

A Royal Reception

The Premier Tendered a Magnificent Ovation at Parkhill.

Was Greeted by Thousands of Enthusiastic Electors.

The Largest Political Gathering Ever Assembled in Rural Middlesex—A Monster Procession—Thousands Unable to Gain Entrance to the Rink, So Great Was the Crowd—Stirring and Eloquent Addresses by Sir Wilfrid, Hon. David Mills, the Candidate, V. Ratz, W. S. Calvert and George C. Gibbons.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's meeting at Parkhill on Saturday afternoon, judged as a purely political gathering, was undoubtedly the largest, the most spontaneously enthusiastic, that has ever been held in rural Middlesex. The demonstration was one that the Liberals of North Middlesex might well be proud of, a demonstration that will never be forgotten by those who participated in it; one that will remain as an abundant attestation of the faith of the electorate in the Liberal Government, and the marvelous popularity of its leader. The journey of Sir Wilfrid and his party was interrupted at St. Marys, at Lucan, and at Alisa Craig, where he made short speeches to the awaiting crowds, from the rear platform of the car. At each of these places the utmost enthusiasm prevailed, and his bright, pithy addresses elicited much applause.

The crowd on the train was augmented at each station. Indeed, it was a noticeable fact that the ovation that was tendered the premier in Parkhill was given for the most part by farmers and tradesmen who had traveled many miles, on a market day, to pay tribute to the man whose sagacious administration of affairs had done so much towards making prosperous times for all classes in Canada.

Early on Saturday morning Parkhill was a village, and the people there could be counted by hundreds; who, in the meantime, had swelled to thousands, and in the crowd were the representative men of the rich country of the north of Middlesex, who appreciate the efforts of a progressive government, and were anxious to show their allegiance to it.

When Sir Wilfrid alighted from the car, the welcome music of the band was drowned by thousands of voices, cheering excitedly, vociferously, unrestrainedly. No man in public life had parts, as quickly as possible, the prime minister and his party made their way through the turbulent crowd that was expressing such extravagant admiration for him.

A MONSTER PROCESSION.
A monster procession of carriages and horsemen had been formed, under the direction of Marshal T. S. Wurtz, and headed by the Exeter Brass Band, it paraded to the large rink, where the meeting was held. Although it would hold several thousands, it was utterly inadequate to accommodate the great throngs who sought admittance. The presence of scores of ladies, for whom a space had been reserved, gave a charm, an additional animation and brightness to the scene, that would have been sadly missed.

THE MOTTOES.
The rink was gay with mottoes. Among others were:
"The Tull Chimneys Smoke More Than Ever."
"All Liberal Leaders Keep Their Word."
"Dominion Handicap—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a Long Lead; Sir Charles Tupper, Winded."
"Welcome, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's Greatest Statesman."
"Laurier Is Too British for Me."
"Tupper, in Quebec."
"Never Believe Me Again—Tupper."
"Laurier, United Canada, United Empire."

THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE.
The reception committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Dr. Caw, Parkhill, president; D. N. McLeod, vice-president; John Hamilton, secretary; W. H. Taylor, M.P.P., John McLeish, president, and Wm. Dawson, secretary, West Williams Reform Association; David McKenzie and A. Cowie, East Williams, Wm. Fraser and W. T. E. Moss, McGillicray.

