

## Conservatives' Turn.

Sir Charles Tupper and Dr. Montague Warmly Greeted.

Escort to the Rink by a Big Crowd.

It Was 8:30 Before the Train Had Arrived.

Meeting Closed After Midnight—How Employees Were Driven Into the Procession—Speeches by Sir Charles, Dr. Montague, Mr. Beattie and Sir John Carling.

Sir Charles Tupper and Dr. Montague came and saw last night, and it remains to be seen who will conquer. The engine of the special train conveying the party had a break-down during the day, which threw the entire programme about an hour late. Because of that it was 8:30 before the party arrived at the William street crossing of the G. T. R. Here they found a large procession awaiting them. It extended from Dundas street to York, along York to Matilda and up Matilda to King street. First came about 200 wheelmen, then a number of horsemen, then the carriages containing the visitors and Sir John Carling, Dr. Roome, ex-M.P., Joe Marshall, ex-M.P., A. B. Ingram, ex-M.P., John McClary, Aldermen Cooper, Douglas, Taylor, Garrett, Skinner, Pritchard, and Carothers, Messrs. Gray, Mullins, and Darch, officers of the Young Conservative Club, Returning Officer Wright, ex-Ald. Callard, Richard Bayly, and many others. Citizens on foot followed, and scattered throughout the line were both bands of the Seventh Fusiliers, brass and bugle, several impromptu drum corps, a pipe, the North End Conservative Band (R. Clark, leader), and the Musical Society Band. There were two banners in the procession. One was inscribed, "Honour to Sir Charles Tupper, the Champion of the National Policy and the Workingman's Friend." Another read, "The London and Petrolia Barre Company. We Flourish Under the National Policy." The employees of this, as well as almost every other Conservative organization, were in the city, were in line. It was currently reported about the streets that the employees of some of these men had used a mild species of intimidation in their effort to lay over the Liberal party. The men had given the men to understand that they were expected to march "for the honor of the Premier." Because of this many Liberal voters were marked. Many boys and non-voters were also in the procession. It was nine o'clock before the procession reached the hall, and at 9:05 Chairman Minihinnick announced that there was lots of room at the south end of the rink. At no time during the evening was this part completely filled, and by the time Sir Charles Tupper stopped speaking, boys were playing tag along the south gallery.

The rink was very handsomely decorated with fish and hunting and the platform was flanked by roses, maple leaves, and flowers and foliage of all kinds. The Italian harpers, seated in the rear, played sweet music that kept the audience in good humor during the long wait for the Premier and his colleagues. Directly above the platform was a pretty and majestic, prettily decorated with flowers, and among the mottoes strewn around the walls were these:

"Vote for Beattie. Eight hours a day labor."

"Tupper and preferential trade with Great Britain."

"Canada for the Canadians."

"Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's greatest statesman."

"The N. P., the workingman's friend and support."

"No commercial union with the United States."

"London's favorite, Major Beattie."

"When Sir Charles and party finally did arrive a few minutes after 9 o'clock, many rose and cheered lustily, waving flags and handkerchiefs. The ladies of the Maple Leaf League occupied the galleries. Probably one-half of the audience on the floor were ladies."

THE CHAIRMAN.

John R. Minihinnick, president of the Conservative Association, presided. In opening he spoke of Sir Charles Tupper as the father of Confederation, and of the National Policy. He said he had nothing new to offer them, and that Sir Charles would lay the old policy before his audience in his own effective manner. He explained the cause of the delay, and said that he was sorry the building was not five times as large. He said the large attendance was a conclusive sign that the N. P. was still dear to the hearts of the people. He told them that he had Dr. Montague with them, and the crowd cheered.

A Voice—The man that circulated the forged proclamation to the Indians. Continuing, Mr. Minihinnick said that the rumor of Dr. Montague's resignation had been circulated for the purpose of injuring the meeting, but it had not.

Here Mr. Minihinnick paused to ask the people to move around and fill the

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vacant space in the south end of the hall. A man on the platform said that there were 20,000 people outside.

