# M. McGugan, M.P

## Renominated by the Liberals of South Middlesex.

## Unity of Spirit and Enthusiasm the Features of the Meeting.

Masterly Address by the Minister of Justice-Fallacious Statements of the Opposition Refuted-Prosperity of the Country Under Liberal Rule—Pointed Speeches by the Candidate; W. S. Calvert, M.P; T H. Purdom, Q.C.; Alex. Stuart, Q.C.; Messrs. John Cameron, P. MacKenzie, J. M. McEvoy and Others-A Large and Enthusiastic Gathering.

The Liberal convention held at Delaware yesterday to nominate a candidate for the riding of South Middlesex in the approaching Dominion elections, was attended by a full representation of delegates from all parts of the riding. It was a most enthusiastic gathering, and so large in numbers that for a time it was thought the spacious town hall would not hold them all, but with a little crowding everyone managed to get in, or found standing room in the doorway. The meeting throughout was most harmonious. The bright, pleasant weather made driving a pleasure, and brought the farmers of the constituency out in force. Malcolm McGugan, M. P., the present representative, was again the unanimous choice of the convention, and his election--if there is a contest--is assured. Hon. David Mills delivered a masterly address, and was the admiration of his hearers for his grasp of the subject under consideration, for his clear, reasoning, and for his clever argu-

The meeting was opened at 1:45 with President John McDougall, of the South Middlesex Liberal Association, in the chair, who lost no time in calling for nominations. There was but one nomination made, that of Mr. McGugan, who has represented the riding ably was made by ex-Warden Henry Hardy and seconded by Joseph Howlett, or Delaware, who also moved and seconded the following resolution of confidence in Mr. McGugan:

"That we, the Liberals of South Middlesex, in public meeting assembled, hereby indorse and approve of the course pursued by our Malcolm McGugan, during the time he has represented us, and that we have the fullest confidence that we will consult our best interests by returning him to parliament. To that end we pledge ourselves to support him to the utmost of our ability at the coming

The nomination was unanimously carried by a standing vote amid the greatest enthusiasm.

## The Candidate.

Mr. McGugan, on rising to reply, was enthusiastically received with hearty cheers and applause. He expressed his pleasure at seeing so many of the leading Liberals of the riding in attendance, and thanked them most heartily for their renewal of confidence in him. He was exceedingly grateful that his four years' service, as their representative, had met with approv-, and he would at all times try form his duty wisely and well. He had given the Laurier administration his hearty support at all times, believing that the measures they introduced were for the best interests of the Canadian people. If elected-and he had

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no doubts on that score-he would again give his hearty support to the best government that Canada ever had. In referring to the many reasons why the Laurier administration should again be returned to power, Mr. Mc-Gugan spoke of the great advantages to the Canadian farmer from the removal of the quarantine. In 1896, young cattle and stockers were selling in the Dominion for almost nothing, and there was a glut on the market. When the present government came in power they appointed a practical farmer at the head of the agricultural depart-ment, Hon. Sydney Fisher, who saw at once the deplorable state of affairs, into which the cattle market had fallen, and set about at once to have the trouble remedied. Negotiations were started at Washington, and it was not long before the embargo was abolished. Shipments of cattle to the United States followed, and the glut on the market was relieved. This caused prices to increase over \$8 per head, which meant millions of dollars in the pockets of the farmers of the Domin-

Mr. McGugan then touched upon the

cold storage question. Canada now had one of the finest systems in the world, and fruit and dairy products could be sent to the mother country, and land there as fresh as the day they left the Under Conservative rule farm. cold storage system was an utter failon the part of the Conservatives, Dr. Montague undertook to solve the problem of landing the products of the dairy in Liverpool in first-class condi- so they turn to the grave of one who tion, and sent over a trial shipment of did, and ask the community to trust butter, consisting of 57,000 pounds. The them because they are worshipping at result was the same-a failure, and the shrine of a dead leader. country \$4,000. Mr. Fisher was a prac- complained tical man, well knowing the needs of ference. They declare that the farmers, and instituted a complete ought to have made no system of cold storage, which had no superior today. The products could now be taken direct from the dairy, and placed before the consumer in any distant land, as good as the day they the electors that they are ready once were shipped. In 1896, under Consermore to levy war against the British vative rule, some 5,000 pounds of butter were shipped to the old country. This was doubled the first year under Liberal rule, which was credited to the splendid system of cold storage inaugurated by Mr. Fisher. The price incents per pound, and last year the shipments amounted to over 5,000 pounds. It was thus plainly seen how greatly the farmer was benefited in butter alone. These benefits also were equally great in other products of a perishable nature. In 1897 Canada had shipped more than double quantity of eggs exported in 1896 under Conservative rule, and the farmers got better prices for them. The department presided over by Mr. Fisher, which had provided this great reform, costing less to run than under Conservative rule. These were some of the many reasons why the Laurier adnainistration should have the confidence and support of the people of Canada for another term.