ON THE PLATFORM.
Among those seated on the platform were Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier, Hon. David and Mrs. Mills, Mr. George C. and Miss Gibbons (London), Mrs. (Dr.) Wilson (St. Thomas), Miss Edith Hyman (London), and the following leading Liberals of Parkhill and the surrounding district: Dr. Wm. Caw, S. Spell, E. D. Howan, A. W. Hampshire, Wm. Boyce, James Healey, Peter A. Graham, Arthur O'Neill, C. Beaver (Crediton), Rev. J. G. Litt (Crediton), W. J. Wilson, H. Bishop (Exeter), J. C. McDonald, Rev. Father Tierman (formerly of London), Rev. R. Aylward, Rev. S. A. Corriere (Grand Bend), Dr. N. McLeod, A. A. McTavish, Alex. Smith (Leary), John McLeod, Wm. Hastings, J. H. Laughlin, T. G. Rogers, John Jarvis, John F. McKay, Wm. Scott, Neil McKillop, James Hayes, David McKenzie, Albert Cathro, Walter Teifer, John Durr, Thomas Morgan, John Neil, George Morgan, Solomon Pollock, Hy. Johnson, John Hord, B. Dingman, John Bradley, John Thompson, Dan Thompson, Wm. Meikle, James East, William Dixon, Thos. Whiteside, John Sibley, H. Mathison, Alex. McCrae, Angus Galbraith, John Burditt, Hy. Wickert, John Reid, Robert Rae (ex-warden of Lambton), Alvin Rawlings (ex-warden of Lambton), Dr. D. C. Wilson (president Parkhill Young Liberal Club), W. H. Levett (Exeter), Dougall Campbell, John Whiting, John Cathro, Richard Twaddle, Michael Hegal, Sam Bradley, Albert Brewer, Reuben Allison and many others.

The proceedings were enlivened by the capital singing of the Laurier Male Quartet, Messrs. Stewart Huntington, Newton Large, Edward Gardner and Fitzroy McDonald. They were enlivened again and again. But without speaking disparagingly about their endeavors, or those of the other speakers, it was apparent that the crowd was waiting for the premier. When he spoke, his splendid personal appearance commanded attention, and the great audience fell under the charm of his voice, and was enthralled by the beauty of his diction and the majesty of the sentiments he expressed.

BRIEF INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.
The chairman, Mr. Wm. Lewis, president of the North Middlesex Reform Association, opened the meeting in a concise speech, by which he made it clearly apparent that he, in common with all who had anything to do in arranging the meeting, were not only gratified with the result, but were delighted beyond measure. While speaking of the great pleasure that he had in looking upon such an immense gathering, he naturally came to the conclusion that the meeting's great success, judged by the number present alone, augured well for the Liberal victory in North Middlesex. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he said, must be pleased at the splendid reception that had been accorded him in Parkhill, but the pleasure that he might have was not to be compared with the pleasure that they had in meeting him. Before introducing the other speakers, he once more expressed his pleasure in the magnificent gathering that had come to welcome the premier, and hear discussed the questions that are now before the public.

THE CANDIDATE.
The chairman's mention of the name of the present popular member of the riding, Mr. Valentine Ratz, and his appearance on the platform, was greeted with long continued and enthusiastic cheering. The spontaneity of the ovation that was tendered him, if it may be taken to indicate the desires and intentions of the electorate, would form abundant proof of its determination to return Mr. Ratz to Ottawa, so that he may assist the prime minister and his colleagues in all their plans for a united empire, for a united and prosperous Canada. When the cheering had subsided, and Mr. Ratz was permitted to speak, his opening words were like those of the chairman. He, too, was glad, indeed, to appear before such a meeting, and, in his opinion, also, its splendid success augured well for the Liberal victory in 1897, how was he honored, how acclaimed on the streets during the jubilee procession? "Was he not the white-headed boy?" said the speaker, "and was he not the first that followed the prime minister of Britain, and acknowledged as the greatest leader outside of England?" (Applause.) For the past four years the Liberal Government has been in power. Before that time were the people of Canada better off or not? Was not the country more prosperous? "Cries of 'Yes! Yes!'" The farmers know that they are better off. Workmen know that work is much more plentiful; that they get increased pay; that their dinner pail is always filled. We meet no tramps now. In fact, people complain that they cannot get laboring men. No one would like to go back to the old times of 1895, and if you do not wish that, support Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers. I ask you,

Have I done my duty, have I done what you expected me to do? If I have, I ask your support now. Has the Laurier Government done what you expected them to do? You are the judges," continued Mr. Ratz. "You can elect them or discharge them. Weigh your own interests, and if you do this, I do not fear the result when I ask you to support the Laurier Government and myself on the 7th of November." (Loud applause.)

