

THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

Sir John Macdonald on the Future Policy of the Country.

QUEEN'S HALL MEETING—ROUSING SPEECHES BY HON. MR. LAURIER AND OTHERS.

No statesman in modern times has ever received such a flattering ovation as that which greeted Sir John Macdonald in the Academy of Music, Toronto, on Tuesday night. The building was packed in every part, and on the appearance of the aged chieftain, the audience rose en masse and cheered for several minutes. Sir John was visibly affected, and for a time could only smile and bow his acknowledgments. When the cheering had subsided,

Sir Charles Tupper came to the front and spoke for an hour and a half. He claimed to be a true friend of Canada and had served her cause thirty-six years. He was not a candidate, but he was present to speak on behalf of one of the most distinguished statesmen not only in America but in the world. (Cheers.) In what country had so much been accomplished by a party as by Sir John's during the past twelve years? In 1878 Canada was not in a good state; depression, stagnation, retrogression marked the situation. Her progress since then had been marvellous. To-day she could challenge comparison with the same population in any part of the world. Erastus Wiman dictated from New York the policy—reasonable policy—of the once great Liberal party, some of whose leaders would not accept him. He differed from Sir John in calling it "veiled treason." It was open and unveiled treason. To hear Wiman talk as he did was enough to curdle a Canadian's blood. Wiman was a lonely Canadian over there, and like a fox who had lost his tail, he wished the Canadians to lose not their tails but their heads, for that is what Canadians would lose. He would not serve in England a party which had raised the banner of discrimination against England.

Sir John, on rising to speak, was received with cheers. He said:—

"I can scarcely hope that my feeble voice will be heard to the extremities of this hall. The happiest years of my life have been spent here. One of the consolations of being handed over to the cold shades of Opposition was to come to Toronto in order to earn my bread. When I came here the trade and commerce of this great city was crippled by the vicious legislation and still more vicious want of legislation of the previous five years. Oh, Mr. Chairman, affairs were in a bad state. Workingmen were reduced to half time, three-quarters time, and no time at all, and the markets of the city were burdened with the sweepings of the United States warehouses. It was pressed upon me more than ever, who was always a protectionist, that the country was in urgent need of protection to native industries; that Canada should be kept for the Canadians. (Cheers.) I say the policy of the Government is the same as it was in 1878. The policy of protection which we brought before the people then has been faithfully carried out. The results of that policy need not be dwelt on. I was here in 1874 and I have seen what Toronto is in 1891. Then our workmen were out of employment and were obliged to seek foreign countries to make a living, trade languished and property was at a discount. Now, I see evidences of progress and prosperity on every hand, palaces are being erected, and I see magnificent edifices being dedicated to Canadian industry. I was obliged to buy a home while here at that time and I bought the property on St. George street, occupied by Mr. Mowat. To-day one-half of it will sell for six times as much as I paid for it. The policy which we then initiated and which we have faithfully carried out has, notwithstanding aspersions and opposition, succeeded, and now we see its effect on every town, village and hamlet in the country. Hamlets are growing to villages, villages to towns, and towns are aspiring to be cities. I say that all this has been done by the effect and the influence of the National Policy. (Applause.) By the building of the C. P. R. we have opened to England and Europe a route carrying the wealth and immense products of England and Europe to the great empires of Asia. We are establishing a line of steamers which will open up to us the trade of Australia and Australasia. They had two reservations, the first, was they would never hand over their parliament and their country to the control of a foreign country, and the next was that they would suffer no discrimination against the mother country. It is true, Mr. Chairman, that we find great obstruction at Washington, great indifference in the American mind to enter into discussion with us because Canadian traitors, as Sir Charles Tupper had truly called them,

have gone to Washington, have told them: "You should not concede to Canada anything. If you do not put the screws to Canada, if you do not put every possible obstruction upon her trade, if you do not coerce them, bulldoze them in every possible way, you will not get Canada; we will assist you and, with our assistance we will get Canada." But there is no fear of it no, no, but if it should happen that we should be absorbed in the United States the name of Canada would be literally forgotten—we would have the State of Ontario, State of Quebec and State of Nova Scotia and State of New Brunswick; every one of the provinces would be a state; but where is the grand, the glorious name of Canada, which we now have in one and which we are proud of. It would indeed be this in the end. All I can say is that not with me, or not by the action of my friends, or not by the action of the people of Canada, will such a disaster come upon us. I believe that this election, which is a great crisis, and upon which so much depends, will show to the Americans that we prize our country as much as they do, that we would fight for our existence as much as they fought for the preservation of their independence (hear, hear), that the spirit of our fathers which fought and won battle after battle, still exists in their sons; and if I thought it was otherwise I would say the sooner the grass was growing over my grave the better, rather than that I should see the degradation of the country which I loved so much and which I have served so long." (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The meeting was brought to a close by singing "God Save the Queen."

The Queen's Hall Meeting.