Mr. Minihinnick then introduced Sir Charles Tupper.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir Charles Tupper was given a very enthusiastic reception after he was fairly launched on his speech. The bursts of applause became fewer and further apart. He said that no words that he could command could adequately convey an idea of the emotion which the magnificent ovation tendered Dr. Montague and himself gave rise to. He said he knew they would rejoice to see the doctor there to give a most emphatic contradiction to the hopes of a dying party. (Cheers.) He said that he had noticed the remarks made by the Liberal chieftain in London when he wanted to know if Sir Charles Tupper or Jacques Cartier had covered Canada. Sir Charles raised a laugh by saying that he knew Mr. Laurier was not particularly strong on fiscal or financial questions, but he always supposed he knew a little geography. Jacques Cartier was no more the discoverer of the Canada of 50 years ago than Vancouver was. He declared that Sir Charles Tupper had a good deal to do with the creation of Canada of today. In referring to the struggle for Confederation, which he said would never have been accomplished but for him and his co-operation, he used so many facts that there was a general interruption, consisting of cries of "Oh, oh!" and laughter.

Sir Charles then went into the trade question, and said that the N. P. had lifted Canada out of the deplorable condition into which the Liberals had placed it. All this was done in the face of Mr. Laurier's opposition, and the opposition would also, if possible, have defeated the proposal to build the C. P. R. He claimed his usual amount of credit in connection with the building of the road, and asked them to point to one single act that should entitle Mr. Laurier to the respect of the people. What single measure had he accomplished to entitle him to rank with the late Sir John A. Macdonald? (Cheers.)

Sir Charles then reviewed the inception of the C. P. R., and defended the policy of the Conservative party in relation to it. He argued that Mr. Mackenzie's view of the building of that railway by the Government instead of by contractors—keeping the profit for the people—should have been enough to consign him to a lunatic asylum. He claimed that the Mackenzie regime was a period of maladministration, and that it was a disgrace that the Liberal party should again come before the country and ask that the Government which had made Canada what it is should be displaced. He accused the Liberal party and press of resorting to two policies—one of sending a handful of rowdies to break up public meetings and the other of not discussing the policies of the day, but of stating instead one gross slander after another, and making unwarranted insinuations respecting the men in power and their policy. He accused the Globe and the Halifax Morning Chronicle of publishing particularly scandalous, defamatory and libelous statements. These statements, he said, could not be sustained in Parliament, although he challenged investigation. Continuing his long list of denials, he stated that he was not guilty of writing that he had no confidence in "the breed" referring to the Roman Catholics. He also flatly denied that he had ever asked an audience if they were going to vote for a French-Canadian Roman Catholic Premier. He then devoted a considerable time in the attempt to prove that he was always favorable to the Roman Catholics and equal rights for all.

Continuing, he claimed that the Liberal party had no policy on the trade question, and taunted Mr. Laurier with not issuing a manifesto because of this fact. He asserted that the effort necessary to defeat the Liberal plans of unrestricted reciprocity cost Sir John A. Macdonald his life. He accused the Liberal leaders of going one better than one another on trade questions as men did in the game of poker. This caused someone to ask what Sir Charles knew about poker. Continuing, the speaker charged that Sir Oliver Mowat was more in favor of encouraging the iron industry than was the Conservative party. He further charged Mr. Laurier with being at variance with Sir Richard Cartwright and the Hon. R. W. Scott, on the matter of preferential trade, and insisted that the United States Government would not listen to any sort of reciprocity unless there was discrimination against Great Britain. In the midst of these arguments, Sir Charles Tupper interrupted the remark that Sir Oliver Mowat and "poor" Mr. Laurier had no more "chawns" of getting a majority on June 23 than they had of flying. He supposed they should succeed? Then he weighed the matter, and finally said that there was not a ghost of a chance of such a thing occurring. No applause whatever greeted the statement.