Mr. McGugan then referred to the government railway, the Intercolonial, pointing out that under Conservative rule it was run at a great loss to the country, with a large deficit at the end of each year. Mr. Blair, the present minister of railways and canals, went to work to remedy the matter, and had the road extended into Montreal, and today there was a substantial surplus instead of a deficit. Another reason why the Laurier administration should

be kept in power. "The Conservatives tell us," said Mr. McGugan, "that the Liberal government have not kept any of its promises to the electors. They have kept all the promises made, with the exception of those blocked by the senate. (Hear, hear.) Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised to settle the Manitoba school question in six months, and it was settled as promised. The abolishment of the superannuation act was made at the first said was business session of the present parlia-ment, and the abolition of the franchise These are some of the promises carried out by the Liberals." (Applause.)

concluding, Mr. McGugan again thanked the Liberals of the riding for the renewed confidence they had placed in him. He trusted and was confident that South Middlesex would send a supporter to the greatest statesman Canada ever had, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. (Hearty cheers.)

HONORED SIR WILFRID. by A. M. Hunt, Westminster, and seconded by C. M. Simmons, of Lobo, expressing confidence in Premier Laurier: 'Resolved, that we, the Liberals of South Middlesex, in public meeting assembled, hereby express our hearty approval of the manner in which the affairs of our Dominion have been conducted by the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his able colleagues. We hereby declare our full and perfect confidence in their administration, and we hereby pledge ourselves to support him

#### to the utmost of our ability at the approaching elections." W. S. Calvert, M.P.

Mr. Calvert, M.P., was introduced by the chairman as the hero of West Middlesex, and was heartily cheered on rising to speak. He expressed his pleasure at the choice of the conven-

porters on hand, lest the opposition steal a march on them, and he could safely say that no member was more regularly in his place than Mr. McGu-regularly in his place than Mr. McGu-gan. "You have an able and zealous representative," said Mr. Calvert, "one who looks well after the interest of the constituency that he represents." Mr. Calvert referred to Canada's great prosperity, pointing out the growth in the trade of the Dominion since the present government took the reins of power. The Conservatives did not deny that the people of Canada were prosperous, but credited it all to Providence. "Now," said the speaker, "if the Conservatives ruled the country for eighteen years, and Providence would have nothing to do with them, and has been going hand in hand with the Liberals, stand by the men who have Providence on their side." (Hear, hear.)

The speaker further referred to the removal of the embargo on cattle by the present government, a thing which the Conservatives had tried to do for four years without results. He also spoke of the government's able policy in dealing with the railways, and gave a review of the binder twine question, showing clearly that the government had acted in the best interests of the

#### Hon. David Mills.

Hon. David Mills, in a brilliant speech, reviewed the work of the present Liberal Government, and gave an exposition of the weakness of the opposition and the strength of the Laurier administration. As he rose to speak the applause was deafening, and it was some time before he could make himself heard. He heartily indorsed the nomination of Mr. McGugan. Mr. Mills said:

In the nature of things we must at an early day go to the country, and the people will be called upon to decide whether they desire to continue the present government in power or heart the prosperity of the manufacfriends. I have been perusing the ents, but they maintained, and in my Charles Tupper, by Mr. Foster, and by Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, for the lines, purpose of seeing what they complain WHA of in our conduct, and what they propose to do in case they succeed us in office, and I will venture to say weaker criticisms or a more meager bill of fare were never presented to an electorate. Sir Charles Tupper tells us that the Conservative party are united, and so they are engaged at the present time in refurbishing their arms. I understand that there are some parties who were colleagues of Sir Charles Tupper at the last election whom he had resolved while they were still his colleagues to throw overboard, as soon as the elections were over, and so they are not likely to be his colleagues in the coming contest nor will they all fight on his side. This is to some extent a new troop, but it is

