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J. B. M. BAXTER IS THE CANDIDATE

Popular Nomination by Local Government Supporters in County.

Rousing Convention, Last Evening, Tendered Unanimous Nomination to Strong Man.

Mr. Baxter, in Ringing Speech, Accepts Charge and Endorses Actions of Provincial Government.

At a largely attended convention of delegates from every parish in the County of St. John held in Keith's assembly rooms last evening, J. B. M. Baxter was unanimously selected to be the standard bearer of the local government in the coming by-election. Only one nomination was made, and the proceedings were characterized by great enthusiasm. After the nomination had been made, interesting addresses were made by W. B. Dickson, M. P. P. of Albert county; Hon. Robert Maxwell, A. H. Clarke, J. P. Mosher, Councillor Wm. Dean and the candidate. Mr. Maxwell announced that the local government expected to sign a contract for the construction of the new bridge at the Reversing Falls within six months.

At 7 o'clock a meeting of electors of the Parish of Simonds was held and delegates were selected to attend the convention.

Shortly after 7.30, Hon. Robert Maxwell took the chair and called the convention to order and W. B. Tennant was elected secretary.

Mr. Maxwell then made a brief address, referring to the purpose of the gathering, and stating that the Conservative party in the County of St. John was never in better shape for an election and was assured of an easy victory at the polls in event of opposition being entered. He declared that the local government's record had made it solid with the people, as was evidenced by the fact that in the recent elections for county councillors, practically all the candidates favorable to the government's highway policy had been elected.

The roll was then called and showed that every district was represented by delegates or substitutes.

When the chairman called for nominations, A. H. Clarke, of Lancaster, who was the standard bearer of the local government in the county at the last provincial elections arose and nominated J. B. M. Baxter, and J. P. Mosher, who was Mr. Clarke's colleague, seconded the nomination.

No other name was proposed, and the chairman declared Mr. Baxter duly selected as the candidate.

While word was being conveyed to Mr. Baxter regarding the decision of the convention, Mr. Dickson, M. P. P., delivered a brief address. He congratulated the convention on its choice of a candidate, whom he regarded as a strong man, and one eminently qualified for the position of representative of St. John county. He referred briefly to the record of the local government, and declared that when the general elections came round next summer or fall it would be returned with a greater majority than before, as the opposition could not be sure of winning a single seat. He spoke of the confidence inspired in the people by the leadership of Mr. Hazen, and predicted that under the leadership of Mr. Flemming the government would still continue to make good.

As Mr. Dickson was speaking the candidate entered the hall, and the delegates greeted him with round on round of applause.

Cheers for Mr. Baxter.

In responding to the calls for a speech, Mr. Baxter, who on rising, was again greeted with loud applause, said he was pleased to know that the convention was unanimous in its selection. Personally he felt that a county man would have a stronger claim to the nomination than he had, and was the more gratified at the unanimous expression of their confidence.

He was well aware that he would be offered the nomination, because he had received assurances from large and influential delegations in every district, that if he would allow his name to go before the convention he would receive their support.

Continuing he said he was proud to be the candidate of a government with a record as clean and progressive as that of the local government, and felt that in event of an election its popularity would carry him to victory. If chosen as the representative he would do all in his power to assist the government in its good work, and to advance the interest of his constituents.

Referring to the highway policy of the government he said he believed most of the roads were in good condition, but he would always be ready to support measures designed to provide larger money contributions towards the improvement and maintenance of the roads. He was also a strong supporter of the government's plan of building a new bridge at the Reversing Falls.

In conclusion he said he was very glad to know that Mr. Clarke and Mr. Mosher, who had carried the standard in the previous elections, were numbered among his supporters, as their popularity would be a great source of strength to him.

Mr. Baxter's announcement of his acceptance of the nomination was received with great enthusiasm.

A. H. Clarke then spoke, endorsing the nomination, and referring appreciatively to the candidate. Speaking of the government's highway policy, he said, it worked well as the roads were in good condition, though the automobiles, which he scored, did their best to tear them to pieces.

Continued on page 2.

