

THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1904.

THE BANQUET TO HON. DR. PUGSLEY.

A Brilliant Function Admirably Planned and Successfully Carried Out—Hon. Mr. Blair Presided and There Were Over 200 Guests—Clever Speeches by Well Known Public Men.

Caledonia Springs, Oct. 7.—(Special.)—David Russell made a great contribution last night to the unification of Canada by the remarkable, in many respects unique, function which he gave at his great hotel at Caledonia Springs.

It was no small matter to bring, as he did, into the heart of the old colony of Canada a representative delegation of one hundred and fifty of the leading men of the maritime provinces, to meet an almost equal number of the mercantile and professional leaders of Ontario and Quebec. It was an enterprise that could only have been carried to success by a man of large ideas and national aspirations. But the success which Mr. Russell achieved was immediate and unequalled.

Even had the dinner done nothing more than introduce to the west in a striking manner as it did the picturesque personality and lavish enterprises of Mr. Russell himself, it would have been well worth undertaking. It did far more than this. It served also to show the representatives of the larger provinces the extraordinary hold which Hon. William Pugsley has upon the affections of his fellow subjects by the sea, and to enable men of the west as well as the east to consider together the claims that the present Attorney General of New Brunswick, may have upon the wider sphere of action and a more extended public service.

The result was a remarkable demonstration of belief in Mr. Pugsley's capacity to fill any place to which the dominion may call him. His own protestations of anxiety to remain in his present sphere of usefulness found no sympathy among his hearers, and the whole gathering seemed convinced that the public interest would at no distant date require his advancement.

The Hon. Ex-Minister of Railways, himself, both by his presence and by his extremely eulogistic language, lent the full weight of his influence to the cause of Attorney General's advancement.

No more perfectly organized act of hospitality has been seen in this section than the entertainment provided by Mr. Russell for his guests. Brought to his palatial hotel by special train, they found that every possible precaution had been taken to make them feel at home. The entire road way from the station to the hotel entrance was lined with Chinese lanterns. The three hundred rooms in the hotel were all placed at the disposal of Mr. Russell's guests, and the banquet provided for them was a place of catering such as has never been seen in Canada, outside of the metropolitan centres. Music was provided by Montreal's best orchestra, and five of her leading vocalists, but even with these attractions the speaking remained right up to the last minute of the programme, the gathering's chief feature.

Hon. Mr. Blair Presides.

At the table of honor was the chairman, Hon. A. G. Blair, while on his left was the guest of the evening, Hon. Wm. Pugsley, and on his right, the host, David Russell. At the same table sat S. H. Fawcett, Sir Alward, C. N. Skinner, Donald MacMaster, Judge Ritchie, Hon. H. P. McLaughlin, James Robinson, M. P., Hon. A. A. Thibodeau, Justice Burbridge, Hon. F. P. Thompson, Hon. Wm. Owens, Col. J. J. Tucker, Hon. F. J. Sweeney, W. T. Whitehead, David MacLean, and J. N. Greenshields.

Somewhat more than 200 guests were seated at the tables. A description of the reception given the party who came all the way from St. John to attend the banquet would be incomplete without reference to the very brilliant illuminations throughout the spacious park surrounding the hotel, as well as along the avenue leading to the station. Electric lights and Chinese lanterns combined to produce an effect of fairy-like loveliness.

Before commencing the toast list, the chairman, Hon. A. G. Blair, announced communications of regret at inability to attend from Lord Strathcona, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. R. Prefontaine, Sir William Hingston, R. L. Borden, Sir Adolphe Caron, Sir William Van Horne, Hon. Mr. Tweedie, Senator Wark, Sir W. C. MacDonald, Hon. S. N. Parent, Sir George Drummond, and Sir Mackenzie Bowell, as well as a communication from a largely attended meeting on Wednesday night at Rothesay (N. B.), for many years the summer home of Hon. Mr. Pugsley, expressing the warm appreciation of those present of the high honor conferred by the banquet to be tendered Hon. Mr. Pugsley.

Hon. Mr. Blair, bore the personal regrets of Hon. Mr. Emmerson at being unable to be present.

HON. DR. PUGSLEY'S SPEECH.

It was 11:40 p. m. when Hon. Mr. Pugsley rose to respond to the toast. He was received by waving of handkerchiefs and prolonged cheers and when the ovation had subsided he said:

"You can readily understand how greatly touched I am by the magnificent demonstration which has been given in my honor tonight. I desire in the first place to say that I shall always cherish the memory of this night as the proudest event of my life. No matter what may be in the future, there will never come to me any occasion upon which I shall be prouder of the hon-

or done me than that conferred upon me by my friend, Mr. Russell, in introducing me this banquet, and bringing together so many distinguished men, not only from my own province, but from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, for the purpose of doing me honor. (Applause.)

