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Last Four Days of Election Campaign

MR. NASH WOULD TAX FARMERS

It is interesting at the present political juncture to revert to that interesting period in the history of the Liberal party when in 1911 they found themselves drifting helplessly on the rocks on which the survivors of the party are once more struggling to regain a footing. They were facing two by-elections which to lose meant annihilation and which to win would give them another session and another opportunity to apportion among themselves what remained of the loot.

They were bankrupt. There was nothing in sight but direct taxation and towards this last hope they began to steer their staggering barque. The Patriot, whose editor in chief, Mr. F. J. Nash, was contesting the by-election in the Belfast district, was gingerly leading the way towards this final hope. In its issue of Nov. 2, 1911, The Patriot flamboyantly informs its readers that the assessments per head of the population in Ontario for the year 1909 were: "In townships, \$6.81; in towns and villages, \$9.13; in cities, \$14.53," and adds, "if we take into consideration the amount of land, road and income tax paid by the people of this province outside of Charlottetown and Summerside, it amounts to about \$55,000 per annum. Add to this \$35,000 vote at school district meetings, a total of \$90,000, which is only about \$1.10 per head, so it will be seen that the people of the rural districts of Ontario are taxed about seven times as heavily as our people. If our farmers were taxed as heavily as the farmers of Ontario they would have to pay over half a million dollars annually. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, also, the general government only pays a small part of the teachers' salaries, leaving the municipalities and school districts to raise the balance."

As election day approached the Patriot became more and more enthusiastic and more and more rattled, for we find some discrepancies in its figures. Figures, however, never troubled the Patriot, neither did their accuracy. In its issue of Nov. 14, 1911, we find the following, among other things, which were being thrown overboard: "There are 15,000 farmers on the island and their contributions to the general revenue amount to only about \$3.50 per head. About one tenth of the average amount paid by farmers in Ontario." This was a "last word" in the Patriot before the fatal election in Belfast and this was the manner in which they proposed to run matters—tax the farmers. Fortunately for the province the farmers took the sensible view of the matter and the next issue of the Patriot, dated the day after the election, tells how: "We have been defeated in a good cause; we have gone down with flying colours." And a little later, from "behind the beyond," after the General Election of Jan. 1912, when Mr. Nash tried conclusions with the voters of Charlottetown and Royals, the history of the encounter appeared in the Patriot: "It has been borne in upon us that neither the country nor the city wanted us."

The Grits went bankrupt in 1911 but were prepared to tax the farmers of again entrusted with the government. Now that the Mathieson Government has placed the province on its financial feet, now that the Mathieson Government has secured a subsidy of \$100,000 for all time to come from the Dominion, the Grits are anxious to have another try at financing the affairs of the province. Will the people trust them? Should they trust them? They certainly will not and should not.

NASTY FOR THE GRITS

Mr. Feehan rubbed it into the Grits at Winsloe over the reduction of debt. Various Grit speakers took the liberty of doubting the reduction of the debt of the province under Mr. Mathieson's regime, and one of them referred to the alleged increase of interest paid by the Government. Questioned as to his authority for his assertion, the orator hesitated and then admitted he had not the authority at hand. Mr. Feehan speedily supplied the figures from the Blue books as follows:

1911—GRITS	
Amount of interest paid...	\$39,041.63
Sinking Fund interest received...	2,960.76
Net interest paid...	\$36,080.87
1914—CONSERVATIVE	
Amount of interest paid...	\$38,629.18
Sinking Fund interest received...	5,798.69
Net interest paid...	\$32,830.49
Net decrease of interest paid in 1914 compared with 1911...	\$3,250.38.

This capitalized at 4 per cent., the rate of interest prevailing both in 1911 and 1914, represents a principal of \$81,259.50, without taking into consideration an investment of \$12,852.70 for creosoted pile, etc., as shown in the external auditor's report for last year. The Grit orators were dumb and hastily demanded the close of the proceedings. They could not bear to take their medicine.