MR. ROWELL OPENS HIS CAMPAIGN

Liberal Leader in Ontario Threshes Old Straw in a Speech in Toronto — Makes Many Extravagant Promises

NO NEW MATTER.

Toronto, Nov. 14.—Mr. N. K. Rowell, the new leader of the Liberal party in Ontario, opened his campaign tonight at a mass meeting in Massey Hall. The meeting was well attended and Mr. Rowell received a good hearing.

After paying a brief tribute to the qualities of his predecessor, A. G. MacKay, Mr. Rowell proceeded to outline his platform. His speech proved to be an extended edition of the manifesto which he recently issued together with a reply to the comments of the Conservative press and leaders on that platform. Referring to the statements that it was much like that of the Conservative party, Mr. Rowell stated that in that case the remarks of the Conservative press that it was a milk and water platform and that it was not sufficiently progressive, might react as a boomerang.

He then referred to the criticism of Sir James Whitney that it had taken a long time to hatch out such a skimpy chicken and said that he would proceed to show that his platform was not one skimpy chicken but that it was a brood of ten lusty reform chickens which was a far stronger brood than the three skimpy legislative chickens which Sir James had hatched out during his years of power.

He then took up the proposed reforms of the Liberal party, one by one, legislation to develop New Ontario, to reform the mining laws, to bring about reforms in the administration of the T. and N. O. Railway, liquor traffic reforms, including the abolition of the vote on local option by laws for a simple majority and the removal of the control of the license system from political influence, legislation to encourage argicultural improvements in the educational system of the province, conservation of natural resources, civil service reform, electoral reform and taxation reform were the "Ten Lusty Reform Chickens" referred to.

DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT WILL LAY CORNER STONE

Ottawa, Nov. 14.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, has consented to lay the corner stone of the new W. C. T. U., headquarters at Toronto during her coming visit there.

BURNED TO DEATH BY THE BLACK HANDERS?

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 14.—Fearing that Steven Swanson, a prosperous mechanic, perished when his house in Braddock was destroyed by fire today, police and firemen are searching the ruins for his body. Swanson recently received a demand from the black hand society which he ignored, and the police believe that organization responsible for the fire.

RICHESON AGAIN OFFERS TO QUIT

Boston, Nov. 14.—The members of the Immanuel Baptist Church of Cambridge have received a second letter from their pastor, Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, under indictment for the alleged murder of Avis Linnell, urging the acceptance of his resignation as pastor of the church. His letter will be acted upon at the next business meeting of the church on Nov. 24th.

FIELDING PULLED STRING WHICH SENT NIOBE ON HER DISASTROUS TRIP

Ex-Minister of Finance "Bossed" Navy Department to Please B. B. Law.

Despite Vigorous Protests of Technically Qualified Officers, Warship was Sent to Yarmouth--What Investigation Shows.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Nov. 14.—Investigation in the naval service department has brought to light some interesting information as to the circumstances under which the Niobe went ashore near Cape Sable last July.

The Niobe, being really a school ship, it is necessary that her work should be done in accordance with a fixed programme and that any cruises undertaken should be planned in advance so as to fit into and not to interfere with her training routine.

When the Niobe was off Cape Sable, she was running from a trip which she had ben ordered to take by Mr. Brodeur, minister of marine, after Mr. Fielding, minister of finance, had sent from London a peremptory cable message demanding compliance with the request of B. B. Law, M. P., for Yarmouth.

The naval service department had refused to disturb the ship's routine, and Admiral Kingsmill and Commander Roper, chief of the naval staff, had complained in writing of the action of the minister.

Early in the year the Niobe's programme had been sketched out, it included a cruise in the St. Lawrence in July.

The Effect of It.

In April, Mr. Law spoke to Mr. Brodeur, and asked that the Niobe be sent to Yarmouth during the week of July 23-29, to help the "Old Home Week." Compliance with the request would mean:

1. Upsetting the routine of training.
2. Upsetting the programme of the cruise in the St. Lawrence.
3. Steaming 1,000 miles at heavy expenditure of coal.
4. Sending the ship to a place not altogether suitable to a vessel of her length and draught.

