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Please don't delay your Subscriptions for 1907. We need the money, we have earned it and shall esteem it a great favor if you remit now.

SECOND DISTRICT OF KING'S.

A Splendid Convention.

Pursuant to notice, a Liberal-Conservative Convention for the Second District of King's County, was held in the Hall at Morell on Thursday last. The Convention was attended by a large number of delegates and other representative Conservatives from different parts of the district, and the utmost unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Andrew Lewis, convener. On motion Mr. Jas. H. Dingwell was called to the chair, and Mr. James B. McDonald was appointed Secretary.

The Chairman explained the purposes for which the meeting had been called, to nominate two candidates to oppose the Government in the next Provincial election. He then called upon the two old candidates, Messrs. McIsaac and McEwen, to address the meeting. Both the former candidates addressed the meeting at some length, dealing with the different public questions, and animadverting upon the maladministration of the Government. Both speakers called attention to the fact that the Premier of the Province had died since the notice of the Convention had been published. They pointed out that while strenuously opposing the policy and administration of Mr. Peters, they had no personal animosity towards him, and took advantage of that opportunity to offer their sympathy to the bereaved family of the deceased. The addresses of the speakers were admirably received and warmly applauded by the audience. Excellent brief addresses were delivered by Mr. Andrew Lewis and Mr. Henry Mooney.

At the conclusion of these addresses, Mr. Edward Jardine, of Morell, moved that Mr. James McIsaac be the councillor candidate at the next election. The motion was seconded by Mr. John B. McEwen, of Greenwich, and being put by the chairman was unanimously and enthusiastically carried. Mr. Andrew Lewis moved that Mr. Harvey D. McEwen be the candidate for Assemblyman. The motion was seconded in the same breath by Mr. David Larkin and Mr. Vincent Sutherland, all of St. Peter's. The chairman put the motion and again there was a unanimous and enthusiastic confirmation.

The candidates then thanked the assembled electors for the nominations so splendidly tendered them, and dwelt at some length upon the condition of the district and the bright outlook for the opposition at the next election. Brief appropriate addresses were delivered by Mr. James A. McAdam, Mr. John McGregor and Mr. Robert Carmichael. A vote of thanks was tendered the chairman, to which he suitably replied, rousing cheers were given for the Conservative party and for the candidates, and then the meeting adjourned all hands being in the best of good humor.

London advices of the 8th inst. say that the Tariff Re-

form League had 1,500 delegates at their annual meeting, and judging from the enthusiasm manifested by all present, the protectionists are more than satisfied with the progress of the movement which its founder declared had surpassed his most sanguine expectations. Viscount Ridley, President, made an address, in which he referred to the support given the movement by the educated classes. The principal resolution, embodying the Tariff Reformers' "Confession of fiscal faith" which was declared to be the official policy of the Unionist party, was carried by acclamation. The results of recent by elections plainly indicate that the members of the association have good reason for being elated and that the basis of their hopes is not merely theoretical but of an eminently practical nature. In the Ross Division of Herefordshire Captain Olive Conservative defeated Mr. Thompson, Liberal, by a majority of 1,118. The contest took place on account of the death of Mr. Gardner, Liberal, who in 1906 defeated Olive by 612. Within two years this adverse majority has been converted into a Conservative majority of 1,000 in favor of the same Conservative candidate. Only a couple of weeks ago another remarkable Conservative victory took place. Mid Devon had been apparently hopelessly Liberal. In the four preceding elections, the Liberal majorities had been 404; 771; and 1283; but on January 17th, just past, it elected Captain Bell, Conservative with a majority of 559. Both Olive and Bell took strong ground for tariff reform and their triumphant election shows that public opinion in Britain is strongly swinging in that direction.

Although four months and a half have elapsed since the close of the Provincial Government's financial year, there is no sign of the public accounts, nor of any official statement concerning the financial condition of the Province. Neither is there any announcement as to the meeting of the Legislature, although we have reached the middle of February. The Royal Gazette simply contains the formal proclamation that the House stands prorogued until the 15th of February. Surely it is high time the public knew something about the financial standing of the Province for the fiscal year that terminated on September 30th last.

On the 7th inst., the question of the cost of the Hillsborough Bridge was under discussion in the House of Commons. The matter came up in the form of an enquiry by Mr. Reid M. P. for Grenville Ont., who reiterated a serious of questions previously asked by Mr. Martin, M. P. for Queens, relative to tenders and cost of this structure. It will be remembered, as we said in a previous issue, that in answer to these questions the Leader of the Government said the cost of the Bridge was \$1,363,085.57. It was further stated that Mr. Haney had still an unsettled claim against the Government, amounting to \$393,821.04. This claim has been submitted to Mr. Schreiber, former deputy Minister of Railways, a sole arbitrator. Mr. Reid considered it was not fair to submit the disputed claim to Mr. Schreiber, as he was the man, who had prepared the original estimate of the cost of the Bridge. A lengthy discussion ensued, participated in by several members. Mr. Martin M. P. for Queens went into the matter thoroughly and pointed out that when the bridge was first proposed the estimated cost was \$500,000.