MR. BRODIE'S SO-CALLED "FACTS"

Both at Winsloe and York Mr. Peter Brodie, "the rising hope" of the Liberal party, stated that the Government had spent \$22,000 of the \$26,000 of the Dominion Agricultural Aid Grant on salaries. Mr. Donald Nicholson, M. P., contradicted him at Winsloe, but he returned to the charge at York and said he had the blue book to prove it. Let us see what the Blue Book does say on the subject. Turn to page 85 Appendix II, of the Department of Agriculture in the report of the Provincial Auditor and our readers will find the following which we reproduce verbatim:

Expenditure Under the Dominion Agriculture Aid Act for the Year Ending 31st March 1914	
By Grant for year ending March 31, 1914	\$26,529.85
To Agricultural Education in connection with Prince of Wales College...	\$3,273.04
To short course in Agriculture	2,455.87
To Live Stock Judging Classes	981.83
To Demonstration work in Horticulture, sheep and poultry husbandry	1,372.35
To Building an addition to Agricultural Hall...	4,014.96
To District Representative work	2,462.25
To Women's Institutes	1,322.29
To Office assistance	916.67
To introducing National Study in Public Schools	3,340.31
To Bal. of Grant	Unexpended 6,428.48
	\$26,529.85 \$26,529.85

What reliance can the people of Winsloe and York put upon Mr. Brodie's other statements in the face of this revelation of his gross misrepresentation of the facts?

GRIT INGRATES

Mr. George E. Hughes would have the electorate believe that as a Province has nothing to thank the Mathieson and Borden Governments for. Of course, in his heart he does not mean what he says. Does he think for a moment that the farmers of Prince Edward Island would be such fools as to turn down the people who gave us a \$100,000 per annum for all time. The car ferry and direct communication with the mainland at a cost of \$10,000,000. We are not such a pack of ingrates as the Grit candidates would seek to make out.

The Mathieson Government goes back stronger than ever with the good will of the whole island behind it.

THE INTEREST TEST

The Patriot tries to escape from the dilemma of comparing the amount of interest from year to year as a true indication of the amount of the Provincial Debt, by claiming that the interest of the Sinking Fund should not be considered in such a calculation. That is a truly childish contention. The Sinking Fund is so much money laid by every year against the debt, which is equivalent to paying so much off. Instead of being paid to the bond holders, it is invested and in this case it happens to be invested at the same rate of interest as the bonds bear. Hence anyone can see that were it paid on the bonds they would be reduced to the extent of such payments and consequently the interest charged would be reduced as well.

Thus it will be seen at a glance that to find the net interest we pay annually, we must, to be correct, deduct the interest we receive from the interest we pay. The Patriot goes further in its folly. It says that there was \$10,126.65 of unpaid interest according to Mr. Binning's report. This is not correct. Mr. Binning does not say "unpaid interest," he says "accrued interests," quite a different matter, although not worth considering so far as it affects the fairness of the comparison. But if the accrued interest is to be reckoned we may observe that Messrs. Rossborough and Dench found that in the two months and two days following the close of the financial year, Sept. 30, 1911, the Liberal Government had to pay \$12,813.18 of interest on the debt and leave \$12,084.89 as accrued and unpaid interest besides.

These figures speak for themselves. They show that a large amount of interest was carried over into the next financial year after the close of the last Liberal year, 1911, which the present Government had to pay. As a further proof that the interest charge is going down the estimate for 1915 as calculated by Mr. Newbury, whose estimates are always very reliable, is \$37,900 against \$39,000 for 1914, which was a slight underestimate. Our statement in Wednesday and Friday was fair and quite correct. The debt is being reduced in the proportion stated since 1911 and the interest charge is melting down as well.

The Flowing Tide is With The Government. Reports From All The Polls Exceptionally Favorable to the Premier's Supporters. Another Clean Sweep of the Whole Province Generally Anticipated on Election Day

From every poll on Nominating Day reports were received which indicated that the Mathieson Government will be sustained by an overwhelming majority. In two districts only were there any doubts expressed about the return of a Government candidate, and the reports stated that were these two candidates to work a little harder among the constituents their seats would be safe also. The enthusiasm in support of the Government is remarkable and today Premier Mathieson is the most popular man in Prince Edward Island, bar none. He has his traducers, of course.—Messrs. Brodie, Palmer and Bradley—but all respectable Liberals and right thinking men despise such tactics—and if anything the personal attacks have benefitted the Government rather than otherwise. No one dreamt even six weeks ago that the Liberal party was in such straits that it would require to put men like Mr. Brodie and Mr. Bradley in the fight as its champions. To such depths has the Patriot machine sunk a once great and powerful party. The propagation

and circulation of slanders never has done, and never will do, their authors and circulators any permanent good, yet these are the stock-in-trade of the Patriot and its friends in their campaign against the Government. All the criticism levelled at the Government has been satisfactorily answered, and the only question now remaining for decision is whether the report of fully qualified, independent bankers who acted as external auditors of the Provincial Accounts are to be accepted, or the word of the Patriot on the same subject. The external auditors show a reduction in the public debt of the Province of \$89,000 in three years. The Patriot says there is no such reduction; and it is for the electorate to decide which they will believe. There should be no doubt in any unbiased mind that the report of independent, unpolitical auditors whose professional reputation is at stake, is the more reliable and trustworthy evidence.

