

RALPH SMITH IS LIBERAL CHOICE

NANAIMO CONVENTION UNANIMOUSLY SELECT HIM

Candidate and Prominent Men
of the District Heard
on Reciprocity

Duncan, Aug. 18.—The federal constituency of Nanaimo is unique in many ways. It includes in its area every natural resource of Canada—forests, fisheries, iron, coal, copper and other mines, general farming, dairy farming, shipbuilding and numerous lines of manufacture.

Its residents claim with some reason that it is one of the most important constituencies in Canada, and the Liberals among them—as well as not a few Conservatives—are proud of the fact that since 1866 the constituency has been represented by a supporter of the Laurier government. And in the Twelfth Parliament of Canada the record is to be maintained.

As a preliminary the Liberal convention held in the Agricultural hall yesterday unanimously selected the late member, Ralph Smith, to contest the seat. There were some sixty delegates present from the six provincial constituencies embraced in the federal riding, and from every section they brought the same story of confidence in the administration and approval of the policy of reciprocity.

Wm. Fraser, Ladysmith, was selected as presiding officer and under his guidance the business of the convention was expeditiously disposed of. Dr. Gordon Cummings, Sidney, put the name of Ralph Smith before the convention in an informal motion endorsing the Laurier government, approving of the reciprocity pact and nominating Mr. Smith as Liberal candidate. He said that his late member had shown himself to be an able speaker and debater in tune with the progress of the country, and it would be difficult to find anyone to take his place at Ottawa for the people of Nanaimo riding.

H. C. Helgesen, Metcalch, proposed the name of J. C. McIntosh, saying he was a staunch Liberal who had taken an active part in provincial and Dominion politics.

Robert Nunn, Ladysmith, seconded this nomination.

Mr. McIntosh, however, declined to allow his name to go before the convention. He considered it an honor, he said, to have his name put forward by such a body and side-by-side with Mr. Smith, but the convention wanted to unite on one man, a man who would win the fight, and that man was Mr. Smith. Their late member and future one—was a splendid fighter, who went in to win and never showed to such advantage as in an adverse meeting.

"We all belong to the progressive party of the Dominion," said Mr. McIntosh in conclusion, "the party which in this election is putting before the people a second great charter, the free interchange of natural products between two great nations, and this is a policy which must mean much to Canada. On that policy, as on its general record and policy, the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be returned, and Mr. Smith will be re-elected in Nanaimo. (Hear, hear.) We are in this fight to win, as we have always won down there."

Mr. McIntosh moved that Mr. Smith's nomination be made unanimous, which was done.

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Mr. Smith, after thanking the delegates for the renewed expression of their confidence in him, said: "No man can oppose reciprocity without opposing the Liberal party. In the House I supported reciprocity. I am going to support it in this election, and if I fall I fall on a question which I believe in thoroughly and upon which the Liberal party throughout the Dominion is fighting to-day. No Canadian government ever had as good a policy to present to the people as to-day. They are, first, advocating a policy that has been the policy of any party that ever returned to power in this country. It was always considered by Tories and Grits alike that it would be a good thing to take the duties off natural products between two countries. Sir John A. Macdonald appealed to the people on this policy in 1851 and was supported two to one on it. The Liberals at that time took a position for reciprocity, and they have held it ever since. And, by the way, never were so many Liberals sent to the House from Ontario, that centre of Toryism as it is called, as in that election, showing that the majority of people in that province are not only in favor of reciprocity but of unrestricted reciprocity and absolute free trade between the two countries."

"I have no doubt the policy will be adopted here by your votes in my favor on election day. In Cowichan a resolution was lately adopted unanimously, but the Liberals went further and advocated taking the duty off agricultural machinery. That is the position I have always taken in the House and I take it here to-day. I have been a free-trader all my life and I have told the government that I support reciprocity because it moves in that direction; that you should not take the duties off natural products unless you take them off the machinery used in producing and harvesting them. The duty is reduced to 15 per cent. under this agreement but I want it off altogether."

"There has never been a policy which is going to make such an appeal to the democracy as this policy and any extension of it. Sir Wilfrid Laurier comes before you with a policy that is for the people, and one which I believe will get the support of people who never supported our party before. If you do not vote for this policy you must vote for the party of higher protection, of a jumping up of the tariff as high as that of the United States, and that is the party that is diametrically

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"I support this policy not because it will weaken the bonds of empire, but because the power Canada exercises in making her own agreements with the world will emphasize the strength, self-reliance and independence of Canada to carry on her own business in competition with the other countries of the world. I have recently been over in the Old Country, and who do you find in opposition to reciprocity coming from there? From the Duke of Marlborough, from the Bessboroughs, from the interests, from the people with large homes and estates, from the wealthy aristocracy and you may take it as sure as a party if we did not arouse the ire of these interested classes."

