

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XIII

CHATHAM ONT., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1904

NO 302

## OPEN TO-NIGHT

IF YOU have any shopping to do, do it to-night. Don't leave it until to-morrow. You can shop to-night in greater comfort, avoid the crowds and see what you are buying to better advantage. We offer you special inducements to come to-night for these items suitable for gifts.

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The would-be authoress isn't so anxious to appear in print, if it is so.

## LET US HAVE A PROVINCIAL HOUSE-CLEANING

### THE PLANET AND JNO. COCHRANE SHARED CONVENTION HONORS

East Kent Rossite Gathering at Ridgeway—An Unwilling Man Finally Accepts—"Rev. Mr. Hayden" Sounds the Clear Ringing Note of Statesmanship—This Great Home Journal Modestly Receives Its Modicum of Brickbats.

If "imitation is the sincerest flattery," then the great People's Convention which nominated Phil H. Bowyer was tendered a very flattering tribute by the gathering which assembled in Ridgeway yesterday in the interests of Rossism.

Considerable care and very much preparation had evidently been devoted to model it upon the spontaneous features which characterized the memorable Bowyer assemblage. To offset the earnest appeal for the removal of the baronets from Evangelist Hunter and the many letter from Rev. Edward Sotley for a cleaner atmosphere in public life, the convention yesterday listened to a long-haired youth who was introduced as "Rev. Mr. Hayden." The feature of his address was, perhaps, the staggering statement that Premier Ross was "a man before whom a young fellow like me can bow his knees, take off his hat and say his prayers." Mr. Whitney he likened to "a weak, slobbering freshman," and another of his Chesterfieldian utterances was the relating of a Russian anecdote to show that the Conservatives would "speak the language in hell for the next 25 years." These are clear, ringing words of Christian statesmanship which will doubtless do much to purify politics and bring about a cleaner, better atmosphere in public life.

The other characteristic of the convention was the calling upon Blake Mills, brother of the eloquent barrister who spoke for Mr. Bowyer, who briefly expressed himself as in accord with the convention.

While it was evident from the addresses that the main purpose of the convention was to annihilate The Planet, the meeting incidentally placated the consent of John Cochrane, of Ridgeway, as the candidate after that gentleman had first declined.

A long series of good, round roasts for The Planet, a unanimous nomination for John Cochrane and several speeches endorsing Ross and his platform seemed to be the slated program for the Liberal convention held in Ridgeway yesterday afternoon.

Each speaker, when he got up to speak, seemed to do his best to outdistance all of his predecessors in saying the most frequently bitter and decidedly uncomplimentary things about this Great Home Journal. Incidentally it must be noted Mr. Cochrane was nominated and the speeches endorsing Ross were made.

Mr. Howat, the man from Thamesville who threw up the nomination given him two weeks ago, started the ball rolling in the opening speech of the convention when he paid his compliments to The Planet, and the ban was on the go for the rest of the convention. Big John Lee, who never misses a chance to say what he thinks about The Planet, was there with his little taper, and from the way he used it one would think it had grown to the size of a wedge hammer.

D. A. Gordon, E. E. Parrott and Rev. Mr. Hayden all followed, and each of them reminded the convention that there was a paper in Chatham known as The Planet, and Asa Ribble, of Dresden, who was called on just at the last of the meeting as a substitute for Mayor Reyer, who had left earlier, closed the conven-

tion with one last parting shot at this much talked of journal. There is an old saying that even a good thing can be talked to death—and this Great Home Journal certainly received an overdose of talking yesterday.

The convention was a good one and unanimous for Mr. Cochrane. At a select meeting of the prominent East Kent Liberal workers, held in the morning after a number of the delegates arrived, it was decided to bring every pressure to bear upon Mr. Cochrane to induce him to stand. It is a well known fact all over the riding that Mr. Cochrane was not an aspirant for the position. In fact he has for some time denied every intimation that he would be the candidate and has repeatedly refused to allow his name to stand before a Liberal convention. He was present at the caucus and the influence of his friends then could not induce him to say that he would stand. He was urged to the limit, but would not give a satisfactory answer. The matter was finally left with him to think over until the convention opened, and E. E. Parrott was decided by the caucus as the unanimous choice. Mr. Cochrane still refused to accept. Mr. Parrott was reported to have a very strong following from Harwich and was anxious to receive the nomination. His name, however, was never brought up at the meeting, as Mr. Cochrane accepted the nomination, and just how Mr. Parrott's friends feel about this is a matter for conjecture. They, however, were compelled to swing into line and support Mr. Cochrane, who was first choice.

