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A POLICY OF PROGRESS FOR THE PEOPLE

ROUSING RECEPTION FROM THE PEOPLE TO KENT'S COMING REPRESENTATIVES

John Davidson and John S. Fraser Deliver Earnest Addresses to the People of Kent—Much Enthusiasm Shown—Great Gathering at the Grand.

A MAGNIFICENT RECEPTION was tendered to J. P. Whitney at the Grand Opera House last night. Rarely in the political history of Chatham has such a splendid audience and so enthusiastic a throng assembled to do honor to the great politician, honest in his convictions and of sufficient boldness to publicly avow these convictions.

By half past seven the crowd began to besiege the Opera House and after the doors were opened the large building was filled. The wet and inclement weather in no part dampened the ardor of Liberal-Conservative and Liberal alike and all turned out with one accord to hear the provincial leader of the great Conservative party.

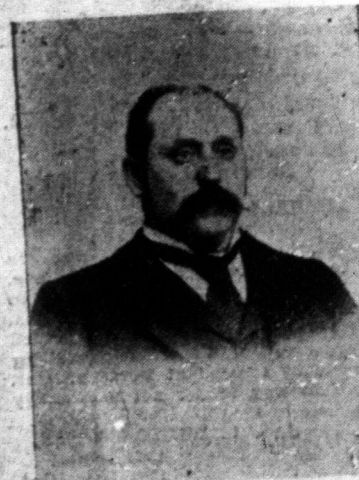
The interior had been hung with brilliant banners on which was inscribed in bold letters the stirring motto—"Whitney Will Win," "Welcome Whitney," "No Cooked accounts," "No Fraudulent Surplus," "No Pulp Wood Deals," "Education for the Masses at Reasonable Cost," "No Ballot Stealing, Switching or Burning," and "Smash the Machine."

It was after eight o'clock before Mr. Whitney arrived, but the audience good naturedly waited. The leading Conservative workers and party supporters began to take their seats upon the platform as they arrived. As the zealous audience recognized William Ball, ex-Mayor Smith, John Davidson and John S. Fraser, they cheered and applauded spontaneously. Geo. G. Martin, too, got his mead of applause and bowed gracefully.

J. P. Whitney's appearance in the hall was the signal for an outburst of genuine enthusiasm. Cheers emanated from a thousand throats. The exhibition of ardent zeal and jubilation didn't cease until some time after the future Premier of Ontario had taken his seat upon the platform.

The newspaper men with the next Government leader in Ontario said that last evening's reception was merely a duplicate of the receptions that Mr. Whitney has been receiving all along the line. They said that his greeting and warmth of welcome at the other places had even exceeded that accorded him at Chatham.

Thos. Scullard, President of the West Kent Liberal-Conservative Association, occupied the chair, and arranged around were the following gentlemen—John S. Fraser, Wallaceburg; John Davidson, Thamesville; Dr. J. O. Reaume, candidate for North



JOHN DAVIDSON.

Essex; Mayor Sulman, Rev. Rural Dean McCosh, Rev. T. Dobson, Tilbury; Rev. T. Beverley Smith, Rev. T. T. George, T. A. Smith, Jas. Glenn, Wm. Ball, Neil Watson, Geo. G. Martin, Ald. W. S. Marshall, John Turner, David Hutchison, Geo. W. Kelly, John M. Pike, Ed. Massery, John Stuart, Dover; Dr. Thornton, Thomas French, George Prichard, Thomas French, Wm. Potter, Wm. Gray, London; C. W. Haviland, Wallaceburg; A. B. Carrascall, Wallaceburg; Fred. Quinn, Rev. Mr. Henderson, John Rogers, Raleigh; A. P. Falls, G. K. Atkinson,

Ward Stanworth, W. R. Landon, S. B. Arnold, S. Stephenson, Will Richards, Andrew Crow, E. H. Dever, Dresden; Wm. Jenkins, John H. McVean, Dresden; Geo. S. Weir, Dresden; County Commissioner Harry French, Dresden; Thos. Hayes, Wallaceburg; Isaac Smith, Wm. Reid, W. C. Crawford, Tilbury; E. J. MacIntyre, John B. Johnson, Matthew Doyle, M. Carron, Dover; John LaPlante, Nelson Bechard, D. S. McHugh, Windsor; O. G. Fleming, Windsor; J. F. O'Connor, Windsor, Thos. N. Lee, Geo. Chalmers, Tilbury.

A party consisting of Mrs. William Ball, Mrs. W. S. Ball, Miss Rose and W. S. Ireland occupied one of the boxes. Fred. H. Brisco, H. S. Clements and W. S. Ball did yeoman service as ushers.

