

THE NOMINATION OF THE PREMIER

A Splendid Gathering Yesterday at Mount Brydges.

THROWING MUD AT MR. ROSS

Toronto Lawyer Came to Attack Ontario's Greatest Publicist—Mr. Calvert Strikes Back.

The old town hall in Mount Brydges contained a splendid gathering from all parts of West Middlesex yesterday, when Hon. Geo. H. W. Ross was nominated by the Liberals of the riding to be their standard bearer again, and Thomas English, of Wardsville, was chosen by the Conservatives as his opponent. The premier's nomination was fathered by E. T. Duffin, J.P. of Wardsville, a strong old Liberal, who had the pleasure and honor of first introducing Mr. Ross to public life, when many white-haired men present were mere boys. Thomas English was nominated by John M. Cornell, Returning Officer S. Blackburn announced that an arrangement had been made whereby Mr. Ross was to speak first for an hour, Mr. English and Mr. Calvert half that time, and W. D. Macpherson, of Toronto, an hour, with half an hour to the premier in which to reply at the conclusion of the address.

W. D. Macpherson, a Toronto lawyer, employed by the Conservative party for election trials, who had been engaged to speak for Mr. English, attempted to cast some aspersions on Mr. Ross, greatly to the indignation of the audience, which was overwhelmingly favorable to the premier. Mr. Macpherson got such a vigorous dressing-down from Mr. Calvert that he made a hurried exit on the pretext of catching a train, which was not due for an hour. Among those present were Geo. Elliott, P. P. Cornell, T. J. Eaton, M. Campbell, M. Douglas, Duncan Fletcher, Thomas Warden, J. W. Warden, Wm. Webster, C. W. McFee, R. R. Brown, John Mills, Edwin Duffin, John H. Campbell, H. C. Johnston, H. Howlett, J. N. Kaiser, Samuel Sutherland, Robt. Bennett, Ferguson Ireland, D. Geddes, John Macpherson, David Evans, M. McIntyre, Thos. Morrison, Samuel Lethbridge, D. C. Ross, J. Johnston, D. Graham, Thos. Pauls, J. B. Gregg, Henry Hardy, M. McGugan, M.P., John Faulds, John Stewart, Duncan Campbell, C. H. Lockwood, D. Lamont, Frank London, V. E. Wely, Henry Lockwood, R. Stevens, Archie Thompson, Geo. Branton and Arthur Waters.

THE PREMIER'S ADDRESS.
The premier, who came from the east on the morning express, was kept busy up till the time of the opening of the meeting greeting his hosts of friends. On rising to address the electors in the hall, which has been the scene of so many gatherings of this nature, he received an enthusiastic welcome, one that did his heart good, he said, for he was glad to return to his friends on the famous old fighting ground. He had always been proud to represent the riding, which he had done for thirty years, and he found men present who had continuously supported him during all the time of his nomination at the hands of his old friend, Mr. Duffin, was like carrying a lucky stone, and he did not know what he would do should he be the first to pass away.

A Voice—Duffin has some boys. (Laughter.)
As minister of education, Mr. Ross went on to say, he was not a pleasing sight to the opposition, but as premier he was given to understand in many quarters he was not so objectionable, a fact that afforded him a great deal of satisfaction, and he believed the sensible, thoughtful part of the Conservative party was going to support him, which was only natural.

A Voice—I don't see how they can help it. (Laughter.)

Mr. Ross—Neither do I.
He pointed out that Ontario was the only province free from debt, and that Mr. Macpherson at the 800 the other night went so far as to admit a surplus, a flattering confession that was perfectly true, and this after the government had poured money into various channels for the people's benefit, not one cent of which had ever been misappropriated. They would rather spend money bonusing railways than put it into banks at a low rate of interest, for railways in newly-settled districts meant money in the pockets of the whole people. The Conservatives were to blame for New Ontario not being settled long ago, because Sir Oliver Mowat had to fight for a title to the land that Sir John Macdonald sought to hand over to his friends, and thus rob the province of her riches. It cost nearly \$100,000 to secure this title, but the end justified the expense, and work was commenced almost as soon as the Privy Council rendered a favorable decision. While this fight was going on with the powers at Ottawa the government had to progress; asylums were built, the cause of education attended to in all branches, and nothing was left undone conducive to the welfare of the province. Then he

Algonia Central Railway was given a grant of land in order to assist in settling the wonderful country, about which so little was then known, and many to secure settlers, something done for the first time by any government. Of course Mr. Whitney objected, which was to be expected, but at the 800 the other night he reported when addressing a meeting of his supporters. The wisdom of the government's policy was instanced in the case of lumber, which was now manufactured in Ontario, giving employment to thousands in all parts of the country. This policy Mr. Whitney also objected to, but when put into operation he complained because it was not done before, and claimed it as one of his children. Mr. Ross said the policy was three years old before the opposition claimed it, and he objected to his children being kidnapped. The government of which he was a member had endeavored to keep the Canadian boys at home by providing work for them here, something in which they had been successful. The new way is to have it made in Ontario. Mr. Ross said he had over 8,000 men now at work, a number that constantly increased. His aim was to have the material from the forests and mines manufactured here and shipped out as a finished product.