The Patriot having exhausted its supply of false accusations against the Mathieson Government has,

through the aid of an anonymous correspondent invented one, namely, that the gauge of the P. E. Island railway is not to be widened as promised, to conform with the standard gauge of the Car Ferry and the mainland railway system. As proof, it states that a wooden shed is now being built at Cape Traverse, where freight will be transferred from mainland to Island cars and vice versa. And to all this it adds that "our laboring men at Charlottetown and other points, who have had employment at this work, are to be left unemployed, while Intercolonial laborers will be brought over to Cape Traverse and given the employment there." This fabrication is repeated, in another and more virulent form in yesterday's Patriot.

Not because there was any doubt about the matter, but to settle it at once and officially, The Guardian yesterday telegraphed to the Prime Minister stating the Patriot's allegations both about the railway and laborers and received the following reply:—

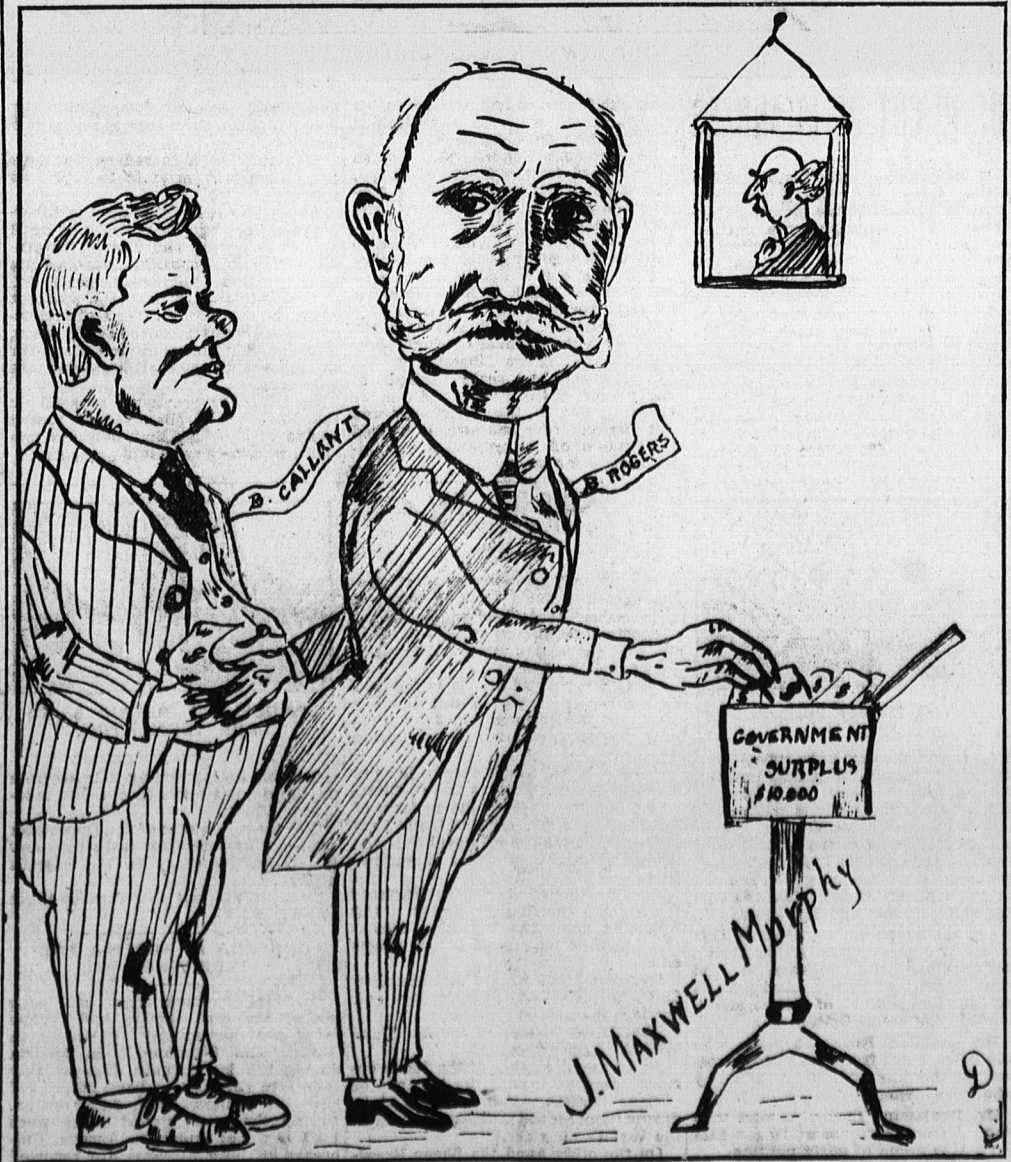
OTTAWA, Sept. 9—Telegram received. The allegations of the newspapers to which you allude are wholly without foundation. Upon inquiry from the Railway Department I am advised that the widening of the gauge of the Railway must necessarily be deferred until after the Ferry is completed and in operation making the transfer platform necessary. So long as sufficient labourers or railroad men can be secured on the Island outside men will not be sent in.