Mr. W. S. Calvert.
The chairman espied Mr. W. S. Calvert, the brilliant young candidate in the west riding, seated in the crowd, and his request that Mr. Calvert would address the meeting met with the instant approval of the audience. Mr. Calvert's reception was warm and sincere. His congratulations to Mr. Ratz and the committee in charge upon the magnificent success of their reception bore with them an acknowledgment of the excellent effect produced upon the electors by the presence of the prime minister, for he told of his own eager desire to have Sir Wilfrid address his own people in Strathroy, a wish that it was impossible to have filled, as his friend, Ratz seemingly had the inside track. Then Mr. Calvert reverted to the bombastic statements of Sir Chas. Tupper. His statement that the Conservative party would sweep the country from end to end, the speaker considered in a jocular vein that seemed to coincide with the manner in which his hearers viewed it. Sir Charles' contention reminded him of a tale told of two Irishmen who met one day, and became friendly, as Irishmen will. After some talk, one asked the other his occupation. "I am a soldier in the dragoons," he was told. "And what are you?" "A soldier of the Lord," was the reply. "Well," said his friend, "I think it'll be a long time before you reach your barracks." The laughter that greeted the conclusion of the story became heartier than before, and was mingled with cries of "Hear, hear," when the speaker suggested that it would be a long time before Sir Chas. Tupper would have success in reaching his barracks. Resuming a serious tone, Mr. Calvert said that it could easily be seen by a perusal of the daily papers, Conservative as well as Liberal, where public sentiment lies. It had been shown, not only in French Montreal, but also in English Toronto, where the Liberal leader had met such demonstrations as must satisfy the most ardent Liberal. It had been shown by a comparison of the hundreds that attended the meeting of the Conservative leaders in Strathroy, and the thousands who attended the splendid meeting of the Liberal leader at Parkhill. The Conservatives say that the old policy has gone, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had stolen it. If that were so, it left them with no policy at all. (Laughter.) The opposition had brought Hugh John Macdonald into the arena. Without desiring to say anything against Hugh John, who, personally was a very fine man, Mr. Calvert asked, Had Hugh John the qualities that were necessary in the leader of a great party? Could he ever compare with Sir Charles Tupper himself, or Mr. Foster, much less the Liberal chieftain? (Applause.) Mr. Calvert referred to the contest in Brandon, where Hon. Mr. Sifton, a Middlesex boy—(cheers)—was running against Hugh John Macdonald. He had challenged him to combat, to debate in public, the questions of the day. What had happened? Had Hugh John met him? Not at all. They sent for young Sir Herbert Tupper to discuss the questions, instead of Hugh John. They

met in the city of Brandon at a great meeting. The Liberal press was perfectly willing to publish the proceedings, the Conservative press ignored them, the simple reason that Mr. Sifton had so signally defeated Sir Herbert. Mr. Calvert referred humorously to the egotism of the leader of the opposition, to his assumption of personal achievements in the upbuilding of Canada. Judging by his own words, Sir Charles laid the corner-stone of Canada. His self-satisfaction suggested the story of a traveler, who, while passing through a village, saw a hen fly out across the road, cackling loudly, and making a great fuss. He inquired of a gentleman near the meaning of its agitation. "Oh," said the other, "they've just laid the corner-stone of a church over there, and the hen thinks she laid it." The inference was laughingly accepted by the crowd. The Conservative party, he continued, was led by a man, of whom scarcely a word of favor is heard, whose principles were such as would permit him to say to the people of Quebec, "Laurier is too British for me," and in Ontario say that Laurier was a man of the French nation, working against British institutions. The sentiment of the country was that the Laurier Government should be supported, and in concluding he urged the electors of the north riding to rally around Mr. Ratz, and by giving him a bigger majority than the last, help to continue the Liberal Government in power. (Continued applause.)

