

# ENTHUSIASTIC CONFERENCE OF ONTARIO LIBERALS

Inspiring Addresses By Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Leader Rowell—Officers Elected and Organization Work Reported to Annual Meeting of Reform Association.

Toronto, Oct. 9.—The eighth annual meeting of the General Reform Association of the Province was held yesterday. Intense enthusiasm greeted the presence of the two leaders, the veteran chief in the federal arena, fresh from his triumphant tour, and the new young captain of the provincial forces, with such an account of his first year's stewardship as to enthrall and cheer all his loyal followers.

The proceedings throughout breathed the spirit that is infecting the whole party. It is militant and confident. Organized work was perfected, provision made for the formation of Young Liberal Clubs throughout the whole province, and reports of a most gratifying character were submitted. There was a splendid attendance of the stalwarts, the men who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and a remarkable influx of young men, eager and strong, anxious to give freely of their best for the service of Liberalism.

**Officers Selected.**  
The officers who will guide the association through the coming year of its endeavor were elected as follows:

President—Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C. M. G., Ottawa.  
Vice-Presidents—F. P. Pardo, M. P., Sarnia; C. M. Bowman, M. P., P. Southampten; A. J. Young, North Bay; Edmund Proulx, M. P., L'Orignal.  
Treasurer—A. E. Dymott, Toronto.  
General Secretary—F. G. Inwood, Toronto.  
Auditor—J. F. MacKay, Toronto.  
Executive Committee—Hon. George P. Graham, Brockville; Lieut.-Col. A. T. Thompson, Ottawa; Hugh Guthrie, M. P., Guelph; J. A. McMillan, M. P., Alexandria; H. M. Mowat, Toronto; Dr. B. G. Connolly, K.C., Renfrew; W. O. Sealey, Hamilton; F. D. Kerr, Peterborough; J. W. Curry, K.C., Toronto; C. A. Foster, Haileybury; John Lennox, Hamilton; J. E. Atkinson, Toronto; J. L. Regan, Blind River.

**Inspiring Address.**  
"Liberalism's fire always shone brightest in the darkest hour," said Hon. Mackenzie King, the president, in the course of the inspiring annual address with which he opened the proceedings. "Rising manfully above defeat, our great leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, bade his followers close up the gaps in the lines and continue to follow his white plume; whilst, forgetful of self and prepared for such sacrifices as the cause might demand, Mr. Newton W. Rowell responded to the unanimous invitation and accepted the Provincial leadership. In Sir Wilfrid's chivalrous devotion and Mr. Rowell's moral earnestness the party has found examples worthy of its many splendid traditions. But it has gained more than this. The spirit of Liberalism has been reinvigorated, and today its influence is felt abroad throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion as it has not been for years." (Prolonged applause.)  
Mr. King reviewed the work of the year, and noted the evidences of renewed strength and influence. Federally, it had recently culminated in the wonderful tour of Sir Wilfrid. "While," said the president, "the duty of the Liberal party to respect the views of those of its adherents who may be sensitive on the question of international relations, it

especially displayed his obstinate conservatism. In the same way with regard to the project for an eight-hour day for underground miners, Mr. Rowell pointed out that the Opposition had compelled the Government to nominate a commission to investigate the question, so that it would be due to the work of the Opposition.

**Abolish the Bar.**  
Mr. Rowell then took up the question of temperance. His policy had been regarded with amazement by Sir James and condemned as a joke by Mr. Hanna, but when the answer of the Province was received to these proposals Sir James' attitude was not a joke. Instead of that they hastened to present an amendment calling for the abolition of the bar. This was Sir James' answer to the Liberal proposals after he had already declared that the country was satisfied with the liquor license policy of the Government.

"I have," said Mr. Rowell, "compelled the Whitney Government to recognize that existing legislation is insufficient, and now both parties are proposing advanced temperance legislation. I have been saying that our policy goes too far, but I believe that no leader ever tried more thoroughly to ascertain the real sentiment of both party and people before enacting a measure. I am convinced that they are not going too far in advance of the moral forces of this Province."

At any rate," he declared emphatically, "that is the policy upon which we shall go to the country at the next election, and that is the policy upon which we are prepared to win or lose." (Loud applause.)  
Discussing public health, Mr. Rowell then in scathing terms denounced the lethargy of the Prime Minister with regard to war against tuberculosis. Although a bill had been repeatedly introduced by Mr. Joseph P. Downey and Dr. James McQueen, and refused by Sir James, when the matter was pushed he suddenly changed his opinion and accepted the new public health act, which practically embodied the provisions of Dr. McQueen's bill.

In the same way with regard to a comprehensive conscription bill, said that after the Government had trifled for years with this subject, next session would see an adequate compensation act put through. Dealing then in the manner in which the Government of Sir James Whitney had attempted to usurp the powers of Parliament in spending the \$5,000,000 for Northern Ontario so as to disturb the independence of the vote of the representatives of the people, Mr. Rowell said they had opposed this, and would continue to oppose it until the rights of the people to control the expenditure of their own money were once again established.

When embarrassing questions were put to ministers, Sir James behind the bulky shield of the Speaker, and had them ruled out, finally threatening to bring down new rules to prevent the presentation of such matters.

"You generally find that a bully is a coward," declared Mr. Rowell, "and the people have mistaken this bully for a man of courage, while he is really one of the worst cowards in the House, skulking behind the Speaker for safety."

