

THE HERALD

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Editor & Proprietor.

The Opposition Platform.

In this issue will be found the platform presented by Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Provincial Opposition; upon which he will appeal to the electors of this Province, in a few weeks. This platform is so comprehensive, so reasonable and so well calculated to bring the claims of our Province into proper light before the electorate, that it cannot fail to appeal to the reason and judgment of all fair-minded men. It has been framed with the view of placing our claims on the Federal Government in their true light before the people of Canada, and of properly bringing to the notice of all reasonable and patriotic citizens of this Province the wrongs which we suffer. All who sincerely wish to see these wrongs righted and these claims allowed, should stand by this platform, and rally to the support of the Leader and the party that make it their battle cry in the approaching Local elections.

The very first plank in the platform, the claim for a refund of the cost of our railway, is one that has too long been overlooked and neglected. We built our Island rail way and paid for it, and then had the cost charged up to us at the time we entered the confederation. Surely, then, we should have the price handed back to us. No reasonable man can dispute that this is a valid claim. The restoration of our Federal representation to six members, would only be the implementing of the intention of those who negotiated the terms on which we entered the union. Our share of the Halifax fishery award should be paid to us, and our claim thereto no man can dispute.

The plank in the platform relating to agriculture should meet with the hearty approval of all Islanders. This is a purely agricultural Province and our educational training should prepare the minds of our youth for grappling with this question in the most practical and scientific manner. One plank that all will surely heartily endorse, is that relating to our school books. The high price and frequent changes in the text books in our public schools, constitute an outrage that is felt by all parents, who have children attending school. This monopoly and robbery have been dealt with in the Provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick, and the change of Government, from Liberal to Conservative, in these Provinces has resulted in disrupting the combination, and giving the people their school books at less than one half what they formerly had to pay for them.

Other planks in the platform deal with Public Works, reform of election laws, finances and so on. These questions are of such importance that they cannot be treated in the course of one article; but they shall be referred to from time to time, later on. In the mean time, our friends should read and study the platform, and learn for themselves the magnitude and importance of the issues therein set forth. These matters are of vital importance to this Province, and no elector, who has the welfare of the Island at heart, should fail to familiarize himself with them.

We observe that the Patriot, while attempting a mill and water criticism of the platform,

does not, as is its wont, put forth any claims for the Liberals to the reforms foreshadowed therein. It would be rather awkward for our Liberal friends to claim that the matters of importance to our Island Province, set forth in the platform, had been advocated by them. They and their organ know that the Liberal members of the Legislature are on record against everyone of these reforms. The records of the House will show the divisions, where every member of the Government and every Government supporter in the Legislature stood up and voted against these very reforms. We shall return to this subject later.

The Lowering of our Public Life.

There are so many good reasons for the defeat of the Laurier Government at the coming elections that the supreme issue before the Canadian people is often obscured or overlooked. It is our national life—our character as a people.

The charges against the Laurier Government do not end, unfortunately, with the faults of their administration, their reckless extravagance, their "graft" and corrupt disposal of our national wealth to political parasites. There is a greater peril in the debasement of our public life and the consequent menace to our national character in the political methods of the Ottawa regime. The standards and ideals of its public life are of the very first importance to any community. For not only is the nation's business, and its status among the nations of the world determined accordingly; but, by a relentless law, they are reflected in the social, commercial, and private lives of its people.

We have fallen from the best traditions of Anglo Saxon statesmanship and high-minded unselfish devotion to the public service our fathers, without distinction of party or creed, have handed down to us. Statesmanship has given place to political jugglery, and it is the party's, and not the country's good, that determines the policy of the Liberal majority; merit and qualifications are no longer of any weight against political "pull" and political expediency in public appointments. But it is worse still and humiliating to us as a people that the air is foul with charges of "graft" and "rake off," and of the corrupt enriching of Liberal henchmen at the country's cost, until good citizens are ashamed of the disgraceful disclosures which each session of Parliament spreads broadcast through the land; and that rumors of coarse, vulgar immorality which would exclude those concerned from the company of clean and decent people are of common circulation and have necessarily been made the subject of discussion on the floors of Parliament.

