

For John Gilson

Rousing Rally of the East End Electors.

Strong Points Made by the Speakers Win Hearty Applause.

The Liberal Candidate for East Middlesex Gives a Clear and Forceful Resume of the Political Situation—The Labor Question Dealt With—Chairman Welford, T. H. Purdon, Q.C., and John Cameron Among the Speakers.

Although the interests of the East London voters is identically the same as those of their neighbors west of Adelaide street, the senate, in its wisdom, has decided that for the present at least they must remain in the rural constituency of East Middlesex. Their thoughts of the national questions at stake have overridden mere local phases of the matter, and the electors there are taking an active personal interest in the campaign. The battle will be a sturdy fought, and judging by the two splendid meetings that have been held on behalf of the Liberal candidate, the constituency will be one of many others that will show appreciation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's admirable work for Canada's fullest development. Although the first meeting of the campaign was a gratifying success, the second surpassed it in number of those in attendance, and in the enthusiasm that frequently interrupted the speakers. The addresses were made by Mr. John Cameron, who confined himself entirely to the labor legislation of the government; Mr. Gilson, the candidate, who was particularly vigorous and effective; and Mr. T. H. Purdon, Q.C., who held the close attention of the audience.

Chairman Welford.

Chairman Welford, in opening the meeting, said that he had never taken any especially active part in politics; but that his interest had been greater during the past four years, for he had been watching the course of the premier and the government, and he considered it an honor to work in the Liberal interests, and help that party to return to power. After hearing Mr. Gilson's able exposition of the manner in which the government had carried out their policy, he had no doubt that the present would find it in their best interests to vote for Mr. Gilson, and endorse the Laurier Government. There has never been a period in London's history so prosperous as the past four years. There has been work for everybody. This country was undoubtedly due to good administration of the Liberal Government. The speaker would hardly attribute the good crops and fine weather to the government, but he believed with Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the Lord had blessed the Liberals because they had done good. He then called on

Mr. John Cameron.

Mr. Cameron, after some general remarks, spoke as follows: Sir Wilfrid Laurier is appealing once more to the people of Canada, and he confidently expects a verdict in his favor on the night of the 7th of November. In this constituency of East Middlesex, the Laurier candidate is Mr. John Gilson, for whom we solicit every vote that can be honestly polled. Our

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The cure is accomplished painlessly by the astringent properties and healing oils contained in it, which cause the little tumors and congested blood vessels to contract, and the destruction to the circulation to be removed. The Pyramid Pile Cure is in suppository form, and far superior to any salve or ointment for convenience.

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opponents are prophesying, but you remember Sir Charles' prophecies in 1896, that he would defeat Laurier! The bye-elections do not look like it. Since the general election there have been 48 bye-elections, and out of these only 3 have gone Conservative.

There are four classes, especially, which should support the Laurier Government:

1. The farmers, because their interests have been well looked after.
2. The merchants, because the preferential tariff and good management of the country's affairs have increased their business.
3. The manufacturers, whose interests have been promoted by the preferential tariff, and by reductions on raw materials, and otherwise.
4. The artisans, the workmen, whose interests have been well kept in view by the Laurier Government.

Tonight I shall confine myself to the government's record in relation to the industrial and wage-earning classes.

It is justly claimed that the present government have done more for labor during the past four years than was done under the previous government in eighteen years.

It is impossible to go over the record of friendliness in detail, but I may mention a round dozen of instances, some more, some less, important, in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues have shown a sincere friendliness to wage-earners.

1. They instituted an exhaustive sweat-shop inquiry in its relation to goods manufactured for the government, such as military clothing, mailbags, and the like. That inquiry showed that sub-contractors had frequently given out work where there was no security against contagion, and where women and children were compelled to toil long hours, for one or two dollars a week, in one case on heavy military clothing at 2½ cents per hour. Here to the postmaster-general of the result of the inquiry:

2. "Most of the work on government clothing has really been executed by women and girls. Where these have been employed in shops their wages have been, on the whole, exceedingly low; and where the work was performed in homes the prices paid were often such as to necessitate long hours of labor for a very meager return. In the case of those employed by sub-contractors, the general rule has been to require a minimum amount of work for a minimum amount of pay. Exceptionally long hours and other objectionable features have marked the employment of the workers in the homes and not a few of the shops. The conditions under which much of the government work has been executed have been such as to prove injurious to the health and well-being of those engaged in it. There have been no adequate measures in respect of the methods or the work itself, and, as a consequence, individuals and public alike have been exposed to continual risk from the spread of contagion as well as to harm in other ways."

3. In the Laurier record of friendliness consists in governmental action on the above report. This action consisted in making such government regulations as prevented the enforcement of the provisions of the act of 1890, in government contracts. Following is the statement of the conditions in the forms of tender hereafter:

"With a view to suppressing the sweating system, and securing payment to the workmen of fair wages, and the performance of the work under proper sanitary conditions, the contract shall be subject to the following regulations, and strict compliance with the true spirit and intent of the various provisions herein contained, will be required."

