

Canada's Future Premier Honored by his Friends

Splendid Demonstration.

The visit to our Province of Mr. Robert L. Borden, Leader of the Conservative Party and, no doubt, next Premier of Canada, accompanied by Hon. J. D. Hazen, Premier of New Brunswick, was the occasion of the most splendid public demonstration ever tendered any visitor to our shores. There was no manufactured enthusiasm; it was all spontaneous, welling up from loyal patriotic hearts. The sturdy yeomanry of the country turned out in thousands and deemed themselves honored in contributing to the honor shown the distinguished Leader. The demonstration went a long way to prove how seriously the electors of this Province are pondering the question of paramount importance engaging public attention in this election campaign, and how glad they were of such an opportunity to make open profession of the political faith that is in them. Every detail in connection with the management of the demonstration to the distinguished visitors, from the time they landed at Summerside Thursday evening, till the close of the meetings at Charlottetown, was carried out with a precision and exactitude that left nothing to be desired. The throngs that attended all the meetings were well accommodated and could hear what was said; and all went away in the best of humor and perfectly satisfied with all they saw and heard. In this regard the demonstration was in striking contrast to the Laurier meetings, which were so "stale, flat and unprofitable," where hardly any one heard anything and which dissatisfied and disgusted the greater number.

Mr. Borden and Mr. Hazen reached Summerside from Point du Chene Thursday evening, and were met at the wharf and conveyed in triumph to the halls where they addressed multitudes of people. In consequence of the throng, each speaker was under the necessity of delivering two speeches. First Mr. Borden spoke in the Market Hall, and Mr. Hazen in St. Paul's Hall; then they exchanged places, Mr. Borden going to St. Paul's and Mr. Hazen coming to the Market Hall. Both halls were packed to the doors, and hundreds could not gain admission to either building. Enthusiasm was at fever heat and the speakers received an ovation.

Friday forenoon the distinguished visitors went by special train to Souris. At many stations along the line ovations were tendered the distinguished visitors. Special trains on the Georgetown line and the Murray Harbor branch, as well as the Borden special and the regular trains, were all thronged when they reached Souris. From the country for miles around hundreds came in carriages and the town people turned out *en masse*; so that when Mr. Borden and his friends arrived there was an immense throng waiting to receive them. A well marshalled procession was formed headed by the Souris band, carriages with the distinguished visitors bringing up the rear. The line of march was taken up and continued through the principal streets. The arrangements were excellent and every feature was executed without the slightest hitch. No building in Souris could hold half the people assembled, so arrangements for the public meeting were made outside on the band square. The arrangements were ideal.

The space was boarded off on the shore side and on the west and east sides, leaving the street side open for the people. A platform and seats were admirably placed against the board enclosure at the lower or shore side for the speakers and other visitors. In this way the speakers addressed the audience in front of them with the greatest ease and all assembled had the best possible opportunity for hearing. Flags were flying at all points around the enclosure and numerous appropriate mottoes adorned the walls. In the foreground was the band stand, where the Souris band carried out their part of the programme in fine style. Those in charge of the arrangements deserve the highest commendation for their excellent judgment and good taste.

