

DICKSON AND BROOKS ARE CHOICE OF KINGS OPPOSITION CONVENTION

Inside Manipulation Charged by McAulay When Refused Nomination

Hampton, N. B., Oct. 4.—Hedley V. Dickson, M. P. P., Hammond River; Alfred J. Brooks, Sussex, Conservative organizer for the province, and Councillor J. William Smith, contractor, builder and hardware merchant, Hampton, were nominated as the Kings county Conservative candidates in the next provincial election at a largely attended convention representative of every part of the constituency in the Hampton Court House here today. The name of Councillor John E. McAulay, Lower Millstream, was also placed in nomination, but Mr. McAulay was unsuccessful, the ballot results:

Dickson, 111.
Brooks, 96.
Smith, 66.
McAulay, 44.

Outstanding features of the convention were the charge levelled by Mr. McAulay that the choice of convention was the result of inside manipulation and did not reflect the true wishes of Kings county Conservatives, and the reply of George B. Jones, Apohaqui, member of the Federal House of Commons, who declared there was no one at the convention who could say he had canvassed for anyone. In fact he had been careful to see that none of his close relatives had come as delegates. Moreover, there was no living man that he would sooner take off his coat to work for, that he would rather go out on the hustings to support or go from door to door to ask votes for than the same John McAulay.

Other high lights were Mr. Jones' declaration that it was his firm belief that a provincial election would be held within a few weeks and the challenge thrown out by C. D. Richards, leader of the Opposition, to the Premier when he declared: "Let him bring on the election. . . We will welcome it." The newly nominated candidate, Mr. Smith, in speaking of Premier Veniot and his alleged failure to enforce the prohibitory liquor law of the province, declared:

"You might as well expect to find a high-grade Bible student away down in the slums of New York as to expect enforcement from Premier Veniot."

Think Sentiment Charging.
All of the speakers, including the three candidates, the unsuccessful candidate, Mr. Richards, Mr. Jones, Hon. James A. Murray, of Sussex, who called the meeting to order in the absence of Bliss Keith, of Annapolis, the retiring county president, George P. Bolton, Sussex, the newly elected county president, and R. St. John Freese, Sussex, re-elected county secretary, professed to believe that discontent and dissatisfaction with the present Provincial Government was the cause of the spread throughout the province, that the hour of the Opposition had struck, that sentiment was swinging over in favor of the Conservative party and that the election, whether it were to take place this year or next, held out bright hopes for the triumph of the Opposition party at the polls.

This viewpoint was exemplified in the challenge of Mr. Richards who declared that, as leader of the Opposition, he had traveled a good deal over the province lately trying to catch the viewpoints of different sections of the country and to learn their sentiment and their needs. "There is no question," said he, "but that there is a strong and growing sentiment against the Provincial Government as it exists today. I think, from one end of the province to the other."

Ready, Says Richards.
He congratulated the Conservatives of Kings upon taking time by the forelock and holding their convention at this early date so as to be ready for the fray. Commenting upon the non-committal statement of the Premier who when recently questioned as to whether an early election was on the cards as was rumored in Conservative circles, replied that he had not yet had time to consult the Opposition, Mr. Richards declared: "So far as the Opposition is concerned, while we do not want to make any untimely optimistic statements or to indulge in bragadoes, we are not going to run away from an election. We are not so well prepared as we might be, but let him bring on the election—we will welcome it, this fall or next year." He was satisfied, however, he said, that if the election were not held within the next few weeks it would not be held this year.

Other speakers, with the exception of Mr. Jones, were in the dark as to when the election would be held; Mr. Jones seemed certain that it would be held this year and in this connection declared:

"I believed and still believe we are going to have an election this Fall. It was Premier Veniot's intention to hold the election this last summer, but things did not look very promising for the Liberals with the Conservatives' sweeping victories in Ontario and Prince Edward Island and their capture of twenty-five seats in Quebec last March. I know that some legislators, especially some members of his cabinet, told him they would not run if the elections were brought on this year."