Seldom indeed has the Queen's Hall been invaded by such a struggling, yelling and excited mass of humanity as filled its every nook and corner on Tuesday evening. At a quarter to eight there was no standing room left. Hon. Mr. Laflamme, Mr. J. K. Ward and Hon. Mr. Laurier soon afterwards appeared on the platform, and amongst others beside them were: Messrs. Hon. T. W. Anglin, Hon. R. Harcourt, Mr. Edmund Guerin, the candidate for Montreal Centre; W. Keys, P. A. Duffy, B. J. Coghlin and Dr. Guerin.

Mr. J. K. Ward, M. L. C., who was elected to the chair, made a short address to the meeting, referring to the number of representatives of labor who were present, and concluded by introducing the Hon. Mr. Anglin, from Ontario.

The audience received Mr. Anglin right graciously, and as he was a new speaker to most of those present, his address was listened to with a great deal of interest. He spoke fluently and pointedly, and was only interrupted by the applause with which the numerous good points he made were received. Mr. Anglin said: The dissolution of Parliament has taken us all by surprise, Liberals and Conservatives alike, and up to this moment I have not heard a single good reason assigned for the dissolution of the House and the violating of the most essential principle of our constitution. Last year there was the question raised in the House of Commons as to the revision of the voters' lists, and it was then stated by the Government that it was unnecessary to revise the lists, as there would be no elections. The plea then put forth by the Government was that under the circumstances the expense incumbent upon a revision of the voters' lists was not necessary, and that the lists would be revised before the elections came off. On this explanation a bill was passed authorizing a suspension of the Act for a year. There was a distinct pledge on the part of the Government that the elections would not be held this year. That pledge has been broken by Sir John A. Macdonald. The constitution too provides that in the House of Commons the various provinces shall be represented according to their population. Within a few months you will know if the population of the different provinces is so changed as to require modification in their representation in Parliament; and it was the duty of the Government to wait until that census had been taken, and it could ascertain whether a redistribution of seats was necessary, or whether or not any of the provinces were entitled to greater representation. That duty has been disregarded. Sir John has dissolved the House, and if he should get a majority of only half a dozen he holds on to power for another five years, and during that time the provinces will not enjoy the representation they should get. I listened some days ago to a speech by Sir John Thompson. He said that he would explain the true inwardness of the reciprocity negotiations, but he talked and talked and talked without giving any explanation. They have nothing to say in argument against our policy. They simply charge us with disloyalty. They wave the old flag and think it will answer the men of this country who find themselves compelled to ask what has brought the country to the present condition and how the old prosperity can be regained. You have, gentlemen,

two policies before you. You will have to choose between Sir John's measure of reciprocity or the unrestricted reciprocity of the Liberals. (Hear, hear.) What Sir John's policy is no one knows. He does not care a straw about reciprocity and will trouble himself very little about it. He cannot go back on the interests of those who have subscribed to his election funds, and he will say to them that he will not interfere with their interests. On the other hand you know what unrestricted reciprocity is. We do not conceal anything; we take you right into our confidence. We say that we are willing to have absolute free trade in the products of both countries, and in the manufactures also. We believe that the Canadian people have the skill, the energy and industry to compete with the United States or any other people on the face of the earth. (Hear, hear.)

On rising to speak Hon. Mr. Laurier received a tremendous ovation. He began by saying:—I come before you on this occasion, first of all to ask you to give my young friend, Mr. Guerin, a hearing and support, and I am certain my appeal will not be in vain. I have not known Mr. Guerin long—personally—but I am rather fond of him, and I am fond of him because of the pluck and courage he has shown to beard the Conservative lion in his den. I have been told quite often that the Liberal party was dead in Montreal Centre, but from what I have seen to-night I am certain that it is not so by any means, and I think that the great enthusiasm shown by those here present for Mr. Guerin is the best proof that the Liberal party is more alive at the present moment than it ever was before. As I said before, I came to ask you to give Mr. Guerin your most hearty support on the 5th of March next. But without losing any time, without any oratorical preparations, let me tell you that the policy to which we appeal and we expect to win is the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity with the great neighboring and kindred nation with sixty-five millions of inhabitants near us. We must have a change; we cannot remain stationary. To remain stationary means to rust, and to rust means retrogression; we must progress a little. The Conservative party rests entirely upon the National Policy, through which they claim the farmer has found a market, the artisan and laborer employment. I arraign the National Policy upon every claim made in its behalf, and I arraign it in this especially, that it was in the language of its creators to stop the curse of emigration, and give employment to every laborer in Canada, when in the light of the past it has been shown as a sham and a fraud. It is true that during the reign of the National Policy much brick and mortar has been used, and it is also true that many tall chimneys have arisen, but it is equally certain that many of them do not smoke, simply because the National Policy has restricted their own usefulness. As far as cottons alone are concerned, the steady production of two months would glut our markets, and with woollens it is the same. The result is that the manufacturers combine. They stop their machinery and they reduce the wages of their laborers without being able to reduce the appetites of their children, which remain as large as before and have to go unsatisfied. There is no market for the product, and to prevent glutting, the manufacturers combine and shut down. This is all right for the manufacturer, but what is to become of the operatives? And why are most of the manufacturers such strong National Policy men? Simply because it does not hurt them, but only their laborers, and because they like to earn their bread by the sweat of another's labor. As to competition, it is all buncombe to say that we cannot compete with the American manufacturer. If reciprocity does come, Canada without fear or favor is ready to compete with America and to hold her own. I once heard of a man who visited a barren island on the coast of Maine, and on asking what the inhabitants did for a living, was informed that they skinned people. If there are any strangers here, said his informant, we skin them; if there are none we skin each other. This illustrates the situation in the Dominion exactly, the East skins the West, the West skins the East, and between the two they manage to skin Quebec on both sides. We want to build up a nation in this country, and if we try to build up a nation we must do it with the best, the broadest, the most patriotic spirit that can be found. There is no man in this hall who has for England a greater regard and love than myself. I love England because she is the mother of freedom in the world, but much as I love England, still more do I love Canada, and I do not hesitate to say here that in any measure my first regard shall be for my native land. The first duty of us all is to the land of our adoption, to the land of our birth. But do you think it was loyal of Sir John and his followers to put the representative of the Crown in the painful position he occupies at present, the realization of having broken faith with Her

