

George W. Fowler, M. P., at the St. John Conservative Club

Interesting Record of Government's Work Since Taking Control of Affairs

BY ELECTIONS SHOW WHERE GRITS STAND

Result of Recent By Elections Emphatically Show Popular Sentiment is in Favor of Premier Borden's Policy.

In view of the fact that there is no election in sight, the attendance at the meeting held under the auspices of the St. John Conservative Club, last evening, was unusually large and showed that the Liberal Conservatives of the city were more enthusiastic in their support of the government than ever before. The meeting was a success in every way.

George W. Fowler, M. P., for Kings Albert, the principal speaker, delivered an able and interesting address, making humorous reference to the vanity of the Liberal illusion that the Knight of the White Plume will soon lead his demoralized cohorts to victory, giving a trenchant exposition of the record of the government which has won public confidence and increasing support by the way it has redeemed the promises made by its leader while in opposition, pointing out that the naval policy of Mr. Borden had been given emphatic endorsement by the voters in a number of constituencies, paying a splendid tribute to the abilities and work of Hon. Mr. Hazen, and commending the efforts of St. John for their habit of maintaining an unflinching interest in matters political.

Senator Daniel and Hon. John B. Wilson made the main addresses, and spoke of Mr. Fowler's parliamentary activities on behalf of the city of St. John.

H. W. Woods, M. L. A., for Queens, who was present, also spoke briefly, and scored the Telegraph and Times for giving the province undesirable advertisement by trying to make it appear that there was no market for potatoes.

In opening the meeting the president, A. O. H. Wilson, said he was glad to see so many in attendance to welcome Mr. Fowler to the city. Mr. Fowler was an able worker for the party and had always been a good friend of St. John, having on many occasions stood up in defence of its interests in the House of Commons.

Mr. Fowler, who was given a hearty reception, in opening his address, referred to his previous appearances in St. John, and his part in assisting Senator Daniels in his elections. He said the boundary line of his constituency came within four miles of the city of St. John, and he might call himself a suburban member.

Our friends of the opposition, he added, love an idea that in a short time they will be back in power. They think that at the next election a majority will be returned in support of the knight of the white plume. More absurd idea could be entertained.

When people have a hope on faith they might be expected to put forward the reasons, the grounds, of their hope and faith. What expression has been given by the people of the country that would justify the Liberal hopes? The results of the by-elections were rather cold comfort for the opposition.

The Naval Policy

Was the naval policy of the government unpopular? When the government came into power they consulted the Imperial Admiralty; they went to the fountain head for information and advice; and they had the result of conferences with the British government decided to make an emergency contribution. It was to be presumed that the men, to whose care the defence of the Empire is committed, knew what form of contribution would be most effective, and the Borden policy was shaped by their advice and guidance.

Most Effective Aid

The government's policy would render the most effective aid possible, and remove from Canada the reproach of having for generations neglected her duties in the matter of naval defence. It was not a contribution to a Canadian navy they proposed to make, nor yet a contribution to a British navy, it was a contribution to an Imperial navy—Applause.

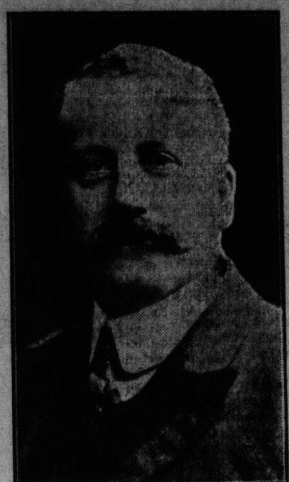
Contrast the action of the present government with the conduct of the Liberals when in power? In Halifax there is an example of the kind of dreadnought with which the Liberals proposed to protect the Empire.

Neglected Opportunities

The opposition has had opportunities to test public sympathy. Chateaugay had always been a Liberal constituency. It is in Sir Wilfrid's province, where his influence is greatest, where English sentiment might be expected to be weaker than in other parts of Canada. The opposition put up an active campaign there, and forced the fighting on the naval issue. But for the first time in its history the constituency returned a Conservative.

If Sir Wilfrid cannot carry the support of his own people in his own province, what chance has he of inducing the English speaking provinces to accept his naval policy?