Then follow various regulations to enforce the principle agreed on. These apply to mail bags, leather and duck sailcloths, and other articles. The government next provided anti-sweating regulations in regard to militia clothing contracts, enforcing fair wages and sanitary conditions. By fair wages is meant the wages generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried on.

Third point of friendliness to wage-earners—the creation of a department of labor. There had long been a department of agriculture. There is now a department of labor, with its own staff and its own recognized head in the person of Hon. William Mulock. This is a great recognition of labor, but no greater than its importance deserves, and its officers are men who know the wants of labor, and who, for example, is one of your London East men—Mr. Frank Plant.

Fourth point of friendliness—the establishment of a monthly publication at the public expense, called The Labor Gazette. Besides this recognition of labor, it will be extremely useful in giving information as to prevailing wages, industrial disputes, information as to where labor is in demand—in a word, accurate information. There is a great field of usefulness for such a publication for both employer and employees.

Fifth—The appointment of a special officer for the enforcement of the labor law, Mr. Edward Williams, of Hamilton, well known as a worker

Whiting, Ind., May 5, 1900.
Warner's Safe Cure is a splendid remedy for building up a broken down constitution. Some years ago my system was completely run down, and after using three bottles I felt like a different person, and when I feel a little worn out a few doses are always of great benefit.
Yours truly,
P. GARDNER,
Gen. Delivery, care O. L. Knight.
Treasurer Whiting Gospel Temperance Club.

Anoka, Minn., May 30, 1900.
I am very glad to speak a good word for Warner's Safe Cure. Three times during the past few years I have felt very much worn out from overwork, and each time a bottle of Safe Cure has completely restored me. I find it of especial benefit to nervous people who suffer from insomnia. It is a fine inducer of sleep.
Yours sincerely,
MRS. A. R. LAUGHLIN,
Sec. Blue Ribbon Temperance Club.

himself, and a friend of the workingman. During the month of September ten cases were investigated by Mr. Welford, and everything done in each case that was possible.

Sixth sign of friendliness—the promotion by the Laurier Government, and the passage in the House of Commons, of a measure legalizing the "red" union label. But it did not become law. The reactionary Tory Senate threw it out. Hon. David Mills, the Liberal leader in the senate, fought hard for the measure, but unfortunately the senate was politically too much loaded up the other way. The senate, too, will soon be Liberal, and then the label will be legalized. The House of Commons, which has a Liberal majority, voted for the legalization of the label. The senate, which has a Tory majority, threw it out. That is the difference.

Seventh—Doubling the tax on Chinese entering Canada. It was \$50. It was raised to \$100 during the last session of the Dominion Parliament, and the increased tax goes into effect on the 1st of next January.

Eighth—Requirement that steel rails used on railroads aided by the government must be of Canadian make.

Ninth—Securing to the railroad brotherhoods representation on the boards of directors of the government-owned railways. An amendment passed to the railway act by the Laurier Government gives to the railway committee power to take the advice of the members of the boards of directors, when revising the rules and regulations of railway companies, instead of being confined to the guidance of the theorists only, as heretofore. The clause reads: "The railway committee may, from time to time, appoint a committee of persons to advise the committee in the revision of any such bylaws, rules or regulations, or any other matters coming before the committee, and any person so appointed may be paid out of the unappropriated funds in the hands of the general receiver."

Tenth—For the convenience of workers the Government has now ordered that on Saturdays the savings bank department of every town or city post office, and of the branch offices in cities, shall be kept open for the receipt of deposits between the hours of 7:30 and 9 p.m. This is a great convenience to all wage earners who have deposits to make, as they do not now have to break into their working hours to make deposits of earnings.

Eleventh—I now come to an immensely important benefit and act of friendliness on the part of the Laurier Government towards the wage-earning classes. I refer to the fair wage regulation as applied to all public works. What is important is this, that all tenders for public works must be put in at fair wages.

On March 12, 1900, Hon. William Mulock gave notice of the following resolution in the House of Commons: "That it be resolved, that all government contracts shall contain such conditions as will prevent abuses which may arise from the sub-letting of such contracts, and that every effort should be made to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out, and that the house cordially concurs in such policy, and deems it the duty of the government to take immediate steps to give effect thereto. It is hereby declared that the work to which the foregoing policy shall apply includes not only work undertaken by the government itself, but also all works aided by grant of Dominion public funds."

