produced by him and read, showing that the sum of $5,000 was the amount which he realized on the lot referred to. That amount was determined by arbitrators, and he accepted it without going into the courts, as several friends of the present government had done in respect to lands of theirs, the values of which were first determined in a similar way.

As to the way in which he conducted his own business, Mr. Hatheway said that all his employes received a substantial wage, and, in addition, the shares of the profits of the business at the end of each year. He was the first man to introduce that system into this province, and he felt proud of it. If the firm had a good year each employe recived a fair wage and a percentage of the profits. If the firm had a poor year, eahc employe received at least a substantial wage. He had been conducting his business on that system for fifteen years.

In reference to the policy of the government, Mr. Hatheway said that the Globe, a liberal paper, had stated virtually that the government had been so extravagant during the past five years that it ought to be turned out. This statement of the Globe was endorsed by all right thinking liberals and conservatives. The grievances which the people of the country, from one end to the other, had against the present administration were a sufficient justification for electing a big majority against them on the 28th of February next.

Mr. Hatheway said that he had the greatest of admiration for some of the government candidates. He did not agree with Mr. Robertson in his political views, but he thought that he was a man who would do as near right as he knew how. He admired Mr. Purdy for voting against an extravagant measure proposed by the government in regard to cold storage. Mr. McKeown and his colleagues had voted in favor of it. When it was proposed that the government contribute to the sufferers in the north end from the recent big fire the government refused. On that occasion Mr. Purdy gave the warning note that they would lose the votes of the people in that section of St. John.

Mr. Hatheway then held up a book given to a description of the resources of the province of New Brunswick, etc., gotten opt by the government at a cost of $4,500, but which was a disgrace, because of its incorrect statements and grammatical mistakes. One statement to be found in it was to the effect that partridges could be shot from the font doors of residents of the province. He wondered how many Rothesay voters' list forgers could be shot. The St. John River was in this book called a stream. Sixty-two pages were given to a description of a canoe trip down the Restigouche river. Why did it not mention St. John county? Did those 2,000 copies which, according to statements by members of the government, were to go to the old country, go, or were they to be found in the store room of some provincial bookseller? He was of the opinion that men who understood farming should be sent to the British Isles instead of a young man who knew little else about his mission than to spend $5,000 a year on himself, and to get up a book at a cost of $4,500, which was a disgrace. He knew of six men who came out from the old country to Sussex, but who returned disgusted, saying that the country had been misrepresented to them.

Mr. Hatheway then referred to requests made to the government to appoint an inspector to examine the bridges on the railway running from Norton to Chipman. The government declined to do so, and not long after two horrible accidents occurred, causing deaths and the destruction of property. Mr. McKeown, who always claimed to be looking after the welfare of the people of New Brunswick, was in the government at the time, but was among those who declined to comply with the request for inspection. Mr. Hatheway was of the opinion that the Board of Trade would have looked after the matter with due dispatch.

Continuing, Mr. Hatheway criticized the government's policy of giving bonuses to so many wheat mills. He was doubtful if it was wise to expend much money in encouraging wheat wrowing in this province, because it was a question whether the soil was suited to growing wheat in paying quantities. Their dairying policy, he thought, was fair, but what about their conduct in regard to the supervision of the Deaf and Dumb Institution? They contributed large amounts to its support, but there was no inspector's report. No move whatever was made by them until facts were made public which were revolting to the community. The country had incurred a tremendous expense by a lengthy inquiry, and finally had the satisfaction of knowing that the men charged with a most henious crime had escaped into another country.

Mr. McKeown had stated "we gave the province the ballot system it now has." Was it anything to boast of? It was a discredit rather than a credit. In federal elections each voter could cast his ballot in secrecy. That system had time and again been asked for by Mr. Hazen and his supporters, but Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley had on each occasion refused to take action in that respect. As it was at the present, a voter could under pressure be led to the poll and made to vote according to the dictates of his employer or of other men who may have influence over him.

Mr. Hatheway then spoke of the incorporation of the Canada Railway Co. being allowed to issue bonds to the extent of $10,000 per mile. The St. John Valley Ry. Co. were enabled by parliament to issue bonds for $15,000 per mile. He considered that it was not a wise policy for any government of the province of New Brunswick to allow persons to issue bonds for $15,000 or $10,000 per mile, when a former premier of the province considered that $4,000 per mile for a railway running nearly parallel was sufficient.

In reference to the N. B. Petroleum Co. Act, Mr. Hatheway said that there were some gentlemen who had the right to go into nine counties of the province and bore for oil in any man's back yard or front garden, and own the product, except for some royalties. Did Mr. McKeown realize the force of that act? There was a danger of oil wells being owned by foreign monopolists, and of difficulties arising between capital and labor similar to those not long ago in Pennsylvania.