In MacDonald the opposition had another opportunity to prove the grounds for their hopes of a speedy return for power, but they did not get much comfort there. In North Tanark they had still another opportunity to test feeling on the naval question and other issues, two Conservatives were in the field, but the Liberals were afraid to put up a candidate. Arthur Hawkes, hero of British born fame, entered the contest. The sole plank in his platform was opposition to the Borden naval policy. But this champion of the idea of a Canadian navy, polled only seventy votes.



GEORGE W. FOWLER, M. P.

That did not indicate that either the Borden government or its naval policy was unpopular.

The opposition won in South Bruce, but that is a close constituency and local considerations influenced the result. Balance South Bruce against Chateaugay, and the expressions of popular opinion, we have had are still strong for the government. On the score of the Borden naval policy, the opposition have no hopes of defeating the government; recent events show that the government is stronger in the country than ever.

Promises Fulfilled.

Mr. Fowler then proceeded to take up the record of the government since it came into office, and pointed out what had done to implement the promises made by the leader of the government while in opposition.

When Mr. Borden was in opposition the development of harbors, the government had lost no time in carrying out its promise. Immense developments had been started at St. John, Halifax, Victoria, Vancouver and in other ports. The government recognized that the development of harbors was as important as the development of railways, and in two years it had done more for harbor development than the Liberal government had done in fifteen years. When the next election comes the opposition will not be able to get much comfort from any weakness they may be able to find in the government policy in regard to the development of harbors.

The Highway Bill.

Another plank in Mr. Borden's pre-election programme was the improvement of the highways. Mr. Borden tried to implement his promise to improve the highways; twice a bill providing for a generous grant to the highways was passed and twice it was killed by the Senate. If Providence continued its beneficence to this country the Senate would be required to enact into law. Those in touch with public opinion realized the growing strength of the demand for good roads.

A while ago I was in England and I was struck with the beauty of the highways. On my return I talked highway improvement, but met with the objection that we did not have the money. We do not realize the value of our assets. At a value of \$7 an acre the Crown lands of New Brunswick are worth \$55,000,000. In my opinion good highways are so important that I would favor borrowing on our assets to build good highways.

Aid to Agriculture.

Another feature of Mr. Borden's programme was aid to agriculture. His government has carried out this promise; large grants had been made to the provinces. If the grants are not being used wisely, that will not be the fault of the Federal Government. Of course you don't have as wise men in the local legislatures as we have at Ottawa (Laughter).

Again Mr. Borden promised to aid and encourage trade and commerce. Mr. Foster has been travelling about, negotiating trade treaties, providing for steamship services, and generally using his great abilities to promote the trade and commerce of the country. The government's work in this connection has been productive of good.

Mr. Borden also made a pledge to the people of Prince Edward Island to give them what they were entitled to under the compact of confederation—that had been denied them by the Laurier government. The government is building a great ferry which will assure continuous connection between the island and the mainland.

In the little as in the big things Mr. Borden has fulfilled his pledge, and kept faith with the people of Canada (Applause).

The Liberal Illusions.

What was the record of the Liberal party? At a gathering of the wise and learned leaders of the party back in the early nineties, a platform of many planks was drawn up, but not in a single instance did the party, when it came into power, carry out its programme. The Liberals promised to destroy the master of protection; but they made no changes of any significance in the tariff, except in the little matter of binder twine.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier, taunted by the opposition over the failure of his government to redeem its promises, he was the cynical reply: "Well, were here, you're there. What are you going to do about it?"

Well, the people had done something about it.

Sir Wilfrid's party by reason of the fact that it continued the tariff policy practically as it was laid down by the Conservatives in 1877, and the progress of the country was able to remain in power for a long time.

In 1911 Sir Wilfrid's party formulated, for the first time, a policy of its own, and you know what happened to it. (Laughter).

The Free Food Farc.

Now they are harking on free food? That has a melodious ring. It sounds good to a man who is hungry. But

the people of Canada, particularly of New Brunswick, are not hungry. A voice—The Grifters are.