"I thank him most sincerely, and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for your attendance here tonight and for the very warm demonstration of welcome given me. My friend the chief justice of the railway commission—(laughter)—has been too kind and kind to me altogether. I recognize a fact to which he referred, that he discovered me, I remember away back in 1885 in rather a singular manner he, as the leader of the government, had approved of a candidate in my own county as a supporter of the government, and my friend Judge Ritchie, was the solicitor general under Mr. Blair, and was about going into Kings county for the purpose of electing this gentleman as government candidate. He had been born in that county, in the village of Sussex, one of the fairest spots I may say upon God's earth. (Hear, hear.) I recognized in him a man of great ability, who would discharge with the utmost satisfaction to the people the important duties of premier, and I made up my mind to self warmly in support of Hon. Mr. Blair. The result was I was elected by a very handsome majority. That was some nineteen years ago, and from that time down to the present I am proud to be able to say I have enjoyed in a degree somewhat unusual the confidence and support and affection of the people of my native county. Some time after I had gone to the legislature, Mr. Blair approved of my appointment, and it is due to a great measure to him that I occupy the responsible position that I hold today.

"Mr. Blair is out of politics and therefore, I can without impropriety say that you who come from the province of New Brunswick know him as one of the ablest statesmen whom the people of that province have ever honored, and the splendid reception which you gave him tonight, the acclaim you gave him 'honored man,' with which you have honored him, show that he is still dear to the hearts of the people of Canada.

"He is occupying a position which he is able to do great service to the people of the country, and I trust he will be for many years unable to confine his duties to the important duties he has been called upon to fulfill by the crown. I am proud that he has taken part in presiding at this gathering, but I am especially glad that upon my right is Mr. Justice Burbridge, who is one of the ablest men of his age, with whom some thirty-six years ago, when we were boys together, we performed what we thought were important duties in connection with the legislature of that day. We were both students at law and were glad to enlarge our slender incomes by taking charge of the legislative reporting duties, and I think it was not long before we ran the whole house. (Laughter.)

"It is exceedingly gratifying to me that his lordship has found it convenient to come here and honor us. Mr. Justice Burbridge is a judge of one of our most important courts. I seem to have been left behind. (Renewed laughter.)

"I want to say this to you, that while I am only a humble member of the government of one small province of this dominion I do not believe there is any position in this country which is more agreeably pleasant and satisfactory to one who is fond of his duties than that of attorney general of one of the provinces of Canada.

"I think my friend the chairman would say he never occupied a position which gave him more pleasure and satisfaction than that of attorney general of New Brunswick. Perhaps you will pardon me for being a little bit personal tonight, but I want to say that I am very glad to fill that position so long as the people want me.

"It has been suggested by some of our friends managing the newspapers of the country that I have aspirations to another, a larger and more important sphere. I desire to say to you tonight too much stress has been laid upon my aspirations in that particular, and it is my intention, if it is the will of the people to continue to occupy that position, to occupy it for any one's old shoes, because I have a very nice fitting pair in the office of attorney general. (Laughter.) and I am quite minded to continue to occupy them.

"In addition to the gentlemen I have mentioned I see around this board senators, members of the legislature from my own province, and I am glad to see on my left two gentlemen occupying distinguished positions in the ranks of the opposition to this banquet, which is non-political, to testify their personal friendship to me, and to show that in political life, for us in political life, it is possible, for us in political life, to fight our battles as fiercely yet warmly throw off political acrimony and meet like those hearing sides and money to each other's worth, and whether in the government or in opposition serve the best interests of our country. (Applause.)

"We have tonight after the remarks I am making some other toasts, one of which is Canada, our country. I am not going to anticipate

of the splendid welcome you have given me this evening."

ELOQUENT BOSTONIAN.

The Hon. J. H. O'Neill of Boston was called on to propose the toast of "Canada." The speaker, who is the manager of the Federal Trust Co., of that city, made a most witty and captivating speech, in the course of which he alluded to the American emigration into Canada as teaching the Americans how to make a country, among them the fact that this country had in it men of youth and force and energy who were waking it up out of the lethargy that had kept it back too long. Twenty years ago Americans had considered Canada as a sleepy, and the speaker thought rightly, but with men such as Mr. Russell in the country there was no telling what might not be its future development.

Mr. O'Neill referred also to the interest that many of his fellow citizens were beginning to take in Canada, and instanced H. M. Whitney as a man who had the interests of the maritime provinces very much at heart.

RECORDED SKINNER.

Recorder Skinner of St. John, replied to the toast in a brilliant and witty dinner effort. After dwelling upon the contribution that the maritime provinces had made to the development of Canada he gave utterance to a warm eulogy of Hon. Mr. Pugsley.

"Will you permit me one word," he said, "as to the guest of the evening? He has told us that he proposes to remain where he is. Our own country will be very glad if he does. But I hear from all sides rumors of a call that is coming for the attorney general to go up higher, and perform greater duties for his country than he can do in his present sphere. Now, the country is a very

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Continued on Page Six.

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Miss Alice M. Smith, of Minneapolis, Minn., tells how woman's monthly suffering may be quickly and permanently relieved by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

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