Mr. Brodeur took the following course:

1. He promised to grant Mr. Law's request.
2. He did not tell his naval advisers about it.

Yarmouth Harbor has only 20 feet depth of water, whereas the Niobe draws 26 feet. The outer roadstead is exposed to southwesterly gales. After visiting the port, Commander MacDonald reported that, owing to the bad weather experienced, the openness of the harbor and very rocky bottom, he considered it inadvisable that a ship of the Niobe's size and draught should against visit the port.

In May Mr. Brodeur, Admiral Kingsmill and the deputy minister went to England to the Imperial Conference. The department in Ottawa was under charge of Commander Roper, R.N., the chief of the naval staff, with P. J. Ling, R.N., acting deputy minister. On June 8th Mr. Law wrote to claim fulfillment of Mr. Brodeur's promise. This was the first the department had heard of the matter. He promptly refused, explaining that the Niobe's movements had already been arranged. Mr. Law insisted and the department remained firm. Letters and telegrams were exchanged through the month of June, the department refusing to send the ship and declining to cable to consult Mr. Brodeur.

Fielding Pulls String.

Mr. Law then cabled to Mr. Fielding, who was in London, and on July 4 the Minister of Finance cabled to his own department as follows: "Complaint comes from Yarmouth that engagement made by minister respecting visit of Niobe is likely to be broken. See department and say I earnestly hope that whatever engagement was made will be kept."

This was communicated to the erring naval service department. On July 14 and 15 Mr. Brodeur, by this time in Ottawa, telegraphed to Mr. Law acceding to his demand.

On July 14, Commander C. D. Roper, chief of staff, signed a memorandum protesting against the proposal. He wrote in part: "It is considered most desirable and essential that it should be recognized that the probable movements of the ships belonging to the naval service should be known by this department as far as possible some time in advance, so as to interfere as little as possible with the routine of drills and daily organization and this is all the more important in the case of a ship which is carrying out the combined duties of a training and recruiting ship; it is therefore recommended that in future the department should be made acquainted as much as possible with the visits which the Niobe or other vessels are required to make. I would again emphasize the point that it is most desirable that the opinion of the technical officers should be obtained before any promises are made as to vessels of the naval service visiting any particular port at a given date."

Kingsmill Protests.

Admiral Kingsmill, on July 20, forwarded this memorandum concurring in a further memorandum in which he said: "After this year different corporations should be informed that it is not the rule of the Niobe to visit their ports during celebrations for any length of time. In the present case the ship is thrown out of routine for one week in Yarmouth harbor and then a visit is asked for to Liverpool.

"It will be impossible to carry out the training of the men and boys if this is going to be a recognized custom, their visiting of ports during their yearly regattas, etc. I am quite aware of the difficulties in which the minister is placed in this matter, but do not hesitate to say that it will be impossible to get the full value out of the instructors and officers if the requests are complied with.

The Minister saw these two memoranda on July 21, six days after he had signed the telegram assenting to Mr. Law's demand.

The Niobe's Hard Time.

The Niobe proceeded to Yarmouth. She arrived in a fog. She could get no nearer than 3 1-2 miles to the town. On the day on which she anchored the roadstead was so rough that the majority of the reception committee could not board her. In the afternoon so bad a storm arose that though the ship was at anchor in a roadstead she rolled heavily and had to get up steam. Later in the week the captain and a number of his officers went ashore to a ball concerning which Mr. Law had been insistent in his letters. After they landed another storm arose, and the captain had to be sent for. He had great difficulty in boarding the ship and had a narrow escape from drowning; and he had to stay on the bridge all night. The anchors did not hold, and the ship dragged to within 250 yards of the shore. The officers could not board the Niobe until the next afternoon, then the tug on which they came off was damaged against the ship's sides and a man narrowly escaped being crushed between the ship and the tug. Finally the ship got away, only to meet disaster. Her mishap brought the Cornwall into peril.

The Cost of it All.

Thus the result of Mr. Brodeur's order and Mr. Fielding's interference are:

Monetary damage to the Niobe, $175,000.

Monetary damage to the Cornwall, $50,000.