The value of Ontario's pine possessions was demonstrated, and the wisdom of the policy of assisting settlers to find a market for pulp wood shown. The old way was to burn the wood in order to get rid of it, as his father did. Now it is to have it made into paper, an industry that put millions into the settlers' pockets.

Aid was also being given to sugar beet factories, by next Christmas Canada would be sweetening their tea and coffee with sugar grown on Canadian soil. The farmers never knew a time when prospects were so bright, and he asked if it was time for a change.

CRIS OF "NO, NO."
Mr. Ross—I agree with you all. The treasury is full now, and it is hard to say unless you put the other fellows in, and they would make short work of the surplus we have worked so hard to accumulate. (Laughter.) Some 250,000 acres of swamp land had been reclaimed the past few years, which meant great increase in land values to farmers. Mr. Whitney had always opposed grants to farmers' aid, and he had been the establishment of the Strathroy Dairy School, among other benefits designed for farmers.

Mr. Ross pointed out that the government had acted a portion of the profits from rich institutions in order to build schools and care for indigents, something Mr. Whitney said should not be done. Those who paid the succession tax could not kick—(laughter)—while the banks and others were well able to afford the small donation exacted.

"For the first time I come before you as premier," said Mr. Ross, in conclusion, "and seek re-election. I have given to the electors of West Middlesex and the country generally all my strength and all my time, with what ability Providence has blessed me with, and I have never regretted it, for I have retained the confidence of the voters." Things looked promising all through the country. There were no complaints. Mr. Whitney had called the clergy to his aid. When people were vexed with the generally held (laughter.) Mr. Whitney called for athletic men to protect Conservative voters at the polls. "I remember when stalwart men were required to protect the polls under the old Tory rule of long ago. If you are satisfied with my conduct of public affairs you can elect me on the 29th."

Mr. Ross was heartily cheered on resuming his seat.

MR. ROSS' OPPONENT.
Thos. English asked for a fair hearing, and it was accorded him. He said this friends on the famous old fighting ground. He had always been proud to represent the riding, which he had done for thirty years, and he found men present who had continuously supported him during all the time of his nomination at the hands of his old friend, Mr. Duffin, was like carrying a lucky stone, and he did not know what he would do should he be the first to pass away.

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covered how the people were being swindled he opposed them. It seemed to make no difference, and the robberies were continued until they would never be stopped till Mr. Whitney was elected to save the country from bankruptcy.

The speaker went on to say a great public crime had been committed in 1888, when on the eve of a general election, with the lumber mills on the Canadian side all closed up, the Reformers had stolen the Conservative policy and compelled lumber to be made in Canada. Then he launched out on the subject of election trials, with which he was familiar, having been engaged in conducting several in the interests of Conservatives. He defined the premier to give the name of the cabinet minister sent into St. Thomas to obtain Mr. Macdonald's letter of confession of the facts.

Mr. Ross—That's not true. It never was done.

Mr. Macpherson—It was done, and I ask if the confession was submitted to the premier for approval.

Mr. Ross—Mr. Harcourt was in St. Thomas in the regular course of events, and was not sent there for any letter, and what the gentleman asserts is false.

Mr. Macpherson accused the premier of having sent a copy of Mr. Macdonald's confession to the newspapers.

The premier replied that the draft of a confession was shown him, but he expressed disapproval of it, and knew nothing of the facts. He did not see the published confession of Mr. Macdonald until it appeared in the newspapers.

Mr. Macpherson devoted his time entirely to enlarging on the wickedness of the Reform Government, which, he said, had managed to remain in power by crooked methods at elections, and counseled the electors if they would see this condition of things to place the reins of power in the hands of Mr. Whitney.

MR. CALVERT REPLIES.

In reply, Mr. Calvert said he was surprised at a man coming all the way from Toronto to tell them of the purity of the Tory party. Jumbo Johnston and A. P. Macdonald were members of old times and the methods pursued in those days were fresh in the memories of all. Mr. Ross got \$100 from the Tories and took it into Mr. Rowland's office and told the story. There was no need for professional spouters to come from Toronto to tell of corruption, for the Tories of West Middlesex have been guilty. The South Ontario election evidence was read. The judge said it was the most glaring piece of corruption ever heard of in the courts. West Elgin and north Ontario comprised Mr. Macpherson's stock trade of speeches, and he was welcome to the use of them. The Reformers contented themselves with discussing politics on a broad plane, and the man who came from Toronto to tell of corruption was a Tory. Reformers managed to remain in power so long, and made so many mistakes, had little to do with the corruption in the Tory party. The Conservatives gave away 4,000 square miles at \$5 per mile, nearly as much as the Liberals had sold since at \$1,400 per square mile. Mr. Calvert said it would be a graceful compliment on the part of Mr. English to step down and allow a man of the standing of Hon. Geo. H. W. Ross to be elected. He was clamorous; but as there was to be a fight he asked the electors to make the majority a big one, and they agreed to do so.

MR. ROSS REPLIES.

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