The speaking commenced at 2.25, when Mr. A. L. Fraser, the popular Conservative candidate mounted the platform. He was received with enthusiastic applause. He spoke very briefly, simply thanking those present for their warm reception and then introduced Mr. Borden. It was just 2.30 when Mr. Borden began to speak. He was received with hearty cheers and unbounded enthusiasm. The assembled multitude which Mr. Borden addressed must have been over two thousand. The best of order prevailed and the immense audience listened with intense interest to the Leader's masterly address, and every now and then broke out into enthusiastic applause. Mr. Borden spoke for very nearly an hour, and unfolded to his listeners many phases of the momentous question on which the electors have to vote on the 21st inst. It is utterly impossible for us, with our limited space, to give any long report of his speech. Suffice it to say that he advanced unanswerable arguments that the electors have in their own hands in this election the political destiny and commercial independence of Canada, as they never had before. He showed in eloquent and uncontrovertible terms, the proud position she had achieved in virtue of her boundless natural resources; the indomitable perseverance of her sons and the expenditure of many hundreds of millions of money. Our motto should then be "what we have we'll hold." Referring to the misappropriation of public money Mr. Borden expressed his conviction that for every year the Liberal party had been in power since 1896 an average of \$10,000,000 of the public money had been squandered and misappropriated. He said he was not one of those who believed in niggardliness in public expenditure; but for every dollar expended a dollar's worth should be received in return. He enumerated the steps leading up to the dissolution and the Government's suicidal course regarding reciprocity. When reciprocity would have been a benefit to us the United States would not give it to us. Now conditions have changed; we have grown prosperous and independent of the trade of the United States, and our neighbors have grown envious of us and seek by this reciprocity move to entrap us to taking down the bars. Our producers and exporters are now receiving better prices on the whole than those of the United States. Why then should we destroy this admirable condition of things? The move for this reciprocity has come from the Americans; it would be to their advantage, not to ours. Should our people then throw down the bars to please Uncle Sam? This was the manner of argument Mr. Borden dealt in to the delight of his hearers.

Referring to our disabilities in this Province he stated, here, at Summerside and Charlottetown, that should he be returned to power his Government would at once take means by survey, to test the practicability of the tunnel. Should it be found reasonably practicable it would be proceeded with; if not other means of communication would be brought to us as high a degree of perfection as possible. He also promised to remedy the three short hauls and our other transportation inconveniences. More than this, Mr. Borden expressed his intention of assisting, from the Federal treasury, the improving of our highways and also assistance to practical agricultural education. These emphatic, clear cut, unequivocal expressions of Mr. Borden are in striking contrast with the conduct of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding who never referred to any of our numerous disabilities. At the close of his splendid address Mr. Borden was loudly cheered.

Mr. Hazen was given an ovation when he commenced to speak at 3.30. He is a man of splendid presence and a most brilliant orator. He expressed his pleasure at accompanying his Leader Mr. Borden and said there was no man better fitted to give to Canada, what she so badly needed, clean and progressive government. As matters now stood, the Government of the Dominion was run in the interest of the grafters and dishonest hangers on. The question of paramount importance to us he said, was that relative to our future connection. Would that be British or United States? He pointed out how all public men and newspapers in the United States were in favor of the pact, which was the same old dose only sugar coated, turned down in 1891. At the present time we have the best of prices and the best of markets. He had the authority of Sir Charles Beresford for the declaration that 260 tons of foodstuffs came into Great Britain every minute of the year. The trade of Canada is equal to \$97 per head of population, while that of the United States is \$33. The Hearst newspapers are engaged in a propaganda of annexation, and they have the approbation of President Taft, and those papers are sent free through the Canadian mails. If the United States farmers are so much better off than ours, why did 100,000 of them come to Canada, and why are they still coming? They have the advantage of the \$90,000,000 market. Mr. Hazen pointed out that reciprocity would ruin our horse, pork, mutton and butter trade. Last year, with the barriers up, \$33,000,000 of American products came into Canada; what would be the result when these barriers are taken down? The farmers of New England have all the advantages of the \$90,000,000 market, yet there are 70,000 vacant farms there? Why is all this? Mr. Hazen concluded a masterly address of over an hour amid loud cheers. Mr. John McLean and Mr. J. A. Mathieson spoke briefly, when the proceedings closed with cheers for our Leader, etc.

The reception tendered Mr. Borden and Mr. Hazen at Charlottetown eclipsed anything of a similar nature ever undertaken in this Province. The arrangements were complete and were carried out without the slightest hitch. When the special train from Souris reached here at 7.30, every inch of space within and without the railway premises was occupied by a good natured, enthusiastic throng of humanity. The sight of Mr. Borden was the signal for

voiceferous cheering. The enthusiasm was contagious and those outside the yard caught the infection, so that the Leader's progress to the carriage in waiting was a continuous ovation. All along up Water Street was lined with humanity and in the centre was a double line of torches divided up by bands of music. The torch bearers were not hired boys, but sturdy farmers, mechanics and artisans, who felt honored in escorting the future Premier of Canada. The immense torch-light procession was admirably marshalled and was headed by a chief marshal mounted. Just as the march was about to commence the horses were unharnessed and the barouche with the Leader and his companions was borne along in triumph by the people, between lines of cheering throngs. All along the line of march fireworks shot skyward, the bands played and the people cheered.