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES.
The programme of speeches was varied by the presentation to Sir Wilfrid of two addresses, one from the Liberal Club of Parkhill, an association of the old campaigners, the other from the young Liberals, whose support he had received, as all through Canada, is being given to the leader of the most progressive government that the country has ever had. The first was read by Mr. A. A. McTavish. It was as follows:

To the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada:
Sir—The electoral district of North Middlesex, comprising English, Irish, Scotch, French and German, but all loyal Canadians, takes this opportunity of extending to you a right royal welcome. We deem it no small matter that the prime minister of Canada should today honor us with his presence. It is with unbounded pleasure we welcome you, not only as premier of Canada but as the best Canadian exponent of those principles essential to statesmanship.

In these days of marvelous trade expansion, in these days when the industries of the country are enjoying a prosperity without a precedent, when the farmer and the artisan are reaping the fruit of your government's wise legislation, in these days when the Liberal administration is called upon to render an account of its stewardship, we are not forgetful of the conditions which prevailed prior to 1895. Those indeed were dark days in the history of Canada; but out of the gloom and depression which then enshrouded the land, we beheld a star arise in the east, and the dawn of a brighter day was ushered in on the 23rd of June, with a joy which filled the land.

The hopes and expectations we entertained in 1896 have been more than realized. The mantle of the great Liberal leaders of the past had fallen upon your shoulders, and we believe you worthy of all honor. Having called to your aid men thoroughly trained in the problems of federal poli-

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Cheviots, Broadcloth and Frieze, in medium and heavy weight, for tailor-made suits and rainy-day skirts.

Cheviot Suiting, 50c.

All-Wool Cheviot, 44-inch, in three shades of gray, green and navy, castor, brown and black. Special, per yard..... 50c

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All-Wool Amazon Suitings, 44-inch, Broadcloth finish, in garnet, cardinal, myrtle, navy, brown, castor and black, per yard..... 60c

Cheviot Suiting, 75c.

All-Wool Cheviot, 46-inch, in dark autumn shades of brown, navy, castor, green and Oxford gray, with heather mixed surface. Per yard..... 75c and 90c

Frieze Suitings, \$1.00.

54-inch Frieze Suitings, heavy and medium weight, skirts unlined, in mixed surface of green, brown, Oxford, castor and mid-gray. Per yard..... \$1 00

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52-inch and 54-inch Venetian Suitings, all-wool, Broadcloth finish, in garnet, cardinal, myrtle, brown, castor, navy, gray and purple. Per yard..... 95c and \$1 25

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The ever popular black for stylish tailored suits, also the Oxford gray are here in every new weave and finish. The Frieze, the Cheviot and the Broadcloth.

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54-inch Black Frieze Suiting, heavy, bright finish, for unlined skirt, special... \$1 00 and \$1 25

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54-inch Black Cheviot Suiting, all-wool, heavy weight for jacket and skirt, special, per yard..... 75c and \$1 00

Black Homespun, \$1.

54-inch, All-Wool, Bright Finish Homespun Suiting, heavy weave, very bright, special, per yard..... \$1 00 and \$1 25

Black Cheviot, \$1.25.

54-inch All-Wool Cheviot Suiting, heavy covered twill, bright finish, for tailor-made suit, in black and gray, special... \$1 25 and \$1 50

Black Broadcloth Suitings, \$1.25.

52-inch Broadcloth Suitings, permanent bright finish, in Priestley's and German make, beautiful satin surface, in black, navy, castor, fawn and brown, per yard... \$1 25 and \$1 50

Black Broadcloth Suitings, \$2.00.