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"I believe it is altogether in the interests of the farmer to have reciprocity," said he, "and I would go farther and say that it is in the interests of the farmer to have free trade. But I recognize that public sentiment is by no means ready for that in Canada, and I willingly accept this further installment."

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are no local issues of sufficient importance to put the larger question out of your mind. You are in favor of reciprocity because you are not. Once the pact is passed Great Britain will be in a position to enjoy its benefits along with the benefits of preferential trade. That is one of the finest features about the reciprocity agreement, that it does not shut the door to the mother country."

"Mr. McBride is not very strong in his arguments. He would not stop to make an economic argument. That is too much trouble for him. He prefers to adopt the easier method of waving the flag. He has gone so far as to intimate that the whole of the Liberal party from the premier down who are advocating reciprocity with the United States are advocating a policy of disloyalty to the mother country. In making a statement of that kind he, of course, charges wholesale disloyalty against the Liberal party and anyone else who advocates reciprocity. Well, I am one of those advocates, but am I disloyal? (Not at all.) If Mr. McBride would say so to my face I would reply with a word containing but four letters—(Laughter.) In fact I might do a great deal more. (Laughter and applause.) Would you not do the same thing under the circumstances? Would you not do the same thing to the great body of the electors of the Dominion of Canada who escapes the penalty that would inevitably be incurred if it was applied to individuals?"

"The most disloyal man in the province of B. C. is the Honorable Richard McBride. You are disloyal if you buy eggs at a few cents cheaper per dozen, but he is not disloyal when he alienates the loyalty of the King George the Fifth and places the tide deeds in the hands of American land speculators. (Loud applause.) The Conservative statesmen who advocated reciprocity in the past were men of independent mind, men who were ready and willing to alter a policy on logical grounds but the human grammophones who comprise the party to-day will play whatever record is put into their hands by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association." (Laughter and applause.)

After reciting a long list of articles brought into this country and upon which the Liberal government has paid the speaker said he had no hesitation in saying that if reciprocity passed the price of beef would be reduced five cents a pound, mutton five cents a pound, and in opening up to him an immense market. The farmer in the east, for instance, would be enabled to get better prices in a market a few hours' journey away than in Great Britain. There he had to compete with the countries situated to the south and west, and as we are to the United States and with products which had to stand a long sea voyage.

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"I support this policy not because it will weaken the bonds of empire, but because the power Canada exercises in making her own agreements with the world will emphasize the strength, self-reliance and independence of Canada to carry on her own business in competition with the other countries of the world. I have recently been over in the Old Country, and who do you find in opposition to reciprocity coming from there? From the Duke of Marlborough, from the Bessboroughs, from the interests, from the people with large homes and estates, from the wealthy aristocracy and you may take it as sure as a party if we did not arouse the ire of these interested classes."

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Mr. Smith concluded by expressing his confidence in the result in Nanaimo and pledging his every energy to warrant this continued appreciation by his electors.

Reciprocity Endorsed.

Alex. Herd, Somenos, moved that the convention heartily endorse the reciprocity policy and a higher protection to British goods. As a farmer he unhesitatingly supported the policy and thought that the Conservatives had after all done the Liberal party a good service in forcing the election on that issue.

by money, by election votes, by the tariff reformers of England, by the manufacturers and rich classes of the United States, and the wealthy merchants and the Manufacturers' Association of Canada. These people, whose special privileges and interests were going to be affected by the passing of the reciprocity pact were the same people who accused the working classes of disloyalty."

The annexation argument he regarded as futile, pleasure. What of England, the free trade country for seventy years? It lay very close to Germany and did an enormous business with that country, but he never once had heard it suggested that Great Britain was in danger of annexation by the Germans. (Applause.)

Canada doing business with the United States was on exactly the same plane. It meant nothing more than that reciprocity would not change anything in that direction; it would expand it. The people who talk so glibly about breaking the bonds of Empire never did anything in their lives to strengthen the bonds of Empire. (Applause.) When the Liberals wanted to have better trade relations with England the Tories were the people who opposed it, and now they are trying to get the whole of the reciprocity pact they will abolish all hope of Canada having a better trade relationship with the Mother country and thus contribute to the dismemberment of the Empire. In order to have a free hand and full discussion of the matter he was going to propose to the Conservative nominee that they hold joint meetings throughout the constituency so that questions could be asked and answered on the spot. (Applause.)