The next estimate was \$700,000, and still later estimate was \$750,000. He showed that the superstructure was second hand and had done duty on the Intercolonial for thirty years. Notwithstanding this fact and in face of the different previous estimates the cost, as at present presented is nearly \$2,000,000. In connection with the bridge was the cost of the Murray Harbor Railway. The estimated cost of

The Surrender to Japan.

Canada Gave up Control of Her Immigration.—And now Depends on Japanese Forbearance.

CONSERVATIVES REFUSED.

Imperial Government Did Not Ask it.—Japan Was Ready to Make the Treaty Without It.—Laurier Government Alone Responsible.—And Now Becomes a Suppliant to Japan.

SIR WILFRID'S BACK DOWN.

Compelled to Produce Papers He Had Refused.—Documents Reveal Two Offers in Same Hand With Amount Filled in Later.—Suspicious Way of Opening Tenders.—2,400 Square Miles of Timber Goes to Speculators at Their Own Price.—They Hold Half the Northwest Timber Supply.—No One Else Had a Chance to Buy.

Timber Worth \$500,000 Sold for \$500

The Western Settler Must Pay for all.—Committee of Inquiry Demanded.

ANOTHER INJURY BURKED

Government Supporters in Committee Choked Off Investigation of Political Company.—Which Paid \$64 Each for Machines and Sold to Militia Department for \$250.—Sir Fred Borden, Mr. Pugsley and Chairman Carvell Apply the Gag.

Ottawa, 1, 1908

At 3 o'clock on Wednesday morning January 29th, the House of Commons by a straight party vote rejected the following motion proposed by Mr. Borden respecting the Japanese treaty: "That the ratification of the said treaty of 1906 was almost immediately followed by a great influx of Japanese labourers into Canada; That in the opinion of this House, Canada should not enter into or accede to any treaty which deprives parliament of the control of immigration into this country; That this House, while expressing its profound appreciation of the friendly intentions and courteous assurances of the Japanese government, and while declaring its sincere desire for the most cordial relations with the Japanese people, desires nevertheless to record its strong protest from destructive invading competition except by entreating the forbearance and aid of a foreign government."

BY FAVOUR OF JAPAN.

Mr. Borden and other speakers showed, and the government could not deny that the present situation is described in the above motion. Mr. Lemieux has returned from Japan with an arrangement of which the only record is contained in a letter from the Japanese foreign minister, who makes the following statements: "The existing treaty between Japan and Canada absolutely guarantees to Japanese subjects full liberty to enter, travel and reside in any part of the Dominion of Canada. It is not the intention of the Japanese government to insist upon the complete enjoyment of these guaranteed rights. The Japanese government has decided to restrict immigration and will meet the desires of the Dominion government as far as is compatible with the spirit of the treaty and the dignity of the state."

THE TIME TO ACT.

So the matter stood when the

this branch was \$12,000 a mile; but when the road was completed it was found to have cost \$31,000 a mile. He had no hesitation in saying that somebody raked off three quarters of a million on the bridge and other three quarters of a million on the railway. Mr. Martin reviewed the whole subject at length; but our space forbids us from saying anything more on the subject at present.

THERE WAS STILL A CHANCE.

In 1905 the Colonial Secretary of the Home Government stated that Japan wished to know whether Canada desired to adhere to the treaty under the same terms as Queensland which would leave Canada with the absolute power to restrict. The Imperial Minister asked whether the Canadian government desired the treaty with this protection or preferred to take it without reserve "as would appear to be the case from speech of Minister of Agriculture in Canadian Parliament." Mr. Fisher had declared in Parliament that the Canadian government had no intention of restricting Japanese laborers coming into Canada, and would be satisfied with the treaty as it stood.

A DELIBERATE CHOICE.

The Laurier Government did not answer this despatch of July 14th, 1905, but on the 5th of September following telegraphed to the Home Government through the Governor-General "My Prime Minister earnestly hopes that you will press the immediate entry of Canada into the Anglo-Japanese treaty." To this the Colonial Secretary replied that his Government had not yet learned whether Canada wanted the treaty with or without the immigration authority reserved. This time he was told that the Government of Canada was "prepared to adhere absolutely and without reserve to the treaty."

JAPANESE LABORER AND ALL

The ratification followed on those lines.

This is how Canada surrendered to Japan the right to say how many Japanese labourers may come to this Country. The surrender was refused by the Conservative government of Canada. It was made by the Laurier Government. It was not done at the request of the Imperial authorities or even of Japan. The Government of Japan was ready to make the treaty with Japanese immigrants excluded. The Imperial Government over and over again suggested that form of treaty and pointed out the danger of the full surrender. It was an absolutely voluntary and unnecessary concession. Now we have a Canadian Minister going to Japan to beg that Japan will waive the right that his own Government insisted on giving. We have the Japanese Minister politely declining the Canadian proposition but consenting to limit the departure of Japanese so far as suits Japan to do so. This is the record which the majority in the House has approved, after Mr. Borden and other opposition members had read the documents clearly setting forth the above facts.