In addition to this assurance from Sir Robert Borden it is well known that during the past year or more all the new sleepers laid on the P. E. Island railway to replace worn ones were long sleepers, such as are used only on wide gauge roads and that surveyors have already

been at work laying plans for the standardizing of the railway.

And so this last Patriot fabrication will be added to the many that it has invented and circulated during the present campaign. The electors throughout the Province will form their own conclusions regard-

ing a party which finds it necessary to bolster up its cause with such absurdly ridiculous charges as the Patriot and its few noisy minions have indulged in to influence the electorate.



THE TWO BENS AND WHAT THEY ARE AFTER

MURRAY HARBOR'S TRUE MEN

The people of Murray Harbour District know Hon. Murdoch McKinnon and Mr. A. P. Prowse sufficiently well to keenly resent the insidious attacks being made upon them by the quartette of political adventurers Messrs. Wilson, McVie, Schurman and Bentley.

Mr. McKinnon has been a total abstainer all his life, a temperance man in the Province. We dare any one, or all of the political adventurers now camping in Murray Harbour, point to any man who is more highly respected and esteemed for his temperance principles, or who more conscientiously advocates and furthers temperance in his midst. Mr. Prowse has never tasted, touched or handled intoxicants in his life.

YET THESE ARE THE MEN THOSE TWO ITINERANT POLITICAL PARSONS, AND TWO POLITICAL ADVENTURERS HAVE SET OUT TO TRADUCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVENGE.

We were the first of Murray Harbour credit for putting more faith in two of their own people who have lived among them all their lives, whose consistency they have known and appreciated all their lives, than in revengeful office-seekers who have been appointed and dismissed, and who have gone to the length of converting churches and temperance lodges into political hustings, to gratify their hateful vengeful lust.

THINGS ACCOMPLISHED

The Grits have no record of things accomplished for the benefit of the Province. Their record is one of disastrous finance, dilapidation of public works and depopulation of the Island. In all the twenty years' regime there is nothing that can be pointed to as a credit to the administrative ability—unless it be the Hillborough Bridge, and for that the Province is burdened with a rental of \$10,000 per annum for all time to come.

In the three and a half years the Mathieson Government has been in power it has accomplished marvels in converting a slough of despond into a land flowing with milk and honey. Just take a slight glance at some of the things the Mathieson Government has accomplished in its three years of office.

- \$25,000 agricultural subsidy.
 - Oyster areas made provincial property, which will ultimately represent another \$100,000 per annum.
 - Roads improved beyond description. Vote by ballot introduced.
 - Short course and Long Course in Agriculture introduced.
 - Short Course for teachers introduced.
 - Construction of sanitarium for tuberculosis patients.
 - Provision of hospital accommodation for insane, poor and tuberculosis patients.
 - Construction of permanent public works five times as much as in the previous twenty years.
 - Increased pay for teachers.
 - Norman training for teachers in Prince of Wales College.
 - New telegraph and telephone cables with mainland.
 - Reductions in telegraph rates and improved telegraphic and telephonic facilities.
 - Oyster mud for farmers.
 - Reduction in public debt.
 - Reduction in interest on debt.
 - Average annual surplus of \$30,000.
- This is not a complete list by any means, but it suffices to show that the Mathieson Government has been doing things while the Grits have merely been talking and sitting idly by.

MR. PALMER'S ONSLAUGHT

Sir.—Mr. Palmer asks, "Who is Mr. Mathieson anyhow? Put a beggar on horse back and he will ride us to the devil." Ye gods and little fishes! What next? Does Mr. Palmer call himself a gentleman and use such language? Mr. Mathieson's record is well known and he has no reason to be ashamed of it. He came of a good old Scotch family as highly respected as any of Mr. Palmer's ancestors. He was born in the Port Augustus district which Mr. Palmer was glad to ratify present until turned down there. He made a good record as a student at college, was a most successful teacher and held in high respect in whatever community he lived. Long after Mr. Palmer was a lawyer and little heard of, Mr. Mathieson studied law. His ability was soon recognized and he forged ahead and became one of the leading figures at the Bar of this Province. He entered the political arena and at once made his mark and was looked upon as "the coming man." He was chosen Leader and led his party to power. As Premier of the Province he has with the same steady work and diligence made the greatest success a man in that position ever made.