Sir George Ross.  
Sir George Ross was called upon, and the veteran Liberal leader was given a hearty reception, speaking from his private car, as he humorously described his invalid chair.

What was needed now, said the ex-Premier, was constructive policy that would appeal to the public imagination, and Mr. Rowell had that policy, one which would appeal to the best sense and judgment of the people of Ontario. Now it was for his followers to follow the policy of Sir John Macdonald and "rub it in." (Laughter.)  
"Let everyone know without hesitation or fear of consequences that Mr. Rowell and his party mean to abolish the bar to start with, Sir James Whitney says abolish teating. He practically says you can stand at the bar and drink and so be damned if you do not allow anyone to treat you. Mr. Rowell says 'save the man and his family from destruction, and the country from the fearful loss of life and money which results from the liquor traffic.'"

"Follow the principles enunciated by your leader," declared Sir George, "and I am confident that the people of Ontario, believing the old Liberal party to be still true to its principles and progressive administration, will respond when the time comes by entrusting the government to his wise, capable and forcible leadership." (Loud applause.)

Sir Allen Aylesworth concluded the oratorical interlude with a brief speech, in which he expressed his entire confidence in the policy expounded by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and his hope that the time would not be long before he would again become Prime Minister of Canada.

The hearty thanks of the association were expressed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier for his kindness in attending the annual meeting, and appreciation for his great, self-sacrificing work in the interest of the Liberal party.

Mr. Geo. Ross, who retired in South Renfrew to provide a seat in the House of Commons for Hon. Geo. P. Graham, received the cordial thanks of the association, and a resolution regretting the retirement of Hon. A. C. MacKay from provincial politics was also unanimously carried.

The organization of Young Liberal Clubs throughout the Province to be brought into affiliation with the General Reform Association was endorsed by the association, and will be carried out with all possible dispatch.

The fixed date of the annual meeting was altered, and the date that will be called at the discretion of the executive committee.

In the same way, dealing with the development of Northern Ontario, Mr. Rowell showed that the Opposition succeeded in forcing the Government to adopt a more active policy for its development. During the past six years the Whitney Government had not made as much progress as a good business administration could have done in six months, but the consistent opposition of the Opposition had awakened them into activity. As a result the Government had proposed to spend five million dollars on development work; but even when they had passed this allotment, all they could plan for was the spending of \$350,000 on roads in Temiskaming. Even with this, and with the co-operation of the Opposition in opening up New Ontario, said Mr. Rowell, "we was up to date the whole policy enunciated by the Government for that work."

From this Mr. Rowell proceeded to discuss tax reform. On this he remarked that Premier Whitney had

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decided improvement has been seen in its presentation. Miss Robson is more familiar with the lines and fullness, and she brings out the full force of each. It is a delightful play now, charmingly acted.  
Miss Robson has surrounded herself with a most capable company, as she always does. Mr. Paul Decker, in the role of Paul, is excellent. He is a young actor of great promise. Mr. C. C. Gwynne, as Mr. Deacon, played a difficult part with judgment and discretion. John Rowe, as the Irishman Terry, was very clever.  
The ladies of the company all showed marked ability. Miss Edith Conrad, Miss Ruth Quinn and Miss Kathleen Comegys were excellent. It was a fine evening's entertainment.

Made Famous by Wilson.

Thursday night is to be given over to "The Bachelor's Party." Francis Wilson's famous New York and London comedy success, at the Grand Opera House, The Colonial Theatre Company, Limited, of Ottawa, are the presenters, and they offer that English comedian, Etienne Girardot, known for his creation in "Charley's Aunt" in the leading role. The play is said to be one of laughter, and to contain situations both ludicrous and pathetic. A sweet child is an important factor in the cast.

"The Spring Maid."  
Not often does an opera receive the stamp of emphatic approval on its

first visit, and come back for a return engagement, showing even greater perfection. Werba and Luescher, its producers, retained nearly the entire organization which presented "The Spring Maid" last season, with Gene Luescher and J. H. Goldworthy, and the splendid cast, which proved so notable wherever the opera was sung. A few changes among the principals, and scarcely any among the chorus and orchestra, only resulted in improvements. The spirit of the opera itself, with its tender love story and swinging and alluring score, finds a reflection in the work of the singers. Those who saw "The Spring Maid" last spring will be even more pleased this time, "The Spring Maid," with its organization of seventy, will be at the Grand on Saturday for an engagement of matinee and night. The seat sale opens tomorrow at 9 a.m.

**Travel in Special Cars.**  
"The Pink Lady," with the New York and London company, is booked for next Monday and Tuesday at the Grand. This big hit in the popular field of entertainment is in three acts and as many scenes. Its books and lyrics are written by C. M. S. McNeil, the author of "The Belle of New York" and "Leah Kleeschna," while the score in the work of Ivan Caryll, of the Gaiety Theatre, London. It is a delightfully clean-cut and charming performance, made brilliant by the most pleasing music that has been turned out for a work of this kind in years. Seats Friday at 9 a.m.

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**CHURCHILL'S ORATORY.**  
(P. E. Smith, M.P., in Oxford Review.)  
Churchill bestows upon his important speeches a degree of almost meticulous preparation; he elaborates and over-elaborates. Latterly an excessive dependence upon his manuscript has a little impaired the parliamentary success of some of his most important speeches, but his hearers enjoy the compensating qualities of these defects. His speeches are



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