Great injury to the training of the recruits.

The pouring of unlimited ridicule and contempt on the Canadian naval service.

The court martial and possible ruin of three officers of the Royal navy.

PUGWASH IS SCORCHED BY A BAD BLAZE

Little Nova Scotia Town Had a Narrow Escape from Very Serious Damage on Sunday Afternoon.

BUILDINGS BURNED.

Special to The Standard.

Halifax, Nov. 14.—Pugwash was again severely scorched by fire on Sunday afternoon. The fire originating, it is thought, from the flue in the residence of P. F. McLean. The block burned comprised his residence, a store and post office, with barn in rear. Every possible means were put forth to extinguish the fire, but fanned by the heavy wind it spread rapidly, and soon the whole block was reduced to ashes.

Sparks were flying in all directions. The barns of Morris Walds and Johnson Webb were destroyed by flames. A building occupied by Frank Brown as an undertaking room, and by a provision store was badly gutted, the end being completely burned out of the building. On Queen street, which is two hundred yards from the scene where the fire started, flying embers set on fire a house and barn owned by Gilbert Allen and occupied by a tenant. The barn was destroyed but the house was saved.

Further down toward the summer cottages the old jail threatened to become a prey to the devastating flames, but the good work of firemen saved the situation. All over the town the burning embers set fire to roof after roof, but the carefulness of the citizens combined with the good work of the firemen saved Pugwash from complete destruction. It was nearly midnight before the danger was over. The loss is estimated at about six thousand, partially covered by insurance.

NEWS FROM FREDERICTON

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Nov. 14.—The annual dinner of the U. N. B. engineers was held this evening at Windsor Hall. Covers were laid for about 100 and there were the usual toasts.

Before Chief Justice Barker this afternoon the special case in which the Cathedral Chapter and the fire insurance companies are parties was argued by A. J. Gregory, K. C., for the Cathedral Chapter and M. G. Teed K. C., for the insurance companies. The Cathedral authorities claim between $4,000 and $5,000 insurance due them on the chimes, which they assert should be included as part of the fabric, while the insurance companies claim the chimes should have been specifically mentioned to have been included as insured.

Proprietor T. V. Monahan, of the Barker House, who recently leased the property formerly known as the Royal Hotel, and will make it into an annex of the Barker House, has awarded the contracts for the renovation of the property and the installation of 15 private bathrooms. The annex will give the Barker House 25 additional rooms.

CHOLERA IN ITALY.

Chiasso, Switzerland, Nov. 14.—The report of the Italian government shows that there were 153 cases of cholera and 81 deaths in Italy from October 29 to November 11 inclusive.

MONCTON MAY TAKE ANOTHER COUNT IN CITY

Board of Trade Feels that Census Returns do Not Fairly Represent Progress of the Railway City

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Nov. 14.—The Board of Trade at its meeting tonight took up the census question and it was decided to ask the city council to make a new enumeration if the cost would not be too great. The general opinion was that Moncton's population is a thousand to fifteen hundred more than shown in the government census the school statistics and the census of the truant officer being cited in support of this view.

James Wright, a former well known Moncton baseball player, had his left hand torn off while working as engineer in a hospital at Salem, Mass. The hand was amputated at the wrist.

In Justice Blight's court at Hillsboro yesterday, Sam Steeves was convicted of shooting a moose without a license and a fine of $50 was imposed.

The adjourned annual meeting of the New Brunswick Petroleum Company was held this afternoon and the following officers elected:

Directors—F. W. Sumner, M. Lodge, T. Williams, J. C. Patterson, A. H. Jones, J. S. Magee, H. R. Emmerson, B. F. Pearson, N. Curry.

The directors elected F. W. Sumner, president; J. C. Patterson, vice-president; T. Williams, 2nd vice-president; M. Lodge, secretary.

SYNDICATE BUYS BIG LUMBER TRACT IN NOVA SCOTIA

Special to The Standard.