The Market Hall and the Opera House had been engaged for the speakers, and long before the Leader arrived both places were crowded to the doors and incalculable numbers could not get in. In consequence of the two meetings Mr. Borden and Mr. Hazen had to make two speeches. All the arrangements left nothing to be desired, and not a single hitch occurred. In the Market Hall the stand for the speakers was on the north side and all the assembled throng could see and hear. The same good arrangement prevailed at the Opera House.

It was just 8.10 o'clock when Mr. Borden commenced to speak in the Market Hall. He was received with the most unbounded enthusiasm and cheers. He said, in the beginning, that his voice was not in as good condition as he would like. He had left fragments of it in almost every Province of Canada during the last ten weeks; but he hoped to have enough left for his own Province of Nova Scotia, and still a little to cheer on the night of the 21st. He then delivered a most comprehensive speech on the public questions and especially on reciprocity. He pointed out that a year ago, there was very little expectation of an election at this time. The Government, he said, had undertaken to rush this question without submitting it to the people, and only for the Opposition would have succeeded. He had no apology to offer for the conduct of himself and his followers. In March last he told Sir Wilfrid to complete his census, redistribute the seats, pass supply and come to the country. This offer was refused, and an attempt was made to push the pact through; but 88 Liberal Conservative members in the Opposition prevented this and forced the Government to submit the question to the electors. In the course of his speech, as at Souris, he said the spirit and letter of the terms of union between this Province and the mainland regarding communication and transportation would be carried out. He also reiterated his declaration regarding assistance for highways and agricultural education.

He pointed out that the most willful misrepresentation of the attitude and conduct of the Opposition had been made by the Liberal press and politicians. He declared that if he and his opposition friends had acted otherwise than they had, they would, and should, be ashamed to come before the electors. He considered they were fighting for the people's rights when they thus stood out. In consideration of the changed conditions, the British market was nearer to Canada today than was the United States market under the old reciprocity. The United States wanted to exploit Canada's natural resources. The reciprocity pact was essentially the same as before the people in 1891, and the consequences of its adoption would be, 1st commercial advantage to the United States, and 2nd political absorption by that country. Did the Canadian people desire anything of that kind? One would imagine to hear the advocates of this pact, that 90,000,000 Americans were waiting at the border with their mouths open to be fed by our farmers. He closed a splendid speech of an hour's duration, by a strong appeal for Canadian nationality and British connection. As Mr. Borden resumed his seat, the vast audience broke out into enthusiastic cheers.

While Mr. Borden was going to the Opera House and Mr. Hazen coming from there, Mr. A. A. McLean, Con-

servative candidate delivered a vigorous speech. At the same time, Mr. Nicholson, the other Conservative candidate spoke in the Opera House.

It was just 9.40 when Mr. Hazen commenced his address in the Market Hall. He was received with applause and cheers. He commenced by thanking the people for the most spontaneous and hearty demonstration tendered Mr. Borden and himself in this Province. He first referred briefly to the numerous scandalous wastes of public money by the Laurier Government. The Lanctot scandal and the McGillivray exposure of the Oliver deal. He then plunged into the reciprocity question. He expressed his absolute conviction that the reciprocity pact was simply the first step in a conspiracy to hand Canada over to the people of the United States. The grip of the trusts is fastened on the throats of every farmer and every consumer in the United States, and the adoption of this pact by Canada would place us at the mercy of these trusts. He referred to the pulp-wood industry and showed how Canada's supply of this material would be completely exploited and exhausted by this arrangement. He stood with Mr. Borden in his policy regarding the tunnel, transportation and financial assistance in the matter of highways and agricultural education. At the conclusion of Mr. Hazen's speech the audience rose and cheered and cheered again. This was brought to a close the most successful and most memorable public demonstration that Charlottetown has ever witnessed. The spontaneity, the enthusiasm and the earnestness of the people surely presage victory for Mr. Borden and his lieutenants on the 21st.



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