Going through the county, Mr. Jones said he was surprised at the number of people he met who told him they were all through with the Liberal party. He knew hundreds of families, he said, of from two up to ten members, who had always been Liberals but who were opposed to the present administration. He was satisfied that all three candidates would be elected. Large Attendance.

The convention call went out only eight days ago and the fact that 117 of the 136 eligible delegates responded was viewed as a promising augury of success by the various speakers. In opening the meeting Hon. James Murray said that he had been approached by several of his friends who wanted him to permit his name to be placed in nomination. Nothing would give him greater pleasure than to represent the people of Kings county, he said, but under no consideration could he become a candidate at this time. Politics had both its allurement and its drawbacks. For the legitimate

expenses of a campaign money was needed. He had been in politics before and had come out poorer than he went in. He appreciated the honor done him in asking him to allow his name to go before the convention and he wished to explain his refusal. Three other men well able to carry the Conservative standard to victory could be nominated, he believed. He concluded with a plea for united support behind the choices of the convention.

Urges Preparedness and Work.
G. P. Bolton, Sussex, was thereupon elected county chairman and R. St. J. Freese, also of Sussex, was re-elected county secretary.
On taking over the chair from Hon. Mr. Murray, Mr. Bolton declared that the prospect of success at the polls loomed up before the party. His travels through the province had indicated to him that public sentiment was swinging Torywards. Two things were necessary, however, if the party was to triumph, namely, preparedness and hard work. He appealed to the delegates to get down to work at once and to persevere in their efforts until victory had been achieved.

R. St. John Freese thanked the delegates for the renewed manifestation of confidence in him evidenced by his re-election to the secretaryship. He said that the big response to the convention call was recompense for all the hard work which his position laid upon him.

Following his address, Mr. Bolton called for nomination of candidates and the names of Messrs. McAulay, Smith, Brooks and Dickson were placed before the convention. Charles H. Gorman, of Greenwich, Dr. E. T. Kennedy, of Sussex, and Richard Pearson, of Springfield, were appointed scrutineers and, with the secretary, supervised the balloting. One woman delegate, Mrs. Jean (W. P.) Jones, of Sussex, was present.

Discusses Finance.
While the scrutineers were absent counting the votes Mr. Richards was called upon for an address. The Opposition leader, after expressing his readiness to meet the Liberals at the polls at this time, went on to deal with the financial situation in the province. He quoted from the budget speech of the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, Hon. D. Heston, last session to this effect: "The increase in the provincial debt and interest has not touched the consciousness of the people." That might almost be taken as a text by the Opposition party, said Mr. Richards, who went on to say that the public debt had risen from \$16,000,000 in 1918 until now it was in the vicinity of \$28,000,000 and in spite of the fact that the present Government had come into power pledged to keep down expenses.

Nominees Give Addresses.
At this juncture the scrutineers returned to announce the results of the balloting and the nominees were called upon for addresses which interrupted the speech of Mr. Richards.

Mr. Dickson, as did all the candidates, thanked the delegates for the honor conferred upon them. Mr. Dick-

son was applauded when he took objection to certain features of the Health Act. He declared that the present Government was wilfully spending money without delivering results and concluded with the prediction that in ten years the whole revenue of the province would be needed to pay interest on the public debt if the present Government were allowed to continue its present pace.

Mr. Brooks, who was an unsuccessful candidate at the by-election last year, said there was a change in sentiment on the part of the electors of the province. What were the reasons, he asked. Then, in reply, he enumerated the Health Act, prohibition and the hydro policy. He declared that although Kent county was four-fifths French he would not be surprised to see Kent swing over into the Opposition column because of its objection to certain features of the Health Act and to show Mr. Veniot that they objected to the way he was pussyfooting round in every public matter.

He charged that in the matter of prohibition Premier Veniot was an opportunist giving each locality about the degree of enforcement that he thought was agreeable to that locality. He said that industries had been promised if hydro were developed and he asked where were the new industries that followed the expenditure of \$8,000,000 in Musquash. Not only were there no new industries but many families had left St. John. Conditions in the province were never worse than they were at present, he asserted. He concluded with a Shakespearean quotation.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," Mr. Brooks thought that the turn in the political tide had come and that if the Conservatives took it at the flood they would be led on to good fortune at the polls.