Amherst, Nov. 14.—A transfer involving the sale of thirty thousand acres of lumber lands was closed yesterday when an American syndicate composed of Perry Black, Edgar Fillmore and I. J. Soy, secured the lumber limits owned by Chas. and Davidson Hill, near Truro. The Hill lumber areas have been looked upon as among the finest timber producing properties in the province. The syndicate expect to cut not less than six million feet this winter.

HONORS FOR RAILWAY MEN

Otawa, Nov. 14.—In recognition of the fact that they composed the crew in charge of the Royal train which conveyed their Excellencies the Earl and Countess Grey from Ottawa to Quebec on the occasion of their recent departure from Canada and carried to Ottawa their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the conductor, two engineers and trainmen have received honors from both the Duke of Connaught and Earl Grey. The officials, whose work has been the object of royal recognition, are Conductor James Wallace, Engineers William King and R. H. Fraser, Trainmen W. Morrent and Joseph Corrier, of Montreal.

PREMIER FLEMMING IN OTTAWA

Held Conference with Members of Dominion Cabinet Yesterday in re Valley Railway—Other Ottawa News.

SEVERAL APPOINTMENTS.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Nov. 14.—Preparations for the militia conference summoned by Col. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence, are well advanced and the gathering promises to be exceptionally interesting.

The number of acceptances is about eighty, so that with the members of the headquarters staff about one hundred persons will be present.

The meeting will be convened on Thursday morning at 9.30 o'clock in the railway committee room of the House of Commons. It is possible that the conference will break up into smaller conferences of the several arms, at which problems will be discussed with aview to presenting united views on Friday and Saturday. Towards the end of the conference a private sitting will be held at which matters of a confidential nature will be discussed. This will include a statement by General MacKenzie of the general strategical problems of the British Empire.

Among the officers and gentlemen who will attend are: Maritime Provinces, Lieut. H. J. Davidson, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Major F. P. Day, Fredericton, N. B.; Col. S. J. A. Denison, Halifax; Lt. Col. W. C. Good, Woodstock, N. B.; Lt. Col. J. D. B. F. MacKenzie, Woodstock, N.B.; Reo J. W. McMillan, Halifax; Lt. Col. MacLaren, St. John, N. B.; Lt. Col. H. C. Thacker, Halifax; Lt. Col. B. A. Weston, Halifax.

A Cabinet Council.

The cabinet council this afternoon, it is understood, filled the two vacant senatorships, caused by the deaths of Senator Baker and Senator Carling. No official announcement will be made until tomorrow morning but it is stated unofficially that the new Quebec senator will be Rufus Pope, ex-M. P. and George Taylor who resigned Leeds to allow Hon. W. T. White to run as cabinet minister, will succeed Senator Carling.

Renewed efforts are being made to provide a way for Hon. Geo. P. Graham's return to the Commons as Sir Wilfrid Laurier's deskmate. Various "feeler" announcements are being made to the effect that Mr. Graham will take T. H. Low's seat in South Renfrew being given on acclamation in return for a walkover for McGarry in the local election. It is declared here tonight that the Conservative organization are not a party to any arrangement of this sort, and that Mr. Graham will be opposed in South Renfrew with every prospect of beating him.

Mr. Fielding Also Done.

It also transpires that Hon. W. S. Fielding is not likely to ever reappear in public life even if Yarmouth is open for him. Strained relations are said to exist between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the man who framed the reciprocity agreement. Under these circumstances Mr. Fielding must stay out. It is proposed now to open Stanstead for Hon. Sydney Fisher in which event the county is likely to move into the Conservative list. The ex-minister it is believed, cannot carry it.

A Mixup.

A queer mixup has arisen regarding the proposal to replace the Canadian section of the international waterways commission by new men. On behalf of the Liberal appointees of whom Sir George Gibbons is chief, it is stated that the selection of these men was approved months ago by the Imperial government and that this approval was communicated to the British ambassador at Washington who notified the governments on this side of the ocean. These commissioners have been acting and intend to go on acting until removed by action of the Canadian and Imperial parliaments.