Thos. Scullard, in a brief preliminary speech introduced the speakers. He thanked all present for coming out on such an inclement night and expressed regret at the inability of J. J. Foy to be present.

"The issues in the present campaign," said Mr. Scullard, "are so many, so various, and of such great moment that we would like to hear them discussed from every standpoint. I take great pleasure in introducing to you Mr. Davidson, the Conservative candidate for East Kent."

HITS HARD

John Davidson Gives Emphatic Denial to a Campaign Slander Circulated Concerning him.

Mr. Davidson stepped forward amid hearty applause.

"I certainly thank you for the honor of addressing you," said Mr. Davidson, "I may say that this is my maiden speech in this campaign and is almost my first attempt at speaking. In consequence I felt a little delicate about speaking, but I couldn't refrain from helping my brother Scot in his labors in this constituency, which he intends to win."

A voice—He will. "I am satisfied from what I have heard and know that John Fraser will be your representative in the next parliament—Applause."

"It is not my intention to discuss any political question to-night. I know you are here for the sole purpose of hearing our leader speak on the questions of the hour. I have, however, this information to transmit to you as the riding of East Kent is considered, my personal organization is complete. All the Conservatives and nearly two-thirds of the Reformers have given me the greatest encouragement. The more liberal portion of the Liberals in East Kent endorse every action of Mr. Whitney's."

"I would like to correct a very slanderous report that has been circulated about me," continued Mr. Davidson, "It affects my personal character. The slander was published in the Globe of April 22 and in the Banner previously. As you all are aware, I had the privilege to be warden of Kent county two years ago. During that year, the county, owing to the many undertakings, had occasion to spend the largest amount since the year the court house and jail was built. At the close of my term of office the Banner eulogized me for economy. When I was nominated as a candidate, the Banner could find nothing else against me so they attacked my personal character, saying I took much more money to run the county than any warden before or since."

"Ladies and Gentlemen," concluded Mr. Davidson, speaking slowly and clearly for emphasis. "I hope you will pardon me. I am not going to use the language that Dillon did in the British parliament, but I am going to cut off the preliminary adjectives and say—'IT IS A LIE.' I say it on the public platform and demand an apology from the Banner for their slander."

ABOUT TAXES

Mr. Fraser Tells the People of Kent They are Unfairly Assessed Compared With Corporations.

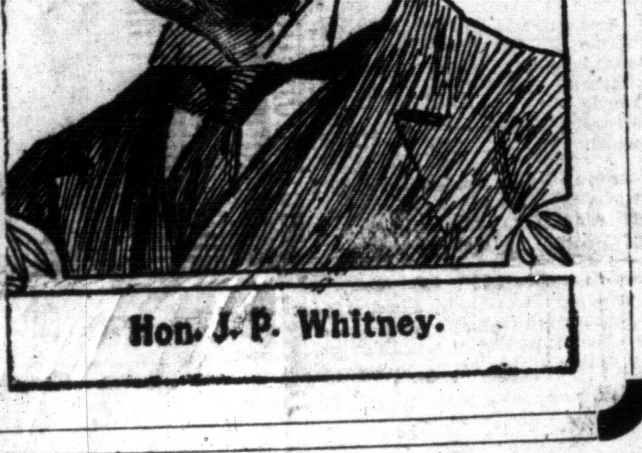
John S. Fraser, the Liberal-Conservative candidate for West Kent, was then called upon, and as he stepped to the front of the platform he was greeted with rounds of applause. "It is with a great deal of pleasure," said he, "that I am privileged to speak to such a large and intelligent audience as is here assembled. I might say, however, that it is but a repetition of the crowds by whom Mr. Whitney is greeted everywhere he goes. At Sarnia last night our headquarters had been in power for some time in the air, as it was in 1896, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier went through Canada and preached that the Conservatives had been in power too long—it is in the atmosphere to-day that Whitney Will Win—Applause. The best augury we have of that is that the very best and most intelligent Reformers in the Province are perfectly in accord with the policy as laid down by Mr. Whitney, and think well of the manly stand taken by him on the question of the Referendum. Mr. Houston, one of the most prominent Liberals in the city and a man who is universally known and respected by

both Reformers and Conservatives alike, and an honest Christian gentleman, said in an interview to The Planet that he thought that Whitney was pursuing a very manly course and the best which could possibly be adopted. Coming from a gentleman like Mr. Houston, it shows that the very best element of the people are in favor of Mr. Whitney's policy. —Applause.