These things are of incalculable evil to the country; and no good citizen can afford to be indifferent to them. To the nation, as to the individual, character is all in all. We charge that the tone of our public life has been sensibly lowered during the twelve years of the Liberal Government and that they are not entitled to support from the better elements of the Canadian people.

Squeezing the Sponge.

As a very important source of national strength and security, it is essential that we should cherish our public credit. Our method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, to avoid occasions of useless expense and the accumulation of debt. It is essential that we should make vigorous efforts

in time of prosperity to discharge the debts which have accumulated during a lean period, so as not ungenerously to throw on posterity the burdens which we should bear.

To pay debts there must be a revenue, and to have revenue there must be taxes.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier says that during the past twelve years his government has had enormous surpluses, amounting in all to \$113,000,000. He omits to say that this \$113,000,000 has been spent by his government, and further that the public debt has increased by \$20,000,000.

In 1896 the expenditure amounted to \$42,000,000, and in 1908 it amounts to over \$100,000,000.

In 1896 Sir Wilfrid Laurier said "I promise you that if you put our party into power, we will reduce the annual expenditure by \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 per annum"; while Sir Richard Cartwright said that "It is a disgrace and a shame to the government that they should ask for an expenditure of \$38,300,000 for federal purposes; the thing is unjustifiable."

In 1908 the Laurier government spent \$68,000,000 more than the Conservative government did in 1896.

To meet the enormous increase in expenditure under the Laurier government, the taxes during the past twelve years have doubled per head. In 1896 the tax per head was \$5.46, in 1908 it is \$11.70.

In 1896 Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, "We are the party of low taxation." Let us not forget that every dollar taken by the Government in the form of taxation each year, is taken from you. As every pound of nails, every axe, every yard of cloth you buy from your merchant is the medium through which you pay taxes to the Dominion Government."

In the above record of expenditures the cost of the country's share of the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific has not been included. What has the country to show for these enormous expenditures? What will the outcome be if the present administration is retained in power, to preserve its present policy of ruinous expenditures?

The depths of degradation to which the Patriot's notion of journalistic ethics has sunk, is shown by its scandalous conduct in permitting to nondescript writers the free use of its columns. Any sneaking coward, who may desire to stab his neighbor in dark and to lie and slander to his hearts content, without assuming any responsibility for his sordid, readily taken under the aegis of our contemporary. Whether the villain call himself "Onlooker" or any other fictitious name the Patriot takes him under protection and allows the real or imaginary outside prevaricator to fire away under cover. The words of Goldsmith, slightly changed are quite applicable: "Every lying sneak and coward claims kindred here, and has his claim allowed."

The Liberals of Ottawa have, of late, had a heap of trouble about their candidates for the House of Commons. Some weeks ago, they held a convention and nominated A. W. Fraser and Dr. Chevrier as their standard bearers. These nominations caused some surprise and disappointment in the ranks of the stalwarts, inasmuch as the chosen were both new men, instead of the sitting members, Messrs. Stewart and Garon. Garon had been returned last year to fill the unexpired term of A. N. Belcourt, who had received his reward by elevation to the Senate. But in the convention just mentioned he was turned down. Mr. Stewart had been an old and faithful stand-by and had represented the city in the commons for many years; but he was side-tracked to make room for Mr. A. W. Fraser, who had acquired no small amount of notoriety by his connection with western timber deals. His nomination created some consternation in the party ranks, and Mr.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