There'll be hungry for office for a long time. What do they mean by free food? During the Macdonald administration there had free soup kitchens in Canada. Is that the kind of free food they are going to give us?

In Canada the people produce their own food. They don't want free food. What will the farmers do if the people are to be given free food? And where will the Liberals get the free food? No in the States? Food is not free there. Will they get free food in England? Certainly not. This talk of free food is simply absurd. If the Liberals are able to give us free food—if it is a good thing for us—why didn't they give us free food when they were in power?

A Foolish Pretence.

Continuing, Mr. Fowler said it was absurd to pretend that the people of Canada rejected reciprocity because they did not want to develop friendly relations with the States. The people of the United States were united to us by ties of blood, language and religion. The people of Canada rejected reciprocity because they wanted to preserve their fiscal independence, and did not want to become hewers of wood and drawers of water to any people. They wanted to develop their country in their own way, and use their natural resources for their own benefit and to round out the industrial life of the country.

A Strong Cabinet.

Continuing Mr. Fowler said Mr. Borden had gathered about him a cabinet, whose members in ability and statesmanlike qualities, were vastly superior to the members of Sir Wilfrid's cabinet, and in that cabinet there was a representative of whom it had every reason to be proud. He was proud to serve under Mr. Hazen's leadership, because he knew the minister had only one thing in mind, that of doing the public to the best of his ability.

If St. John wavered in its support of Mr. Hazen, he could rely on the support of the rest of the province.

Study Politics.

In conclusion the member for Kings Albert said he was glad to see so many people taking an interest in politics, when no election was in sight. He had no use for those superior persons who talked of politics as if it were a foul and filthy thing which they scorned to touch with their lips. Nor had he any use for a man who being interested in politics was a fool and a filthy thing which he scorned to touch with his lips.

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To Mend Rubbers.

The usefulness of rubber overshoes may be prolonged by mending them with adhesive plaster, which may be bought for five cents a roll. Here the plaster, and presents the inside of the rubber over worn part.

Hon. J. W. Daniel.

Hon. J. W. Daniel, the next speaker, recalled that he had served in parliament with Mr. Fowler and that the representative for Kings-Albert was known as one of the fighting members. He told some anecdotes, illustrating Mr. Fowler's power of repartee often exhibited at the expense of the Liberals in the house.

Continuing the speaker said Mr. Fowler had always been a firm friend of the interests of St. John in the house, and that his influence had often been an important factor in the promotion of the public interests of St. John.

Hon. Mr. Wilson.

Hon. John E. Wilson referred to the fact that Mr. Fowler as a member of parliament had moved a resolution to compel the Transcontinental to build a branch line to St. John. If that resolution had been carried the province would not have had to take up the burden of building the Valley Railway.

Mr. Wilson spoke of the policy of the local government in regard to the improvement of the highways. He pointed out that the legislature at its last session had voted \$100,000 for permanent work on the roads, and said that if they had received the grant they expected to get from the federal government they felt they would be able to make a vast improvement in the roads of the province.

Speaking of Mr. Hazen he said the people of the province had no idea of the state of affairs which existed when Mr. Hazen assumed the premiership of the province, and a few could appreciate the extent and importance of the work which Mr. Hazen had accomplished on behalf of the people.

The Great Issue.

"The one great issue upon which the next election must be run is the naval question," said Mr. Wilson. "Besides it other issues are insignificant. The question of doing our duty in the matter of imperial defence is of utmost importance. The Conservative party believes its policy will contribute the most effective aid to the Empire, and there is little doubt the great majority of Canadians hold to the same view."

H. W. Woods, the next speaker, said he had heard there was a big quarrel in progress between two wise or otherwise Liberals—P. B. Carvell and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The ex-premier was going up and down the country promising the people free food. Mr. Carvell was telling the farmers that if reciprocity had been adopted the United States would not have placed an embargo upon potatoes. That was an insult to the U. S. government—it questioned their territory. As for the free food cry, Mr. Woods observed that he did not think the people of St. John would expect the farmers to bring food here and give it to them for nothing.

F. L. Potts moved a vote of thanks to the speakers which was carried by a standing vote. During the evening solos were contributed by Dr. James Manning and Fred Ramsey.