"I regret exceedingly that Mr. Foy is not able to be with us to-night to address you. He is a gentleman who has lent lustre to the Conservative party, and I am confident that he will continue to uphold his and your cause as a member of the Ontario Cabinet."

"Applause. He is, as you all are aware, a lawyer and a member of the King's Council, and a gentleman who stands so high in the estimation of the Ontario Government that they have on two different occasions offered him a seat on the bench—the highest gift possible to be tendered to a lawyer. It must have been very tempting for a man in his position and it also shows the estimation in which he is held by the Liberal party who leave no stone unturned to defeat him in the coming election. They are doing all in their power in Toronto now to turn public sentiment against him and, as a result, he is obliged to remain there to cope with his opponents, and is not able to be with us to-night. If there is one man with Mr. Whitney who is perfectly fearless in upholding what is for the good of the country, it is Mr. Foy, lieutenant to the leader of the Conservative party and the future Government—Cheers."

"You have all heard of the scrap iron assessment, but probably some of you do not know exactly what it means. For instance, an assessor comes to the Bell Telephone Company and assesses them for their property—a number of poles, and a number of pounds of wire. Now, we claim that the Bell Telephone Company have a



Hon. J. P. Whitney.

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THE LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE CHIEFTAIN SOUNDS THE CLARION OF VICTORY

Magnificent Welcome Accorded Mr. Whitney—His Splendid Address Enthusiastically Received—A Policy for the People—Will Win.

WHITNEY WILL WIN! It is a Campaign cry with a confident ring to it and the Liberals as well as the Conservatives are mingling their voices in raising it. The visit of the Liberal-Conservative chieftain has given the prophecy a firm hold in Kent County. He has come and conquered. His splendid personality, honest and vigorous policy and clear and definite prin-

Bray, Dr. Reaume, Thos. Scullard, Chas. Hadley, H. S. Clements, Ward Stanworth, J. M. Pike, S. B. Arnold, and others.

After luncheon Mr. Whitney remained over night at the sanitarium. He was suffering from a severe cold and took a mineral bath and salubrious with excellent results, ere leaving on the morning train for London.

Mr. Whitney spoke in the highest terms of his entertainment while in Chatham and took occasion to pay high eulogy to the sanitarium and the courtesy and consideration he received there.

In his magnificent address at the Grand Liberal-Conservative leader was in excellent trim and withstood his severe cold. His splendid address was received with repeated applause.

Mr. Scullard briefly introduced him to the large audience.

When Mr. Whitney was introduced to the audience the house went wild with applause, and the Conservative Chieftain could feel grateful for this evidence of encouragement and support. He said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the city of Chatham and the two ridings of Kent, while I have been noticing the enthusiasm displayed by the meeting and the reception tendered to the two candidates and myself, it has just occurred to me that this referendum is loaded the right way—Laughter and applause. While I have been sitting here on the platform, I have noticed my good friend, Mr. Tooley, in the audience. Mr. Tooley has grown old in good work, and good service and I would like him to take a seat with me on the platform—Loud applause. Mr. Tooley at present resides in Wallaceburg, but for 24 years was the Conservative representative in East Kent. Mr. Tooley, who is quite feeble, was escorted to the platform amid great applause."

Mr. Scullard—I saw Mr. Tooley today, and asked him if he would come on the platform, but he thought he was too old, being 82 years of age, but he wanted to be present at the meeting, as this is probably the last election he will see and Whitney is going to win—Applause."

Mr. Whitney then continued—"I join in the regret which has been expressed by the chairman and Mr. Fraser, for the absence of Mr. Foy. Although I can assure you that he would have been here had it been possible for him to come. He is at present doing yeoman service in Toronto. I will not add to the encomiums which have already been given to him by the other speakers. You all know him as a man of whom the people of Ontario ought to be proud. J. J. Foy is a man who has stands apart as an honorable gentleman and a man of such high-minded principles that he was able to withstand the offers of his political opponents to silence him in the house, by offering him a seat on the bench. He was able to resist this temptation, and this effort to take away from the people of Ontario the opportunity of having their services well performed—Applause."