THE SAME OLD COMPANY, dilapidated by time, greatly out of repair and incapable of being put in a presentable condition. No one among them feels that he possesses in any large degree the public confidence, and I need not trouble you with the petty the butter had to be sold at away be-low cost, as it was not in first-class criticism in which these gentlemen

cessions in favor of the United Kingdom, unless the British people were prepared to make reciprocal concessions in our favor, and so they inform more to levy war against the British public because the people and statesmen of the United Kingdom are not prepared to accept the terms which they propose to offer. Why, they have en making their propositions for a great number of years, and they know well that no English statesman could maintain a paramount position in that country who would subscribe to their views or who would offer to make the concessions which they demand. They were in power for eighteen years and they retired from office without any such agreement as they now decepted. Either they did not honestly support that policy to which they claim to be devoted, or they found that British statesmen dare not countenance it. Mr. Chamberlain has made it

WHAT THEY PROPOSED CANNOT

BE DONE. and yet this scheme which they avow is a matter of so much importance is one upon which they have never ventured to go before the people of this country and to ask for their support. No one pretends to say that Canada would not be benefitted, temporarily, at least, if there was a preference in the English market, but we know as well as we know that twice two make four that no such policy can be adopted, and we must consider what is attainable and meet the condition of things that exists in our own day, and not the condition which may arise when others occupy our places and we are moldering in the cemetery. Sir oper declared that what Sir Wilfrid Laurier said in England with regard to a preferential tariff stands in the way of its accomplishment. There is not a particle of foundation for this contention. What Sir Wilfrid

THE RIGHT THING TO SAY under the circumstances. It was the one thing that arrested the attention people of England and which secured the repeal of the most favored nation clause in the German and Belgian treaties, and it was the first step in establishing those cordial relations between the mother country and Canada which are proving of such inestimable benefit to the people both of the United Kingdom and of this Do-

minion. Before I discuss this matter further The following resolution was moved let me say a few words with regard to the policy of the Conservative party. Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster complain that we have not kept our pledges, and Mr. Foster declared that he leaders of the Conservative party fulfilled all the pledges which they had given. Is this so? Now, let us go back for a moment to the time that the Conservative party had not a well defined opinion upon the question trade and commerce. They adopted a resolution in parliament in 1876, not for the purpose of giving to the people of Canada protection by a high tariff, but, as they said, for the purpose of compelling the government of United States to adop't a more liberal policy towards us. Sir Charles Tupper himself declared that he was

NOT IN FAVOR OF PROTECTION that he simply agreed to it for the purpose of forcing the United States to come to terms, and to bring Con- nounces. We do maintain that it is result of the election. His which was adopted in 1876, and which of the old friend and colleague, Mr. proved to be the germ of what was proved to be the germ of what was afterwards misnamed the "National this Dominion, or any other portion of dence, 418 Queen's avenue. gress to its knees, and the resolution

large majority. (Cheers.) In the Policy," set forth, that this retaliatory the empire, that it must ultimately house, when parliament was called, it was always necessary for the government to have a certain number of supment number number of supment number num in the resolution of 1876 did not point at the English people at all. It pointed exclusively to the United States. English Government taxes nothing that we send to the United Kingdom. It was impossible that our trade with Great Britain could be made more fa-vorable in this regard than it was, because our products were admitted into the British market free from all tax; but the declaration was one that pointed to the United States solely. From first to last, there was no indication that it was necessary to adopt towards the merchants and manufacturers of the United Kingdom the same policy that was pursued towards our neighbors. But when the tariff came to be framed, those who were very strong protectionists were called in by the government to assist, and that policy which Sir John Macdonald repudiated and asserted that the declaration that he favored it was a calumny, was ultimately adopted, and was applied as rigorously

AGAINST THE UNITED KINGDOM, where our products were admitted free, as it was applied against the United States where great impediments were put in the way of our export trade. That policy was in operation for eighteen years, and the stationary condition of the country shows how inimical it proved to the progress of Canada, in wealth and in population. Those gentlemen came forward and everywhere declared themselves heaven-born statesmenmen born with instincts of government and capable of carrying the country triumphantly over every obstacle in the way of its progress. The leaders the Liberal party, they said, e charlatans in the busiwere ness of government. Whatever could be done to excite the hostility of manufacturers against us was done. Everywhere they were assiduously taught to look upon us as their opponents-as a party hostile to their interests. Now I will venture to say that the Liberal party had as much at to recall Sir Charles Tupper and his turing classes as their political opponspeeches recently delivered by Sir opinion wisely maintained, that that prosperity ought to be secured in other WHAT THE LIBERAL GOVERN-