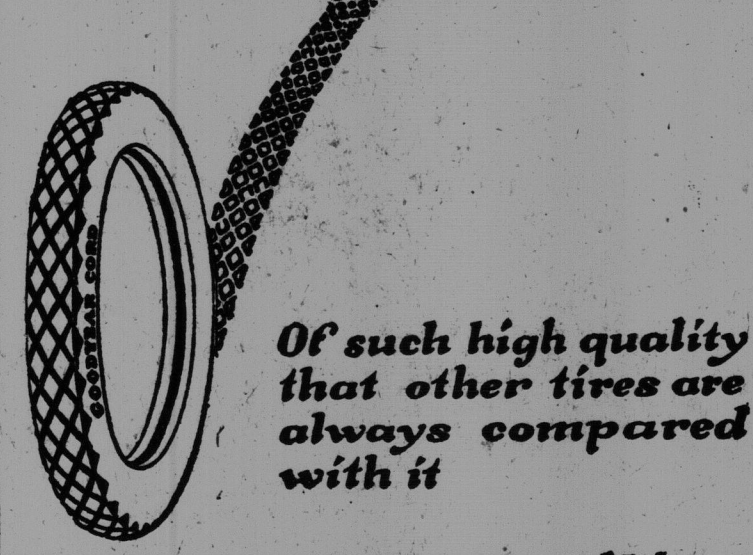
Assaults Government.
Mr. Smith declared that the Health Act was "nothing more or less than a scheme to provide large sums of money for the Government's pets." He said that the Compensation Act was a hindrance and a menace to industry instead of an aid and that, unless it were changed, business would collapse altogether. He said business was slowing down already and that thousands of young men had left the country.

The school law had been so changed, he charged, that education was almost beyond the reach of poor people in rural districts on account of the high taxes and costly text books. He charged that big sums of money were being spent on little pieces of road and in many cases charged to capital account. The province was really in a deplorable condition, he said.

McAulay Charges Machine Politics.
Mr. McAulay, the unsuccessful nominee, declared, amid applause, that he was going to support the ticket, both for the reason that he was a party man and for the further reason that he was a business man because he believed business could not continue to operate under the existing circumstances of government.

Then he declared: "If Kings county had had its own way and if no manipulation had been carried on this ticket would not be as it is. That does not bring honor and justice to the party within the party. I believe the man who is not nominated is the lucky man. This is not a convention that is carrying out the wishes of the people of Kings and I am speaking fairly."

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squarely and plainly," he declared. He believed, however, that the party could win. Industries were being destroyed, he declared. Hundreds of people were leaving the country. Some of this had to be charged up to the present Government, he asserted. Was

it a business men's government that drove men out of business, he asked. Mr. McAulay said, however, that he would support the party and the candidates chosen.

Mr. Richards then resumed his address, concluding with the expression

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of the belief that with a united party there would be no doubt as to victory and the belief that the example of Kings would be followed by other counties as a forerunner of victory.

All the Same to Him, He Says.

Mr. Jones followed Mr. Richards. He said that it would have made no difference to him whom the party selected as candidate. It would still be his privilege to support them. He said the convention had made splendid choices, and then proceeded to elaborate on the qualifications of the respective candidates.

He spoke against the present administration of the Compensation Act. He thought there was too much overhead expense at St. John in the way of officials, stenographers and clerks. He concluded with a plea for organization, preparedness and support of the candidates.

The Candidates.

Hedley V. Dickson, the present member, has been in the Legislature for about nine years. He is a farmer of Hammond River.

Alfred J. Brooks, of Sussex, was inspector of schools in Kings county until last year when he resigned to contest a seat in the by-election against J. D. McKenna. He was defeated and was subsequently made provincial organizer of the Conservative party. He is also studying law. He was an officer in the Canadian army overseas.

J. William Smith, is a contractor, builder and hardware merchant, of Hampton. He has been a member of the Municipal Council for about twenty years, representing the parish of Hampton, and has never been defeated for that office. He was warden for one term about six years ago. This is the first time he has been nominated for the Provincial Legislature.

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