54-inch Heavy Broadcloth and Beaver Suitings, bright, glossy finish, weight for unlined skirts, per yard..... \$2 00 and \$2 50

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54-inch Double Face Golf Cloths for rainy day skirts, in gray, fawn, Oxford and castor, per yard..... \$1 85

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tics, you gave us the benefit of the best administrative ability to be found in the Liberal party. Under such an administration we expected much. You gave us more than we had dared to hope for. We believe that in entrusting you with the reins of government you fully realized the greatness of our national inheritance, and that under a Liberal Government, with you as chosen leader, Canada would shake itself free from the trammels with which it was fettered, and enter upon a new era of development. We believed that under your administration Canada would need to ask no favors, but that in a fair field it would hold its own against the world. It affords us very much pleasure to be able to say today that the history of the last four years has more than justified our confidence.

In the matter of your imperial policy, which has given Canada a position in the eyes of the empire and the world such as she has never before occupied—in the matter of the British preferential tariff, which has done so much to promote the unification of the empire—in the matter of your settlement of the Manitoba school question, which four years ago threatened this country with differences of a religious character, in the matter of the abolition of the quarantine on Canadian cattle exported to the United States, and the development of cold storage facilities which have proved such a boon to the farming community; in the matter of these and the many other beneficial reforms, inaugurated by the Liberal Administration, we recognize the guidance of a master mind.

Under your leadership this fair Canadian land has been made to throb with a new life. The hum of industry is heard from Sydney to Vancouver. The development of the work of confederation has received a new impulse. Your efforts to promote unity, peace, friendship and fraternity among all classes and creeds receive our hearty approval. Under your leadership we have seen Canada step forth in the pride of manhood to play its part in the grand arena of nations, and through your wise statesman-like policy, in respect of the South African war, the world has realized that a new power has arisen in the west, and we have learned to realize that no one is more competent to lead us on to greater achievements than the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier. We bespeak you a glorious victory on the 7th of November, and that you may long live to enjoy the highest honors at our disposal is the wish of a truly grateful people. Signed on behalf of the Liberals of North Middlesex,

WM. LEWIS,
President North Middlesex Liberal Association.

As the reader concluded, a storm of cheers showed how heartily those in the assembly approved of the sentiments expressed. The enthusiasm broke out afresh when a dainty little maid, Miss Evelyn McTavish, ascended

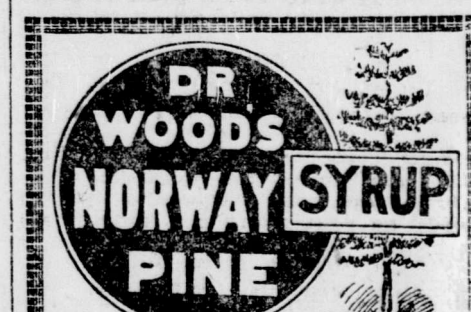
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the steps of the platform and presented Sir Wilfrid with a handsome bouquet. Sir Wilfrid saluted the little one with the grace for which he is famed. The address of the Young Liberals, which is given below, was read by Dr. D. C. Wilson. It clearly expresses the views of the young voters of the land. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada:

Sir—We, the Young Liberals of North Middlesex, desire to extend to you, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, our heartfelt welcome. In you we find our ideal statesman and patriot. The story of your triumphs of statesmanship, your love of country, your devotion to the empire, inspire us with zeal to do the best of our great opportunities. We appreciate your efforts to manage the affairs of this country upon national rather than upon sectional lines. We appreciate your efforts to inspire unity and fraternity. In short, we have learned to believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier makes no mistakes. The young men of the Liberal Club of Parkhill are grateful to you for giving us the right to vote—the right to play our part in shaping the destiny of Canada, the land of our nativity.

And we hope that you may long be spared to fill the position of First (Continued on Page 7.)



This season of the year when coughs and colds are so prevalent, it would be advisable to keep a bottle of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup in the house.

It allays all inflammation and irritation of the breathing organs, and cures coughs and colds of young and old more quickly and effectually than any other remedy.
Mrs. Arthur Molaskew, White's Point, Queen's Co., N.B., writes: "In the fall of 1899, I was taken down with a severe attack of La Grippe which left me with a bad cough. I tried several remedies and could obtain no relief and was almost in despair of a cure when a friend advised me to take Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. I took three bottles in all and it made a complete cure."

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