Stewart's friends were especially hostile. Things went on for a while, and hopes were entertained that peace would be restored. But matters were going from bad to worse till at last the climax was reached when Mr. Fraser was brought before the court at Hull and required to render an accounting to one of his partners in the timber limit graft. What had long been suspected was now substantiated on oath. Mr. Fraser admitted that he had bought the timber limit from the Government for \$1,650 and had immediately sold it to some Americans for \$100,000, making \$98,350 profit on the deal. After these revelations it became quite evident that Mr. Fraser could not by any possibility be elected; consequently it dawned upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends that Fraser was "an undesirable candidate." The upshot was that both he and his running mate Dr. Chevrier were set aside and Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been selected to fill the gap, in the hope of preventing disaster, with A. H. McEgovern as running mate. Doubtless there are many other "undesirable candidates" running in the Laurier interest; but their guilt has not been so clearly proven as that of Mr. Fraser and as long as there is any hope of their election they are considered admirable.

Weighed in the Balance.

Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees, and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people. Let us examine carefully the record of the Laurier Government, and judge for ourselves, whether the trust imposed on them has been administered with the same conscientious care for the responsibility involved, as are required in the execution of public trusts.

If as the Premier states we have had a surplus during the past twelve years of \$13,000,000, where has the money gone? Our public debt during the same period has increased \$20,000,000. What have we to show for it? Sir Wilfrid would say that it has been expended in public works. But what is the character of these works? A million dollar ditch in North York, between Newmarket and Holland Landing, some wonderful harbor on Lake Huron, which was washed away the following year; sections of the Grand Trunk Pacific, which a private corporation would have built for half the money; the Quebec bridge; and other public works of like character, mostly in the province of Quebec, and some others elsewhere. If a farmer or a business man, whose income was increasing each year, started in to spend not only his increased income, but to plunge deeply into debt, what would his friends say?

Would the Premier, contrary to all principles of party government, attempt to disclaim responsibility for the acts, individually and collectively, of his colleagues? It would seem so, but our system of party government is based on the principle that the Premier and his advisers are one, and are jointly responsible to the people for their every action. Responsibility cannot be shirked.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the present members of his cabinet are directly responsible to the people for the acts of every member of his Cabinets, present and past. He is therefore responsible for the acts of that former Minister who grew rich in the public service, and who allowed public lands to be sold to relatives and friends at merely nominal prices; He is directly responsible for the acts of the Minister whose department is now the subject of investigation; he is also responsible for the calling to his assistance and keeping as his advisers, the several Ministers now driven from office whose private life was so notorious as to become the subject of public scandal and parliamentary discussion; he must also accept the responsibility for the insult which he and his colleagues have paid to the intelligence of the people of the Province of Ontario, in appointing to high office under the Federal Government, or in accepting as his leading lieutenants in the present campaign in that province, members of the late discredited and corrupt Ross government, and in showing confidence in those men, in whom the people of Ontario, by an overwhelming majority, decided that they had no confidence. Briefly, he has appointed Mr. Ross to a Senatorship, Mr. Gibson to a Lieutenant-Governorship, Mr. Latchford to a Judgeship, Mr. Graham to a portfolio, while Messrs Stratton and Harcourt are Liberal nominees for the Federal House.

If one would seek for further evidence of the weakness of the present administration, let him compare the feeble cabinet aggregation of today even with the Laurier Cabinet of twelve years ago. Is it because there are not still Liberals with as much ability and force of character as the members of the first cabinet, or is it because the high type of Liberal, the man of principle and high ideals, has lost faith in his Premier and party? and is convinced that the public trust is not being properly administered?

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

LOCAL & OTHER ITEMS

Sir Wilfrid Laurier says no man in politics can be as honest as some of his critics talk. The Prime Minister means no man of his own stamp. The clean man in politics is not the unknown quantity his words would indicate, and it is only dishonest men who pretend that he is. It is time to have a change.

In commemoration of the first Legislative Assembly ever granted any portion of the British Empire, a corner stone was laid at Halifax on Friday last for a memorial tower on the North West Arm on the property presented to the city by Sir Sanford Fleming. Addresses were given by several prominent speakers and a royal salute was fired. The Canadian Club is building the tower.