The convention opened at half-past two, with a fairly good crowd present. President John Ferguson, of Blenheim, presided, and Secretary C. H. Eastlake occupied the other seat on the platform. Seated in the audience were Hon. G. B. Beazley, of Blenheim, Asa Ribble, Geo. Riceborough, R. P. Wright, Dr. Wiley, D. A. Gordon, M. P., S. P. Sturgis, Rev. A. E. Hayden, Gillespie, R. L. Gossnell, P. Haggart, J. Ferguson, J. W. Fleming, James Dart, O. K. Watson, L. J. Reyer, John Lee, A. Denholm, E. E. Parrott, John Mulholland, James Rutherford, Geo. McDonald, John A. Walker, Angus Gilanders, M. Campbell, W. Canard, J. Canard, W. Mowbray, Dr. Mary, G. A. Dickson, John Howat, J. C. Sutherland, W. Ferguson, C. E. Higgins, E. Sherman, J. Butler, Dr. Coates, G. Moren and others.

As D. A. Gordon, M. P., walked into the hall he was loudly applauded. HOWAT'S TRIBUTE TO BOWYER.

President Ferguson called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Howat to explain to the audience why he resigned from the nomination, and that gentleman proceeded to do so.

"I don't know that it is necessary to make apologies for bringing you here," he said. "The Liberal party at their late convention selected me as their candidate without my consent. I told you then that I would take a week to consider if it were possible for me to accept, although I knew myself that it would not be, but after the splendid nomination tendered me it awakened a certain pride in me which made me consider. If I were free to take up your battles I would not fear for the re-

sult. I talked the matter over with my business partner and it was not satisfactory. There is no other reason why I resigned. My partner and I did not think it would be advisable for me to enter politics. It would not work with our business. I wrote a letter to the President immediately resigning. I have been accused of being weak-kneed and being scored out by the strength of Mr. Bowyer. I believe we would have put up an honest fight. Mr. Bowyer is a gentleman and a popular man. I know the campaign would have been free from all personalities. I wrote the letter in the forenoon of the day on which Mr. Bowyer was nominated, so when I resigned, Mr. Bowyer had not been nominated. It had no effect on me."

WHY LIBERALS TAKE THE PLANET.

Mr. Howat then proceeded to pitch into this G. H. J. He said: "No doubt many of you read The Chatham Planet. They can tell you all about it. I am very sorry that in a great number of Liberal homes you can find this dirty slushy sheet—there is no other name I can give it. I never did take it myself and never subscribed for it. I can't understand why so many good Liberals will persist in taking this Planet. I have interfered in no way with them and when they say that I canvassed some of the electors of East Kent they say a falsehood. I will say to The Planet if they can find a clearer man in East Kent, Grit or Tory, whom I asked to vote for me I will give \$100 to any charitable institution they may name. I asked no one to vote for me, but I can tell The Planet that between 40 and 50 Conservatives of Thamesville and Camden have come to me and told me that if I would remain in the field their votes would be mine, while their outward influence would not count for either side. I never asked anyone to support me.

"I am not going to make a political speech. We are all willing and glad to show our appreciation of the Government led by Sir Oliver Mowat, and now by Geo. W. Ross, the grand old man. We are all anxious to show our approval of the course taken by him. The Conservatives say we have got in the mud, but talk of corruption. The Conservative party are today and always have been, past masters in political corruption. You all remember the Pacific scandal. Now because some ardent supporter of the Liberal party got mixed up in questionable transactions they blame the Liberal party for it. The Liberal party has two millions of dollars in the banks and if they were so corrupt they would not have this surplus."

NOMINATES COCHRANE.

"You are to select a candidate today and I have been informed since I came into this hall that there is a gentleman who has been convinced that it is his duty to carry your standard. He is a straight-forward man and I would take great pleasure in nominating John Cochrane, of Ridgeway."

Thus the nomination was put forth and at the name of John Cochrane the convention went wild with cheers and applause.

Angus Gilanders seconded the nomination. "I am in a humor that I cannot explain," he said, "I feel better today than I have at any Liberal convention. At Blenheim the unanimous spirit prevailed, but for circumstances which Mr. Howat has well explained, he is not able to be the candidate. The Liberal party has got lots of material—second to none. We have now got one to fill the harness in Mr. Cochrane."