Sir Charles again referred to his French-Canadian Roman Catholic statements, and accidentally mentioned D'Alton McCarthy of making a false statement when he said that he had entered into a solemn compact with the Roman Catholic bishops of Quebec. He then went on to defend the Government's stand for coercion on the school question, asserting that it obeyed the Queen, forgetful of the fact that the British Privy Council left it entirely to the Government of Canada to say what was the remedy. He partially admitted the race and creed speech made by him at Winnipeg, but held that it was a question of logic, not of creed. He asserted that he made the speech because Conservatives were turning their backs upon the Government because of misapprehension of that important question. He made a direct party appeal to these Conservatives, and quoted from a French speech of Mr. Laurier, in which that gentleman stated that he would appoint Sir Oliver Mowat at the head of a commission, would find out all the facts and ask Manitoba in a conciliatory manner to do full justice, and those means failing he would have recourse to constitutional means.

Sir Charles concluded at 11 o'clock, apologizing because of his growing voice, which he said he had left at the Atlantic Ocean to London. He apologized before sitting down, and promised to give every consideration to the interest of the city.

THE CANDIDATE.

Mr. Beattie was also well received. He spoke from notes, and made frequent pauses to refer to them. At times these pauses became so prolonged that some of the audience was prompted to shout "Hurry up!" Before commencing his address Mr. Minihinnick pushed a little girl forward, and she presented Mr. Beattie with a bouquet. There were two little girls when the meeting began—Jennie Metcalfe and Gertrude Whitaker. As the evening wore on, began to cry.

required all of Mr. Minihinnick's soothing qualities to try her tears sufficiently to make the presentation. Mr. Beattie assured the audience that he would not have accepted the candidature had not Sir John Carling personally told him that he could not accept it. He refused to say whether his

chances were good or bad, but appealed for the same generous support that had been accorded Sir John Carling.

He denied attending a meeting of Roman Catholics in a Roman Catholic school house, and promising them everything and anything they asked. He also found it necessary to deny that he had brought Margaret L. Sheppard here and taken her around and introduced her to the Protestant clergymen.

"Another slander that has been circulated," said Mr. Beattie, "is that I am a P. A., and that I have borrowed money to print and circulate a P. P. A. paper in the city of London. Ladies gentlemen, have not got much money, but, thank God, I have better use for it than that." (Applause.)

Mr. Beattie then upheld the protective policy of the Government, and also endorsed its stand upon the school question. In the latter connection he referred to Mr. Greenway's establishment of national schools of that party. "I don't know what he done it for," said Mr. Beattie, "but I believe he done it for a political trick."

DR. MONTAGUE.