Mr. Mathieson is well known throughout Canada and is well received wherever he goes, and men of ability and weight take off their hats to him, as Senator Yeo, Sir Louis Davies and others of equal standing will affirm. Now take up Mr. James Palmer's record. Needless for me to say more. Compare their ability; compare them as lawyers; compare them as Premiers,—judge for yourself. I am, Sir, etc., VOTER.

THE NEW GRIT LEADER WHY PATRIOT IS SORE

Vigorous Criticism of Mr. Rogers' Record.

Sir.—The article in Monday night's Patriot, "The Must-Singer" as the most absurd effort it has made yet. Their editorial columns for the last few months have been so full of mud-slinging and lies that all right-feeling people are disgusted.

The Patriot has for years, ever since Mr. Mathieson took the leadership of the Conservative party, persisted in abusing him in season and out of season. No man in politics today has had more abuse from any paper. When he was appointed Leader, it was at a time when there was no party in campaign going on, but the Patriot newspapers kept up a continual slur and has never ceased from attacking him in a venomous manner.

Who is this Mr. Rogers whose name they fear being mentioned? Is he not the new Leader appointed in the midst of a political battle? Is he not a fair target for criticism? Is not a private character, nor has been for many years, and everyone has a right to criticize his record. Let us look at it.

During his political career he was a most bitter partisan and not even true to his friends for he ousted Mr. John Mathieson, his friend and colleague, out of his place in the party. He was Commissioner of Agriculture and without any practical knowledge, made a failure of it. During his regime the Stock Farm was a disgrace to any Government.

Then we take his record as Governor. The Patriot says, "The firm stand on the Temperance question and the esteem in which he was held as Governor of the Province." This surely is a joke! What is the truth? His firm stand on the Temperance question was allowing prisoners imprisoned for infraction of the Prohibition Act to be released from jail on any pretext. ONLY HE had the power to pardon them and he abused that power.

It is a well known fact which no one can contradict that he never did his duty as representative of the King in this Province. His duty was to uphold the dignity of his office loyally serve his country, entertain visitors of note and made Government House the centre of hospitality for the Province. How he failed in this regard we all know. He drew a \$700 salary all right, but he spent most of his time in Alberta attending to his private business in the store while Government House was either closed up or no one allowed within its walls.

His utterances both in public and in private were disloyal, were avowedly anti-British and anti-military. One cannot soon forget the "Nelson Shields" episode at a meeting in the Opera House. He insulted every soldier of the King and every British subject so that there was almost a riot in the theatre following day Colonel Peake, the head of the military in the Province, resigned as a protest his position as Aide-de-Camp and up to the time he left Government House he could never get a military man to take the place. Up to the time the war broke out he talked most disloyally and since that time was never asked to preside or speak at any patriotic meeting.

True, Mr. Rogers did her part in patriotic and Red Cross work and all credit to her, but that could not cloak his shortcomings.

I do not wonder the Patriot fears to have the name of Mr. Rogers mentioned.

If the Liberal party in sore straits chose to take a Leader who was a failure in everything he undertook, all we can say is "long may he remain Leader of the Opposition."

I am, Sir, etc., FAIR PLAY.

WHAT THE GRITS ARE GOING TO DO

In the official programme of the Grit Party there is very little to which exception might be taken; virtually so far as it goes it is the Conservative platform of 1908.

But the unofficial programme as outlined by such leading lights as the despotic Grit leader Mr. Palmer, the rising Grit leader, Mr. Peter Brodie, and other Grit orators is quite revolutionary.

Some of the planks are as follows.

- Disband and dismiss all Agricultural instructors.
- Dismiss Professor J. A. Clark.
- Abolish the Experimental Station.
- Dismiss Professor Ross.
- Abolish Farmers' Institutes and Women's Institutes.
- Dismiss Professor Benson.
- Abolish Egg Circles.

We wonder how the farmers of Prince Edward Island like the prospect.

Of course it may be argued by the opportunist Patriot that neither Mr. Palmer nor Mr. Brodie nor any other Grit orator is authorized to promulgate an unofficial programme.

But they are the men who are put up to represent the Grits, and have as much authority and weight as Mr. Nash or Mr. J. J. Hughes.