He noticed that the kind of dry dock proposed to be built in St. John had been somewhat changed. Now it is proposed to build one of wood instead of stone, and somewhat shorter. The Atlantic steamers were as large as 750 feet. Mr. Hatheway could not understand how a ship 750 feet long could be put in a dock 625 long.

Mr. Hatheway next touched upon the prices which people of tis community and of the whole province have to pay for school books for their children. He thought at present the people pay $45,000 for school books. It was possible to supply such books to the parents at cost price, and thereby save $14,000.

In regard to legislation for the protection of the employed, Mr. Hatheway was in favor of a law by which a workman, injured through no fault of his own, may get a just compensation. And, further, he was in favor of the act applying to women as well as men.

Mr. Hatheway then gave a scathing criticism of Attorney General Pugsley's conduct in regard to the proposed Fort Kent dam. He showed a copy of the bill from the Maine legislature, in which Mr. Pugsley was named an incorporator and director. Maine capitalists had on the strength of the bill bought up important mill sites between Fort Kent and Van Buren. It was their intention and is to divert millions of feet of lumber into Maine which have hitherto come down the St. John river to be manufactured at St. John mills. On Feb. 8th, Mr. Pugsley wrote a letter saying that he withdrew from the agreement, but he did not state that he withdrew from the directorate. If it were not for the fact that elections were on, a bill would have gone through the New Brunswick legislature in favor of the scheme and 100,000,000 feet of lumber would be lost for ever to St. John. St. John would receive a blow from such an act that it would never survive.

Mr. Hatheway predicted a funeral dirge for the government candidates on the 28th of February.

HON. H. A. McKEOWN.

According to the arrangement, Mr. McKeown, as a member of the government, was allowed thirty minutes in which to answer any enquiries or reply to any statements by the opposition speakers. The audience, which by this time almost completely filled the auditorium, had so many questions of their own to ask and Mr. McKeown was so emphatically and successfully contradicted from all parts of the hall and platform, that it is doubtful if his actual time of speaking exceeded ten minutes. The speaker or chairman could do nothing to quiet the audience, they were out after McKeown's scalp and they got it.

Mr. McKeown was loudly applauded when he arose to speak. He referred to the good spirit that had prevailed and would say nothing that would in any way mar the proceedings.

Voice—Be more careful, then, than when in Fredericton.

It was his duty to refer to some of the questions discussed. As to the Fort Kent dam, he thought they would hear no more of it after his explanation. Why does Hatheway—

Voice—Give us something new.

He would have been more impressed if the opposition had laid down a well defined policy. Mr. McKeown then devoted a little time to compulsory education and the public school books. The books used in the province, he claimed, were superior to those used in Nova Scotia. While referring to the development of the oil district, the hospital commission, and the deaf and dumb school inquiry, Mr. McKeown was frequently interrupted. The speaker's trouble commenced in earnest when he referred to the ballot system. He started out to defend the provincial ballot system when some one called out, "What took you to Victoria ward last election?

Mr. McKeown then challenged anyone to say he had interfered in Victoria ward or to name any wrong doing. Howls from all over the hall.

A voice—What swung half the Rothesay vote?

Another voice—You did interfere; I was there in the booth.

Geo. A. Blair asked if he did not tell some of the workers to be careful and watch how the railway men voted?

Mr. McKeown—I never did say it.

Blair—Did you not have a special ballot? Wild cheers.

McKeown—I deny it. Geo. E. Day printed all the ballots.

A voice—Who took a ballot out of a man's hand in Victoria ward booth?

Another voice—McKeown did.

McKeown—I deny it. I am here to reply; come on.

George Stevenson then climbed up on the stage and stated that he saw a man enter the booth with a ballot in his hand and that it was taken from him.

Mr. McKeown asked who took the ballot, when Michael McCann rushed to the front of the platform and shouted, "I took the ballot from the man referred to. He had been drinking and had a ballot in one hand and a five-dollar bill in the other. (Howls and cheers.)

When matters quieted down a little a gentleman advanced to the front and asked Mr. McKeown what it was he said or did to a certain conductor. There was another outbreak and when Mr. McKeown could make himself heard he replied that if the gentleman meant the late David McQuarrie, the story referred to was untrue. A certain gentleman had asked him about it shortly after the election and he made an appointment to go with that gentleman to Mr. McQuarrie. When the time came it was not convenient for him to go. (Howls and yells.) Wait, continued Mr. McKeown. I did not go, but told the gentleman to go alone. The gentleman did and was satisfied the story was untrue. That gentleman said Mr. McKeown with a wave of his arm, sits there, pointing to Col. J. R. Armstrong. (Cheers and yells.)

Col. Armstrong walked to the front of the stage and emphatically denied that he went to see McQuarrie or had any conversation with him on the subject.

Mr. McKeown said he knew it was all right, the story was untrue. Let us pass over the matter. His time was up, he said, and he doubted the wisdom of keeping the large audience there any longer.

A vote of thanks was passed to the sheriff, cheers were given for the King and candidates.