

ALL CANDIDATES ADDRESS HUNDREDS OF ELECTORS

Every Speaker Well Received—Meeting Lively at Times and Not Devoid of Personalities and Cross Firing—Commissioner Wigmore Also a Speaker.

The commission form of government, the street railway agreement, the celebrated hose question, taxation and a few other things were casually mentioned at the Imperial Theatre, for more than two hours a public forum last evening. All of the candidates for public office in the coming civic elections and Commissioner Wigmore presented their views before a large and enthusiastic audience, and although at times there was a cross-fire between the speakers and several of the audience and now and then a few personalities, the meeting was declared to be a success from a public standpoint. The meeting, which was made possible by the kindness of Manager Golding of the theatre, was a novelty in city campaigning and it is probable that more assemblages of the kind will be arranged before election day, April 24.

J. Morris Robinson presided ably and never lost his patience. Practically every speaker endorsed the commission form of government and several of them paid their compliments to the St. John Globe.

All of the candidates and Commissioner Wigmore were generously applauded.

Commissioner McLellan.

The first speaker was Commissioner McLellan. He was in good voice and in fighting trim. He spoke in part as follows:

"I shall endeavor to briefly express my views on the question which appears to me at least as the momentous one, which you will be expected to answer on Monday the 10th inst.

"The question is, 'Should we continue the commission form of government, or shall we return to the old form of aldermanic regime?'

"I claim it is the more important issue at stake on Monday the 10th, and one upon which the future of St. John depends, for upon that issue rests the determination whether this city is to go forward or backward.

"Are the agitators for a change looking at the question fairly and dispassionately and dealing with the subject as it really deserves to be dealt with? Are those who are so loudly proclaiming a change to be necessary doing it from a civic purely standpoint or from the standpoint of individual selfishness?

Commission Government.

"If some of those pure minded gentlemen who have been exercising their pens so strenuously and who would have accepted one of the offices as commissioner—if the voters had so willed—had been elected, no doubt the commission form of government would have been the proper thing.

"The attempt at paralyzing the commission government, taking away its strength, credit and respect, would be successful if it were considered nothing more or less one of the civic tragedies which have in other cities marked the suppression of the people's rights, had they not been saved by the intelligent, inherited and invincible understanding of such rights by the people.

"Personally I am prepared to resist this attempt, unless those who are responsible for it are able to prove to me that the people by whom alone we as commissioners exist, sanction the change, and I utterly repudiate the idea that in assuming that attitude I shall be misconstrued by the people.

Attacks Globe.

"The promoters of this attack on commission government have an undoubted champion in one of the most widely respected journalists, the editor of the St. John Globe, and to oppose the Globe ideas is the one unpardonable sin for which there is no forgiveness. That newspaper which best reflects public opinion is strong and while it is admitted that newspapers wield a mighty influence, the most powerful organ cannot run counter to the beliefs or moral sense of its constituency.

"What is the basis of the Globe's indictment against the commission form of government?

"Fundamentally it is that the new government is not built on the principle of the division of powers, and any system of government which concentrates all powers in a small number of persons, it asserts, is oligarchical.

"The Globe evidently does not know that the first requisite of an oligarchical system is that absolute powers shall be vested in the governing body. A significant and vital feature of the commission system is that the people may exercise directly any legislative power and that the council is permitted to exercise an important legislative power only when it is supported in its action by public sentiment. An oligarchy does not rest upon the people.

Aldermanic System.

"Another charge that the commission plan is unrepresentative rests upon the smallness of the governing body and the provision for the election at large of the members. A genuinely representative council, it is said, must contain more than five members and the members must be chosen by wards, and the question is asked how can the different municipal interests be represented by such a small council as that created by the commission charter?

"My answer is that in the greater number of aldermen the fewer will be the number of those who actually

direct and control the proceedings. The larger legislative body instead of being more representative is even less representative than the small one, for it does not feel the responsibility which weighs upon the small body, holding its members to a keen sense of duty. It is not the size but the acts of a council that determine whether it is representative or unrepresentative."

The Hose Question.

While Commissioner McLellan was speaking, Commissioner Potts entered and was accorded a good reception. Someone in the balcony asked Commissioner McLellan "how about the hose question?"