"I am glad to be able to come to Chatham in the interests of my two friends, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Fraser, who have here once before, and my recollections are that my voice was in worse condition than it is now. I have come this time to ask you to consider whether or not it is the duty and privilege of every good man to say whether or not it is time for a change. I am going to appeal with confidence to every man in both parties. I don't propose to allow you to think that I am here without party principles. I am a Liberal-Conservative—Applause. I realize as you all do, that the public service has been well attended to by the Reform party at different times during the past, and who is not proud of the life work of Sir John A. Macdonald—Applause. He lived, worked, fought and died in solidifying and making strong British constitution and dominions in the province of Ontario. We will not forget also Mr. Robert Baldwin and others who have done good service. It is impossible for this province to be otherwise than prosperous under our constitutional system. It is impossible for one party to be always right and the other always wrong. Sentimental changes and as a result changes of government can be made. In this way the morality of the government remains pure, and the policies of the parties do not grow stagnant."

"We, however, are not so fortunate as our brethren in the old country. Here the moment a government is sustained they remain in power for the next parliamentary term. With what results? Did you ever notice that the bye-elections are invariably carried by the government? In England however, as soon as a government gets in power, they commence to lose favor. The Britisher, you know, is naturally a grumbler. There is a great group of people in the centre of sentiment, who refuse

to be bound from year to year by Government ties and so it not unfrequently happens that a ministry with a large majority is defeated before the term of office expires. This political purity has added greatly to the glory and power of the British Empire all over the world. We, here in Ontario, should all be anxious for a similar state of affairs."

"Now as to the platform of Mr. Ross. I saw on the streets of Sarnia to-day, elaborate pictures of Mr. Ross and posters billed up all over the streets to 'Remember Ross.' I think there is not the slightest doubt but what the people of Ontario will remember Ross and for very good reasons—Laughter and applause. Two years ago he put forth a program, and it has all gone to nothing, and all that remains of it is the recollection of the vigor with which it was introduced. To-day we have a phrase, 'Remember Ross,' instead of a policy and for once we will remember him. Ross claims credit for the large amount of your money which he has expended in asylums, etc. To this position have the mighty fallen, and we have not a scrap of this policy placed before the people by the man who seems to say, 'I did the country a favor when I consented to be born in it.'"

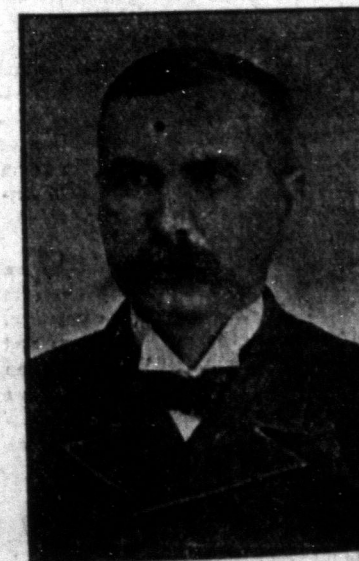
"What was this platform? There were eight features to it. They were, The Financial Commission, Remounts for Canadian horses, Development of nickel, Dressed beef industry, Cold storage, Drainage grants, Good roads, and New Ontario. Everyone of these has eventuated in nothing."

"First the financial commission. Strange thing it is that this gentleman in the campaign with his friends had been telling the people about the great surplus of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 which was in the possession of the Ontario government, and the first thing he does when he goes into power is to appoint a commission to hunt for this surplus—Laughter. They did hunt for it, but they did not find it, because it never existed and they did not say that they didn't find it. They abstained from saying it. This was the first great item."

"The next was the remount for Canadian horses to be sold to the British government. He undertook to establish stations in Ontario where these remounts could be purchased. What did they do towards it? Nothing. 'Lucky for' the farmers of the province, however the British government had been, and are still buying horses without his help. Mr. Ross, you know, is very fond of using the word pleasure to show his disgust with the policies of the Liberal-Conservative party, but I don't know where you could find a more pleasurable article than the platform of Ross four years ago."

"Then, too, he was going to push the development of nickel. He passed two orders in council to that effect and proclaimed the fact that all of the warships of Great Britain will be made out of Canadian nickel. I have no doubt but in future this will be carried out, and when it is carried out the people will remember Ross—Laughter. This was the end of the third of these golden phrases."

"Then, too, he was going to develop the dressed beef industry. He declared he was going to bring about such a state of affairs that the people of Ontario would be enabled to sell all of their beef to Great Britain and they would be everlastingly benefit-



JOHN S. FRASER.

ed. Before the matter even came before him he was advised that the scheme was impossible as the farmers would have to first improve their breed of cattle. John Dryden then employed a dairy keeper, governor or sound keeper, or something to make speeches for him. He declared that Dryden knew more about farming than any other person in Ontario. Now it is his duty to carry out the policies of the Ross government and he should endeavor to improve the breed of cattle in Ontario and thus make the beef industry possible in Ontario. What did he do? He proceeded to establish a dressed beef industry in

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