Mr. Howat—jumping up from his seat on the platform—You know what I said when Gordon was elected. I now say the same thing for Mr. Cochrane. He's all right!"

MR. COCHRANE SPEAKS.

The president announced the nomination carried, and called upon Mr. Cochrane to make a speech. That gentleman very reluctantly made his way towards the platform

amid cheers. It was plainly evident from his actions that he did not want the nomination and he did not look like the happiest man in the world. "This enthusiasm is enough to carry a fellow away," he said. "I don't want the nomination, though." He made an ominous pause and some one yelled out.

"Don't say so any longer!" "I can hardly take it," he continued. "There are other men who can serve your interests better. (Not No!) There is some one else better qualified to fill the position. If I accept, judging from your enthusiasm, no work will be needed. If I accept I will take off my coat, roll up my sleeves and go in to win and roll up a majority in East Kent. This is the banner county in the province and we are populated with good people."

"I always thought I would keep out of politics, but when a gathering like this gets round a fellow you don't know what to do. I'll assure you that in accepting (cheers) I will go into the fight. I trust I'll get your support and I'll assure you that any time I am not in accord with the government I come back to my constituency and resign my seat. I am not an orator and never studied during the contest. I am not acquainted with the people north of the of the river, but I will endeavor to see as many of the electorate as it is possible for me to see. Wishing you the compliments of the season, I will take my seat."

As Mr. Cochrane resumed his seat after accepting the nomination, he was cheered and applauded. The nomination being satisfactorily settled, the president squared the meeting away for a few speeches and invited the following to the platform:—Walter Ferguson, D. A. Gordon, M. P., Mr. Sutherland, M. P., of Windsor, Rev. A. E. Hayden, Blake Mills, Jno. A. Walker, Daniel Mills, Jno. G. McDonald, Dr. McCully, R. L. Gossnell, S. P. Sturgis, Jno. Beasingham, Dr. Wiley, Capt. Ribble and L. J. Reyer, and while he was doing so the hat was passed around and a collection taken up.

Mr. Ferguson noticed some of our Tory friends here. They needn't put anything in the hat.

Then some one yelled out "Platform!"

MR. PARROTT SPEAKS.  
E. E. Parrott, was the first speaker in order of merit, as he was second choice for the nomination. Mr. Parrott hid his feelings well and was to all outward appearances in accord with the nomination.

He was, he said, very glad to be present at another Liberal convention. He had the pleasure of being in politics for 25 or 30 years. The Conservatives say that Ross must go, but this convention was a contradiction of that. If the people could have been as fortunate as himself to have seen four or five thousand men in Toronto, yelling for Ross they would be assured that the old trusted leader would not go until some time in the future. He (Mr. Parrott) was appointed one of the committee on resolutions and he told the convention that Kent was a beautiful and intelligent county. He was proud of East Kent with a record of sending to parliament such men as Archibald McKellar, Mr. McRener, Robert Ferguson, and John Lee.

"We all like John Lee," he said, "There is not a selfish hair on his head, and his heart is as big as his body. There will be a number regret that he is not running this time. We have reached a small crisis in Liberal affairs at Toronto, and Ross is coming to the country on a platform. That platform meets with my approval. It is the best ever brought before this country."

Mr. Parrott then discussed a couple of the planks of that platform. The Conservatives have the cry of corruption and that it is time for a change. He thought the laws were severe enough to deal with the corruption that Kent was a beautiful and intelligent county. He was proud of East Kent with a record of sending to parliament such men as Archibald McKellar, Mr. McRener, Robert Ferguson, and John Lee.

"Their record will stand or fall at this election," he concluded, "and I believe you will win. Who ever heard of East Kent going coward? Get out and give a jargo majority for the greatest of leaders, Hon. G. W. Ross."

Mr. Parrott was also applauded as he resumed his seat.

JOHN LEE'S ADDRESS.

John Lee, the big ex-M. P. for East Kent, was then called upon and before he got up President Ferguson warned him not to take over one or

Continued on Page 4.

Our  
Christmas  
Stock  
Is  
Now  
Complete...  
Call  
And  
See  
It...:

Never has there been  
such a collection of

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CHRISTMAS  
GOODS

OF EVERY  
DESCRIPTION

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