Commissioner McLellan—"I'll tell you all about that and there will be more than water in it."

The commissioners then referred to W. H. Thorne & Co. Ltd. "If they could not sell hose," said he, "at ten cents, it would have paid them to get back at me for, because I stopped them to the extent of \$85,000 in a Norton Griffiths Co. contract."

He referred to Messrs. Thorne objecting to a hose order in the United States when later that firm gave an order for shacks to a Pittsburgh firm.

Commissioner Potts.

Shortly after Commissioner Potts was introduced. Mayor Frink and Commissioner Wigmore walked on the stage. Both were cheered heartily as was the Commissioner of Public Works when he began to speak.

(Continued on page 16)

RECOMMEND REVIVAL OF FLAX GROWING

Fredericton, April 7.—At the committee on agriculture this morning Secretary Daggert answered several enquiries of members. The chief topics discussed were those relating to question of the revival of growing of flax in this province and sheep husbandry. As regards the former the following resolution was passed: "Whereas the Dominion government are making experiments with growing of flax, we, the members of the committee, commend the attention of the provincial agricultural department to that experiment with a view to reviving the industry in this province."

The municipalities committee met this morning and devoted some time to further consideration of bills to amend the Municipalities Act and respecting extension of St. John Street Railway to the Parish of Simonds. The bills will be taken up again next week.

ORDERED TO PHILADELPHIA. Italian steamship Mann, Capt. Delel, 2,614 tons, arrived yesterday from Spezia via Bermuda, and was ordered to Philadelphia to load grain. She is consigned to Messrs. J. T. Knight & Co.

Capture Mine Crater.

Berlin, April 7, by wireless to Sayville.—Capture of the British mine crater positions south of St. Elia, near Ypres, was announced today by army headquarters. The positions were defended by Canadian troops, according to the statement.

Attacks Globe.

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ANOTHER BRIT BUBBLE BURSTS

Attack on Premier by Toronto Globe a Sample of Partisan-ship Gone Mad and Absolutely False.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 7.—Another Liberal bubble was burst today. This morning the Toronto Globe, the "Holy Willie" organ of the opposition, launched an attack upon the Prime Minister designed to injure his reputation as a man whose integrity is above suspicion. The article which appeared in the Globe, the "Col. J. Wesley Allison had no connection with the order obtained by the Canada Car Company from the Russian government, neither had the Shell Committee nor the government," said Mr. H. N. Rhodes, M. P., for Cumberland. "Col. Allison was not known in the transaction. The business was obtained direct from the Russian government. There were no middlemen and no one interested but the Canada Car Company. The dragging in of Sir Robert Borden's name into the deal in the way that has been done is partisanship gone mad."

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11 N. B. MEN IN YESTERDAY'S CASUALTIES

Four St. John homes were saddened yesterday when they received word from Ottawa that members of their families had paid the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives in defence of the Empire. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Armstrong received word that their son, Corp. F. R. Armstrong, had been killed in action on the 28th of March. Besides his parents he leaves three sisters, Mrs. L. M. Cochrane, Misses: Mrs. William Murdoch, Crossfield, Alberta, Mrs. T. H. Reed of this city.

Mrs. D. W. Ramsay received a telegram conveying the news that her husband, Corp. D. W. Ramsay had been killed on March 28th. He was well known in the North End and was a popular resident of that part of the city. Besides his wife he leaves two sisters, Mrs. William McGormann and Mrs. George Oram of this city.

John MacGormann of 90 Spring St. received word that his son, Pte. Albert F. MacGormann, had died of wounds. Pte. MacGormann was employed for a number of years in M.R.A. here and was known to accept a position with T. Eaton & Co. in Toronto. He leaves a wife and baby girl.

Mrs. J. W. Hatfield of 424 Main St. received word that her son-in-law, Pte. Charles Telfer, had been killed on March 28th. He was a man of Glasgow, Scotland, and had been in this country for five years. He was employed with T. McAvity & Sons as fireman. He leaves his wife, formerly Miss Lillian Hatfield.

In addition to these, two St. John men were wounded. Pte. Harry D. Atter and Gunner R. Murray Cowan, who received slight wounds on March 28th.