The consuls general resident at Ottawa, will attend the drawingroom after several years of absence. Under the Colonial Office regulations no recognition of these officials as possessing diplomatic powers can be given and this has been resented, the consuls general taking the view that as they from time to time exercise quasi-diplomatic functions they should be awarded special recognition. Not being allowed entry with the cabinet ministers and other official personages they absented themselves from the drawingroom. This year the Duke of Connaught took pains to remove the difficulty. The regulation stands but the consuls general will be specially received by His Royal Highness in the apartments of the Speaker of the senate before the drawingroom proper begins.

The Valley Railway.

A conference respecting the Valley Railway took place today between Mr. Borden, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Hazen and Mr. Flemming. Progress was made and it is expected that an agreement will be reached at a further conference to be held tomorrow.

YUAN SHI KAI IS NOT TO BE FOOLED

China's Strong Man Wants a Guarantee to Become Premier.

Revolutionists Continue March of Progress and Gain Strength with Every Battle.

Rebel General Prepared to Treat for Peace Provided Concessions Suit Him -- Situation in Nanking.

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 14.—Provided with the arms and ammunition for which they have been waiting for several days, the revolutionary forces began an attack on Nanking early today, according to cable advices received by the Chinese Free Press of this city. The advices say that the imperial forces have been driven to th Purple Hills and their position is desperate.

Peking, Nov. 14.—While the imperial government is endeavoring to force the premiership on Yuan Shi Kai, China's strong man in his various conferences today with the Prince Regent, the acting premier, Prince Ching and other members of the nominal cabinet took occasion to point out the insecurity of that office, the retention of which depended upon the caprice of the national assembly. Yuan Shi Kai, if he accepts the premiership at all desires a fixed term of office, and he so stated to the regent. But he must obtain this through the national assembly as an edict would be likely to arouse suspicion. It is not considered probable that Yuan Shi Kai will undertake the gigantic task set for him, and he considers the chances favorable to carrying it to successful issue. There is still another possib ty he may be considering, the alternative of a republic, and may himself recommend the abdication of the Emperor.

He reports that the rebel leader, General Li Yuen Heng said he would obey his orders if Yuan would consent to become president, but would not recognize him as a Manchu premier. In his opinion it would not be difficult to reconcile the provinces, the most of which were giving the strongest evidences of a desire for peace. The complete constitution already pledged would satisfy the revolutionaries except for the fear that Manchu intrigue would begin immediately arms were laid down. One of the prominent members of the national assembly today informed a foreign legation attache that although the assembly had committed itself to a constitution under the Manchu Dynasty a majority would prefer to reorganize the government on the lines of a republic.

The president of the Ta Ching government bank has deserted his post and fled from the city. The vice-president, Chang Chin Tac, who was recently in Europe in connection with a currency loan, is endeavoring to conduct the wrecked institution. As the provinces secede the various branches of this government bank have been confiscated. At only one or two treaty ports were the deposits saved by hasty transfer to foreign banks.

Financial stress is being felt by the administration. The board of finance has only about $300,000, while the late empress dowager's hoarded silver and gold is not enough to amount to more than $3,000,000, the palace, it is said, having contributed largely to famine funds and other charities as well as for the Hankow and other campaigns.

Consular despatches from several places have reached the legations. One from Chee Foo says that the rebel authorities have notified the consuls that they have taken over the administration, and that they intend to protect foreigners. They ask that they be not interfered with. At New Chwang the foreigners are organizing a defence league. A Hankow despatch says that the imperialists are deserting steadily, some of them becoming rebels, while others are proceeding northward with their loot.

A Conciliatory Edict.

Pekin, Nov. 14.—Optimism is the prevailing note in government circles. This feeling is caused by the report that Prince Ching the acting premier, had received a telegram from General Li Yuen-Heng, commander of the rebel forces, saying that he was prepared to treat for peace on certain terms, and by the statement that the army divisions, one to six, inclusive, would agree to uphold the monarchical constitution and support Yuan Shi Kai, provided the rebel leader's terms agreed with those of the army.

The Imperial government promptly issued an edict commanding Yuan Shi Kai to accept the premiership for the country's wellfare and ordering the vice-roys and governors of all provinces to select three or five delegates who shall come to Peking and attend the conference on state affairs.