MENT HAS DONE. We singled out no class as our special favorites, and the country has had four years' trial of the experiment of Reform rule, and there can be no doubt, I apprehend, in the mind of any prudent manufacturer, that the course which we pursued was the more statesman-like and wiser course. We have secured the settlement of some of our waste lands. We have successfully invited the development our great natural resources, and the Canadian manufacturer never had so good a market at home as he has at this moment. The large additions that are annually made to the population, for whom the manufacturer has in no small measure to provide has given him year by year a large increase in the number of his customers. we continue to control public affairsas I have no doubt we shall-progress in this direction is not likely to be checked for many years to come. EXPANSION OF CANADA'S COM-

MERCE. I have spoken of the great expansion of the commerce of this country. Let me trouble you with some evidence. In 1874 the trade of Canada Avery Casey. The experiment cost the have recently indulged. They have amounted to \$217,565,510; in 1878 it amounted to \$172,405,454; in 1895—21 years later-it amounted to \$239,025,360; and in the year ended June 30 last it reached \$381,625,855. The increase in the trade of this country between 1878 and 1896 was \$66,619,906. But this is beginning the comparison with a year of extreme commercial depression, and so makes the growth for the Conservative period seem larger than it was; for if we compare the years 1896 with 1874, the growth will be found to be but \$21. 459,850, and not upwards of \$66,600,000; and from 1896 to 1900 the growth was \$142,600,495, being an increase in the four years under Liberal rule at the rate of \$35,500,000 per annum, whereas the increase during 18 years of Conservative government was but the merest fraction of this sum. The mineral products of Canada exported in 1895 were valued at \$6,983,227, and in \$14,301,628. The commerce of England and Canada, exclusive of bullion, was, in 1895, \$57,903,564, and in

AN UNATTAINABLE POLICY. When Sir Charles Tupper says that it is the policy of the Conservative party to found the empire upon mutual preference, he proposes a policy which, if he has considered the subject at all, knows is an unattainable one. the present time the commerce of the mother country with all the British colonies amounts to but £94,249,596, whereas with the rest of the world it is £235.285.062. So that it would be preposterous to expect at this that the imperial government would be prepared to sacrifice the greater trade for the less. Besides the proposal of Sir Charles and others is that the gov ernment of the United Kingdom should increase the burdens of taxation upon its people, provided that we reduce the burdens upon ours. Does not everyone see that there is no mutability in such an arrangement? Besides, our interest, so far as the question of mutual preburdens upon ours. Does not everyone ference is concerned, relates to the natural products of this country, and these natural products constitute the necessities of the manufacturers and of the laborers, and it is, therefore, out of the question, that the masses of the population of the United Kingdom, who are depending upon their daily wages for the daily sustenance of themselves and their families, should be willing to submit to a burden which must come out of their earnings for any future political consideration, however advantageous to the empire. What might be possible for a despotic government to do is wholly impossible to a government as democratic as that of the United Kingdom, and it is unreasonable to expect that the the masses of the population, whose lot at best is a hard one, are going to submit to tax their food for any political advantage whatever. or for any improvement in the lot of those who do not enter the world till they have left it. That is an unattainable thing, at all events, for many years to come, and what we must consider is not what may be a good thing 50 years hence, but what is the best thing attainable in our day, and we have adopted that course which, in my opinion, will be of the greatest possible advantage both to ourselves and to the parent state.

CANADA'S INTERESTS. Sir Charles Tupper has spoken against an imperial legislature, and he shows how large a burden Canada would have if she were embraced in a representative union. No one at the present time is advocating such a union, as Sir Charles Tupper de-

ourselves and the British people an imperial constitution. We are ready to leave it to the events as they arise, and to the experience that time brings to us, to determine what the form of that union shall be. We are determined that it shall not be an artificial contrivance, but a matter of growth, as the British constitution itself has been;

#### [Continued on page 10.]

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