The list issued at midnight contains the following from the Maritime Provinces in addition to the above mentioned:

Infantry.

Wounded—Freeman Blakely, Charlottetown, N. B.; David G. Fanning, Charlottetown, N. B.; Harry D. Miller, 118 Harrison street, St. John, N. B.; James Cullen, 116 Hollis street, Halifax, N. S.; Charles McParlane, 91 Elm avenue, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Died of wounds—Leonard M. Cook, Charlottetown, N. B.

Severely wounded—Sergeant David Palmer, Ruxton, Kent Co., N. B.; Leslie Austin Hayward, Upper Golden Grove, N. B.

Artillery.

Seriously ill—Sergeant Cyril W. B. Morse, Stollarton, N. S.

Deserters Captured.

Corporal Thiel arrived in the city last night bringing with him four deserters from the 69th Battalion who were captured at Hampton. Two of the men had civilian clothes over their khaki when arrested. It is reported that there are still two who have escaped arrest in the province.

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HUN VICTORY WOULD BODE ILL FOR HOLLAND

Would be Perpetual Menace to Independence — England Will do Nothing to Prejudice Dutch Integrity.

The Hague, April 7, via London.—The Nieuwe Courante, today prints an interview with Sir Alan Johnstone, the British minister here, in which he is quoted as declaring that Great Britain will do nothing to prejudice the independence of Holland.

"The victory of Germany, now happily impossible," says the minister in the quoted interview, "would be a perpetual menace to the integrity and independence of Holland, and the cardinal point of England's policy is that the integrity and independence of Holland should be maintained and strengthened."

Berlin, April 7, via wireless to Tuckerton.—Among the items given out today by the Overseas News Agency for publication were the following:

"Vienna newspapers report that the Dutch government learned informally that at the recent conference of the Entente Allies in Paris there was discussion of the advantages of the eventual landing of 200,000 men in order to force a passage of the Scheldt. Although at Paris no definite decision was taken, the Dutch government felt itself compelled to adopt all necessary measures of precaution."

"The Swiss newspaper Nieuve Zuri cher Zeitung reports that a few days ago large quantities of ammunition were sent to Holland in Germany were sent to Holland."

BORN.

HOWES—On April 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Howes, 181 Waterloo street, a son.

DIED.

TITUS—At his residence, Bloomfield, Kings county, after a brief illness, on the 5th inst., John E. Titus, in his 71st year.

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ANARCHIST PLOT UNEARTHED IN CHICAGO

Were to be Assassinated, Czar Leading List with the Kaiser Second.

Chicago, April 7.—Existence of an international anarchist plot to assassinate all rulers of Europe has been discovered here, according to a formal statement issued today by McLaughlin, state attorney of Cook county.

The alleged plot was unearthed by the state attorney's men while investigating the activities of Jean Cronos, suspected poisoner of the guests at the banquet in honor of Archbishop Mundelein a few weeks ago.

The state's attorney said that a list of the proposed assassinations was headed by the Czar of Russia and that of Emperor William was second on the list. According to the information which reached the state's attorney, the plot was known to anarchists in various cities in America, as well as in Europe. One man from each city was believed to have been delegated to the work of assassination.

Mr. McLaughlin said that a written statement had been made to him by an anarchist, bearing the details of the alleged plot.

Officials said the headquarters of the band of conspirators was in the downtown district, and that there were branches in other cities. According to Mr. McLaughlin's informant, the Mundelein banquet poisoning was planned by the group which sought the death of the European rulers.

The state's attorney refused to divulge the identity of the man who revealed the alleged plot and said that his investigators were seeking to confirm the statements.

"This man said that secret meetings have been held in Chicago and a number of other cities," said Mr. McLaughlin. "He said he attended a meeting in this city at which lots were drawn for the purpose of picking the assassin, and that the meetings were so guarded that only the man chosen for the crime and the leader of the individual group knew the particular ruler singled out."

LOCAL BOWLING.

SWEEPS CAPTURE THREE.

Last night's game in the City League was between the Sweeps and Easterns. The Sweeps captured three points and the Easterns one. The third string of the Sweeps 573 is the

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