Dr. Montague was warmly received, and in opening explained that he was under instructions not to speak. He asked the forbearance of the audience, and was glad to see the ladies in such numbers, as he had the pleasure of forming the Maple Leaf League. The Conservative party had made mistakes—no party escaped—but the Conservative party had been the national party. After alluding to the alleged attacks upon the party in establishing foreign steamship connections, he predicted that in a few months they would connect Canada and the motherland by one of the steamship services on the Atlantic. Sir Charles Tupper, he said, was attacked because he was too British. He quoted paragraphs from the New York Mail and Express and the Washington Post expressing the hope that the Liberals would be victorious. He gave the Dominion Government credit for defending the rights of Canadian fishermen, and for such defense, he said, a vote of censure upon that party was moved in the House and supported by the Liberals. He attacked no man's loyalty, but the policy that won plaudits from foreign opponents was not the policy for Canada. The Canadian people, when they witnessed the commercial panic over the border, were very glad that they had not adopted unrestricted reciprocity. They saw every prospect of the early adoption of the great scheme of imperial and international trade, but how far advanced would that policy have been if Canada had espoused unrestricted reciprocity and discrimination against the motherland in 1897? Dr. Montague referred to the charges that the Conservatives had unduly piled up the national debt and cited the statistics of the C. P. R. The construction and deepening of canals, the light house service, and other public works in justification of the increased burden of the debt, had increased only 20 cents per head, and these vast improvements in the public service had been achieved at this slight addition to that debt. Under Sir Richard Cartwright's financing, the burden had increased 25 cents per capita in five years. Referring to the tariff question, Dr. Montague said there was nothing so damnable as the tariff. It was a disturbance, yet ever since Sir Richard Cartwright assumed control of the financial policy of his party they had had a constant and increasing tariff. Sir Richard Cartwright had denounced protection as highway robbery, and Mr. Laurier as bondage and slavery, but Sir Oliver Mowat said these inequities must be wiped out gradually. Mr. Laurier said that the country was like a house on fire, and Sir Oliver Mowat recommended that the fire be extinguished by a pail of water at a time. The truth was that the Liberal party, feeling that their divisions in the Conservative ranks over the school question, and knowledge of the policy of destruction, were trying to snatch a verdict on a side issue, and when they got into power they would enforce the policy of destroying the last vestige of protection, as declared in their speeches. They would either do that, or they were not conscientious in their speeches, denouncing a protective tariff. The speaker said it had been charged by the Liberal party that the subsidizing of steamers to Australia by the Government had bonused Australian farmers to send their products to the Dominion in competition with Canadian farmers. He quoted figures to show that importations from Australia had been very small, and yet the Liberal party had been sending out flour, wheat and other agricultural produce and let United States articles come in free of duty. He claimed that the Dominion Government had greatly stimulated the Canadian butter trade in Great Britain by its purchase and shipment of that article and refuted Mr. Laurier's statement that cold storage had been provided for the export of meats of perishable goods. The Liberals had opposed the encouragement of a fast Atlantic steamship service, and yet these men were appealing to the people on the policy of developing trade with Great Britain. Though the Liberals cried loudly only so loudly they refused to allow the estimates for the public service to be passed at the last session, making it necessary to call a new session of Parliament soon after election at a cost of \$500,000 or \$750,000, which might have been saved had they not been so greedy to gain political advantage. The speaker quoted the census returns in an attempt to prove that the sum invested in manufacturing industries had increased from \$154,000,000 to \$354,000,000, and that wages had increased in the same period from \$23,000,000 to \$100,000,000. He claimed that the N. P. had built up the organ, piano, sugar refining and bicycle industries. Concluding, Dr. Montague said that England had maintained the tariff scaffold around her commercial edifice for five centuries until she had built up a strong policy that the scaffold could be taken down. And so Canada would continue to keep up the tariff until she could compete with the world.

SIR JOHN CARLING.

When Dr. Montague finished, the crowd made a grand rush for the door. Mr. Minihinnick appealed for a hearing for Sir John Carling, and a hundred remained. Sir John was brief. He eulogized Sir Charles Tupper as a man whose force of character was needed by Canada. Under Liberal rule they had had soup kitchens, he said, but everything was prosperous now. Sir John endorsed the Government's Manitoba school policy unqualifiedly and claimed that there never was so large an expenditure on public works where so little could be charged against the Government as in Canada. Their opponents talked about the Tay Canal, and the Curran Bridge, but there was no corruption to speak about. He had carried the party's flag in London with success for 35 years, and he had the elections won by Sir John Carling and he had done by him (Sir John).

Cheers for the Queen, Sir Charles Tupper, and the Government. The men closed the meeting at 12:30 a.m. THE AFTER BANQUET.

After the meeting, Sir Charles Tupper

per and Dr. Montague were dined at the residence of Mr. Thomas H. Smallman, South London. We give the official list of those invited to meet the distinguished guests, as supplied by our contemporary, the Free Press: Sir John Carling, Major Thomas Beattie, Messrs. R. Bayly, Q.C., T. G. Meredith, P. McPhillips, F. A. Fitzgerald, John R. Minihinnick, P. Mulken, Wm. Gray, I. F. Hellmuth, W. E. Mullins, H. B. Elliot, R. M. C. Toth, W. J. Reid, B. J. Nash, John Pocock, Fred Darch, and James Priddy.

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