MARRIED At the church of the Sacred Heart, Alberton, on the 23rd ult., by the Rev. J. Murphy, John P. McKenna to Miss May A. Corrigan, both of Elmdale. Congratulations.

DIED At Kinkora on September 19th, Richard Johnson aged 81 years. Deceased was born in the parish of T. Davinist county Monaghan, Ireland in 1827, and emigrated to this Province in 1841 and settled at Kinkora. His funeral took place to St. Malachis church on the 21st, and was very largely attended. The solemn funeral services were performed by the pastor Rev. J. J. McDonald. He leaves to mourn a disconsolate widow, seven daughters and four sons. May his soul rest in peace.

In this city on the 1st. inst. Michael Hughes, aged 63 years. May his soul rest in peace.

At her residence, Water St., city, after a brief illness, Mary Ann, beloved wife of John Trainor aged 48. A husband and five sons, besides a large circle of relatives are left to mourn. May her soul rest in peace.

To the Electors of Queens County.

The undersigned in accord with the policy of the Liberal Conservative party and of our great leader the Honourable R. L. Borden hereby express our desire that agents, workers and supporters, acting in our interests or on our behalf, will endeavour to carry out in spirit and in letter the provisions of the Dominion Elections Act against corruption and corrupt practices in the present contest. Intoxication, liquor, money, or other rewards must not be used on our behalf, and we refuse to hold ourselves responsible directly or indirectly for any offer, promise, or payment, or for any other act reflecting upon the pledged honour of ourselves or of our party.

ALEXANDER MARTIN, A. A. McLEAN, Oct. 7, 1908.—11

The Market Prices.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Butter (fresh), Calf skins, Ducks, Eggs, Flour, Hides, Hay, Mutton, Potatoes, Pork, Sheep pelts, Turkeys, and various oils.

Public Meetings

Will be held at the times and places following: Tracadie Cross, Friday, Oct. 2nd, 7 p. m. Caledonia, Friday, Oct. 9th, 2 p. m. North Wilshire, Saturday, Oct. 10th, 7 p. m. Granville, Tuesday, Oct. 13th, 2 p. m.

The Liberal Candidates are invited to attend.

ALEX. MARTIN, A. A. McLEAN, Sept. 30—2i

D. C. McLEOD, K. G. J. W. B. BENTLEY.

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In both Tweed and plain Beaver Cloths, \$5.75, \$6 50, \$7.25, etc.

Heavy Cloth Coats

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Souvenir Post Cards

Are a nice thing to send to friends abroad. We have nice selection of City and Provincial views to select from. The following are some of the titles.

One color 2 cents each.

St Joseph's Convent, Ch'town; Bishop's Palace & Church; St Dunstan's College; Notre Dame Convent; Hillsborough Bridge; Soldiers Monument.

Colored Cards 2 for 5 cents.

Victoria Row, Charlottetown; Block House Point; City Hospital; Crossing the Capes; Str Stanley in ice; Str Minto in ice; Apple Blossoms; Travellers Rest; Beautiful Autumn; Terrace of Rocks; Catching Smelts at S'Side; Sunset at S'Side Harbor; Summer St. Summerside; High School.

We also have a large variety of Comic Cards at one cent each. Any number of cards will be sent by mail providing one cent extra is added for each 10 cards.

EUREKA TEA.

If you have never tried our Eureka Tea it will pay you to do so. It is blended especially for our trade, and our sales on it show a continued increase. Price 25 cents per lb.

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COAL!

We would advise customers to order their Coal and have it delivered before the season gets too late, as The Strike now on at the Springhill Mines may cause a scarcity and be the means of advancing the prices.

G. Lyons & Co.

Sept. 4, 1907—3i

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We guarantee all our plate to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded.

Teeth pulled and extracted absolutely painless.

A. J. FRASER, D. D. Aug. 15 1906—3m

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Lowest rates and prompt settlement of Losses.

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