A GOVERNMENT BACK DOWN.

The very first incident of this week was the unconditional surrender of the Government in the matter of the original documents regarding timber leases, which papers were refused last week and the week before. Twice in division of the House the Government forced its followers to support the policy of secrecy. But in the end, confronted with an opposition determined that no money should be voted until the question of the right of Members to obtain information was settled right, Sir Wilfrid backed down. The Premier learned what was thought in the country about this policy of concealment and found the suspicion and distrust created was more damaging than the facts could be. So he brought down the papers himself. He laid them on the table of the house for the inspection of any members who desired to see them. This is all that was desired or asked by Mr. Ames, who had repeatedly told the Government before the papers were refused that he was willing to take them in that way.

WHAT THE PAPERS REVEALED.

Then was disclosed what seemed to be the reason for the Government's resistance. The original record of one timber lease gave information that could never have been obtained from the copies. There were three tenders for this limit. A. W. Fraser a lawyer of

Laurier Government took office. In October, 1896, the Imperial Government informed the government of Canada that Japan agreed to British colonies reserving the right to legislate concerning "the immigration of labourers and artisans." On these terms Queensland accepted the treaty and Canada might have done so. But the Laurier Government took no action, then nor for nine years afterward.

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Ottawa, for an undisclosed client offered \$1,000. There was an offer from the McDonalds of Ottawa of \$6,480, and finally a bid of \$7,000 by Mr. Nolan of Montreal, to whom the limit was awarded.

According to the copies previously brought down everything was regular. But the original shows that the highest offer and the lowest one were written by the same hand, on the same kind of paper, signed by the same person with different names and that the amount of the highest bid was written at a different time and with different ink. If we suppose that the persons interested in those two tenders had been able to learn the amount of the intermediate offer and to have one filled in at a figure a little above it, this is exactly the way the record would appear. The transaction occurred in 1903 when Mr. Sifton was head of the Department and Mr. Turfitt now M. P. was Commissioner of Lands.

THIS IS SUFFICIENT.

Now two years ago Mr. Ingram and Mr. Borden were discussing timber lease systems, and condemned the practice of the department respecting the opening of tenders. They showed that tenders were opened by the Commissioner of Lands alone in his room whereas there should be present other officials and the tenderers if they desired it. Under the practice it was possible for the official in charge to receive from some friend a tender in blank with instructions to fill it up with an amount a little higher than any other offer. They both stated then that they had heard charges of this kind. In the discussion of this week attention was called to this suspicious method in its relation to the double tender; and to Mr. Oliver's admission that he had received complaints against it.

INVESTIGATION DEMANDED.

The whole question of timber leases was brought up on Thursday by Mr. Lake on a motion that a committee of five members should be appointed to inquire into all matters of the disposal of timber land and berths. Mr. Lake, Mr. Ames, Mr. Haggart, Mr. Lake, Mr. Ames, Mr. Haggart, Mr. Perley, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Herron and others made some startling exposures in this connection. They showed the following among other things:—More than half of the timber land leased in the whole North-West is held by speculators and not by operators.

BADLY CHANCE TO SPECULATORS.

Practically all these lands were alienated before there was any demand for them for lumber purposes, before they were accessible for use, before the government had explored them or knew their value and before they were known to operators. They were put up at the demand of speculators, in quantities of 50 to 500 square miles with large privilege of selection, obscurely advertised, and with the time between the advertisement and the date of opening the tenders too short for a genuine competitor to explore the lands or even to reach them. Some of the very best limits were offered at a season when it was impossible to get to them.

In many cases there was no competition and the timber was practically given away on a single offer of the speculator who first asked for it. In others the competition was fictitious with suspicion of departmental collusion, and in all there was no genuine attempt to sell the concessions on business principles. Though no time was allowed after notice and before sale, the purchasers have been given three and four years to make their selection.

One concession given away for \$500 is now held for \$500,000. The one which went to Mr. Nolan for \$7,000 is valued at from \$500,000 to \$600,000, and so on throughout the whole 2,400 square miles containing nearly half of the known timber resources of the West.

Members of Parliament and Senators supporting the government, with their relatives and their political and business associates, are found to be interested in limits so obtained.

SUB-TARGET INQUIRY BURKED.

In the Public Accounts Committee the majority is again burking inquiry. This time it is the sub-target contract under which the government is paying \$350 each for machines which the contractors have farmed out to a Sherbrooke factory at \$64. The Sub-Target Company which has the contract is capitalized at \$500,000, all of which stock was paid up with \$4,500 in cash and notes. The pro-

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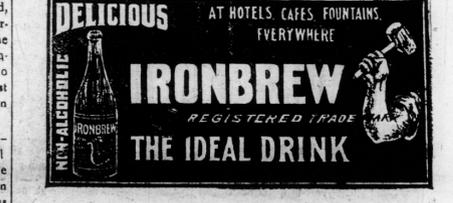
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