MISSIONARIES HELD UP BY HWANG-LIANG

Chinese Brigand Refuses to Permit them to Return to Missions—Government Deaf to American Appeals

Peking, Jan. 7.—The Brigand Hwang-Liang, who during the anti-Manchu revolt proclaimed himself Ming Emperor, still defies the authorities and refuses to permit the American missionaries who have been for months at Poo-Chow, to return to their missions in the interior, although he has allowed all other foreigners to do so.

The American legation has made repeated representations to the Chinese foreign office on the subject, but Edward T. Williams, former American charge d'affaires, and Paul S. Rehnach, the present American minister, have been equally unsuccessful in their efforts to persuade the Chinese government to take any action.

In American circles here it is thought that only the landing of a force of marines will accomplish the fulfilment of Chinese treaty obligations, and it is pointed out that the Japanese and other nations obtain quick satisfaction for their grievances by making naval displays.

It is remarked that neither foreign residents nor the Chinese contemplate the possibility of the United States taking any such action and that consequently there is a continuance of defiance by Hwang-Liang.

Winnipeg, Jan. 7.—Headed by J. V. Johnson, president of the Trades and Labor Council, a delegation representative of organized labor in Winnipeg waited upon the members of the executive government this morning in the interest of securing legislation of advantage to labor men. The delegation was heard by Sir Rodmond Roblin, Hon. Dr. Montague, and Attorney General Howden.

Among the questions presented to the government was that of establishing a bureau of labor, amending the liquor license law, regarding the granting of licenses to bartenders, the issuing of licenses to barbers, amendment to the Building Trades Act, the use of convict labor, and the abolition of the requirement for a political candidate to make a deposit.

In reply to the request for a bureau of labor, Hon. Mr. Howden said that the Dominion government had sent a man through the province gathering figures in connection with the bureau of labor and seeking the co-operation of the provincial government. A plan was being formulated that when completed would bring about legislation along the lines asked for and good progress was being made.

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Washington, Jan. 7.—When President Wilson returns to Washington early next week, he will find Attorney General McReynolds prepared to take up in detail all the proposed "trust legislation," which has appeared in the form of bills in congress during the last nine months.

That President Wilson's special message on the trust question will be delivered very soon after congress convenes next week is the general belief in official circles. Some of the best informed expert the president will take notice of the recent action of J. P. Morgan & Company in withdrawing from many directorships.

PRENTICE BOYS NO. 35 INSTAL THEIR OFFICERS

Prentice Boys' Lodge Union Union Jack No. 35 met in their hall, Germania street, last evening and the following officers were installed:—Fred C. McLean, W. M.; B. A. Carson, D. M.; Chas. Howe, chaplain; E. Strun Robertson, recording secretary; H. Surran, financial secretary; R. F. Goodrich, treasurer; Thos. Snider, D. of C.; W. Thompson, lecturer; H. Coleman, form committee; J. Thompson, J. Howe, H. Parker, R. Morrell, committee.

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LABOR MEN IN WINNIPEG ASK CHANGES

Delegation Petitions Government for Establishment of Labor Bureau and amendment to licence law

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COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN BOSTON NEXT

Concludes sessions at New York—To Hear "Hub's" Side of Question now.

New York, Jan. 7.—The federal reserve organization committee today concluded its hearings in New York, having devoted three days to ascertaining the views of New York bankers concerning the task with which the committee is charged of setting up the regional reserve districts provided in the new law and selecting the cities in which the banks are to be placed.

The committee, consisting of Secretary McAdoo, of the treasury department, and Secretary Houston, of the department of agriculture, will proceed tomorrow to Boston, the next point in its journey, to the financial centres of the country. Hearings there will be held on Friday and Saturday.

After the hearings here had been concluded, Secretary McAdoo was asked whether he had been impressed by the arguments advanced almost unanimously by the New York bankers who have appeared in favor of establishment here of a regional bank of such size that it would overshadow all the others.

"I hope," said the Secretary, smilingly, "that I am not as green as I look."

Mr. McAdoo allowed his questioners to draw their own inferences as to what he meant. He would say nothing more, further than that the committee had reached no conclusions.

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