Majesty's people, and preventing thousands of young men from using their right to vote. No, it is a shame, a burning shame, and an outrage that will never be forgotten as long as there is enough manhood in the British character to resent such shameful treatment, and I hope that you all will realize the necessity of my appeal to come out and vote for one of the men who will treat you fairly, while loyal to his country, and avenge yourself by placing him at the head of the list."

Hon. E. Harcourt was next introduced and was received with loud cheers and waving of hats and handkerchiefs. In regard to the trade question he declared there was one thing upon which there was common ground. We wanted a more extended market. The Conservatives said: "Let us extend it by going to Jamaica," 3,000 miles away and shutting our eyes to a market right close to us, and when by the stroke of a pen we might double our revenue. The population of New York State was, he said, over 6,000,000, and if they would adopt the policy of Mr. Laurier, they could easily acquire that market.

Mr. William Keys, who followed, said that the best policy for the working classes of the Dominion is to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers in arms across the line. We should stand true to our own interests. The election of Mr. Guerin would be a labor victory and one of the grandest of labor victories. (Cheers.)

Mr. Edmund Guerin, whose rising was received with a storm of applause, caused considerable surprise by addressing the audience in excellent, elegant, French. He hoped for the support and good-will of his French-Canadian friends for the coming elections when their victory would be his, and his victory that of their great and beloved leader, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Guerin then addressed the meeting in English. He said: "You will not be surprised if on an occasion of this kind, surrounded by such a sea of faces, that I should feel in my heart a profound emotion. For the first time in my life have I stood before such an audience, and I feel the occasion is one that I am almost unable to compete with. However, I feel in full sympathy and accord with the public sentiment of the citizens of Montreal. I am a Canadian, I was born in Montreal. I am of Irish extraction and proud of my race. We have been taunted with disloyalty, I have been taunted with disloyalty; I suppose because I am Irish I am a little more disloyal than any one else. I will say this, however, gentlemen, that if I do represent you in Parliament and the day ever does come and Mr. Blake or Mr. Anglin, or any one else brings up a resolution favoring Home Rule for Ireland, I can assure you that I will never vote against it. My first loyalty is not to the throne of England. It is to my mother and my family. Next it is to the city where I was born and the boys with whom I was raised, with whom I studied, with whom I played, with whom I fought. Next comes loyalty to my native province, and after that I should be loyal to the Dominion of Canada, and then to the great kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. I am proud of being a citizen of the great British Empire. I have worn Her Majesty's uniform, and have carried a gun. Gentlemen, I would just like to show you the myth of Sir John Macdonald's boast that he has given the poor man a free breakfast table. All teas coming from other places than the United States are allowed in free, but teas coming from the United States are taxed ten per cent. It is well known that the principal market in the world for Japan teas is in New York, and so, gentlemen, for all the Japan tea you drink you pay a tax of ten per cent. Why was this tax put on teas coming from the United States? It was because the Government wants to force you to buy your teas directly from Japan, so that they will have to pass over the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Government has decided that all teas must be carried over the Canadian Pacific Railway. There is one grievance which I will always try to abolish, and that is the competition of paid prison labor with the labor of honest men. I will always seek a reform of this great wrong. No competition, even prison competition, for the poor workingmen. The laboring men have suffered from all this. I am not one who is glad to act as an usher for monopolists and who receives large donations for my support. I thank you sincerely for the support you have given me, and I think we will show Sir John A. Macdonald that we will attain a victory."

The meeting enthusiastically applauded Mr. Guerin at the conclusion of his speech.

The Chicago Times says it is wrong to say that people are starving in Chicago; it will frighten people away. But suppose it is a fact, should the people be induced to go there under false pretences when there is nothing for them to do?

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Colored Alpaca—Reduced
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Colored Skirting—Reduced
Colored Water Morene—Reduced
Colored Fanny Robes—Reduced
Colored Check Robes—Reduced
Colored Striped Robes—Reduced
Colored Ladies' Cloth—Reduced
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