"That is now the law of the land, and it is being acted on from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A special fair wage officer has been appointed in the person of a 25-year-old laborer, Mr. J. P. O'Donoghue, formerly of Toronto. Take a practical illustration near home to show as to how it works: take the large armory and drill shed about to be erected at London. Among the wage earners likely to assist in the erection of an armory are carpenters, bricklayers, masons, stone-cutters, plasterers, painters, glaziers, blacksmiths, plumbers, tanners, sheet iron workers, electric wiremen, and gravel rofers, slaters, steel workers and laborers. Mr. O'Donoghue was here the week before last, ascertaining and fixing what are to be considered as the fair wage rates locally. These fair wage rates are made known in advance to all who may desire to contract, so that all contractors have an equal chance; while the government gives the powerful example as a good em-

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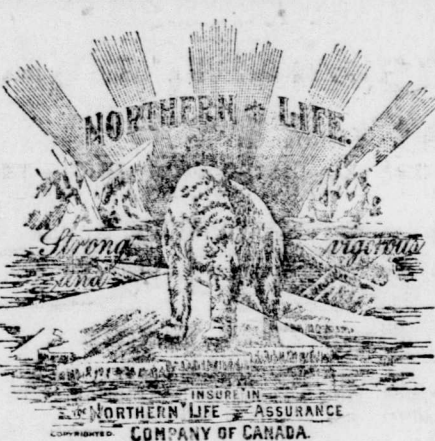
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Chicago, Ill., May 2, 1900.
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Pres't Chicago Cricket Club,
Pres't Royal Hort. Society,
London, Eng.

Excelsior, Minn.,
If suffering humanity knew the value of Warner's Safe Cure, the doctors would not have much to do nor the undertakers either. My health was completely broken down two years ago, and I suffered continually with liver and kidney trouble, also female weakness, but Warner's Safe Cure healed me in three months and I am in fine physical health now.
MISS L. L. SMITH,
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to better. At that time, as at the present, he had no personal political ambition. Few men were more absolutely lacking in ambition, but he had a sense of stern duty to see a well-ruled people, a well-served country, and a people well blessed. (Applause.) In the last campaign he had been opposed by an honorable opponent. His esteem for Mr. Gilmour had not changed. He regarded him as a straightforward, honest man. He believed that his opponent spoke and acted according to his beliefs, and was only sorry that his beliefs were such as they are. (Laughter.) The utmost cordiality existed between himself and the Conservative candidate, and he hoped that the campaign would be conducted in a similar way.

In the election of 1896 he had won a grand victory. In a constituency that had always been considered strongly Conservative, he had reduced a large majority by nearly 500. (Cheers.) So that it would be seen that he would have been returned had he even a fighting chance. (Applause.) While speaking of the difficulties that had to be contended with at that time, Mr. Gilson showed what kind of a candidate he is. "I do love to go up against a hard proposition," he said, "and I enjoy fighting to win, especially when my success will be for the good of the whole people." (Continued applause.)

In 1894 the Liberal party had come before the people and asked to be sent to power, although their ability to govern successfully had not been tested. However, it had formulated a policy and presented it for public approval or disapproval. The people were puzzled. Existing conditions were far from satisfactory, and there was no apparent relief offered. When they looked about them the electors found conditions that were bad enough—yes, far too bad to be tolerated. The Liberals were not the only ones who were dissatisfied. Fair-minded Conservatives joined with the Liberals in the cry that became practically unanimous, the cry that the country couldn't tolerate longer the existence of conditions that had reached the lowest possible depths of degradation. The bottom had been reached. If there was a change at all it must be for the better. So the people thought, and therefore they gave the reins of power to the Liberals. In Liberal hands they had been held for four

years, and the country had had many opportunities to determine what kind of government they were able to administer. The people could now reason intelligently about the Liberal form of government. What kind of a verdict upon the party whose administration had been one of honesty and equity, economy, sagacity and progress, were they prepared to give?

No nation, no colony under the sun, had been more favored than Canada. The Conservatives would not allow that the achievements of the Laurier Government had anything to do with the unprecedented prosperity that the country is now enjoying; they ascribed to Providence all credit for it. To a certain extent the speaker agreed with them in this. The Laurier Government had not given good crops and seasonable weather, but as "righteousness exalteth a nation," the Liberal Administration had put itself in such a position that Providence could look down and smile upon the land.

During the years preceding, of such a corrupt nature was the party in power that Providence had been obliged to chastise us and we could not prosper. It had been said that such words should not be heard on the political platform. What were the people there for, but to better themselves and gain knowledge, so that a more perfect legislation might be had? And speaking of all reverence Mr. Gilson said that in his consideration there was not enough recognition of the divine hand of Providence in political matters. (Applause.)

How had the Liberal Government done? Had it broken the pledges made before the election? The Tories claimed that it had done all bad, no good. Such a course on their part made him speak of the dark days when their own party was in power, when public wrongdoing was so common that the great English papers were led to speak of it in sorrowful tones. "It is too bad," said one, "that the name of Canada should be besmirched by the course of the government." Today a contrast could be marked, for the press of the old land was ready at all times to praise the government and speak of the beneficial results that had attended its administration of affairs. Re-

(Continued on page 2.)