FIGHTING SPEECH BY RALPH SMITH

Liberal Meeting at the Institute Hall Was Marked by the Greatest Enthusiasm ---Stirring Addresses.

Beyond all question the Liberal meeting in Institute hall last night was the most gathering of the campaign. The place was crowded and intense enthusiasm reigned supreme. In striking contrast with the frigid and unresponsive "rally" of Tories in the Victoria theatre, this meeting augurs certain victory for the ticket containing the names of Messrs. Drury, Cameron, McNiven and Hall. Live issues were handled in a manner which carried conviction to every one in the audience, and there were speakers present whose splendid oratory thrilled their large concourse of listeners.

It has been frequently asserted of late that this campaign has been devoid of the spirited fighting which characterized preceding election contests, that there has been insufficient fire at the different gatherings to rouse the masses of the people to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. This assuredly can be charged against the Conservative meeting in the theatre but not against the Liberal rally in Institute hall. It was just such a gathering which warmed the heart of the veteran campaigner and recalled the strenuous fights of the past.

The platform was occupied by many prominent Liberals, including the candidates, and Ralph Smith and Chas. H. Lugrin who were also to speak. Dr. Milne presided. Owing to the number of speakers and the fact that the two well known gentlemen mentioned were to address the meeting the chairman limited the speeches of the candidates. The addresses of Mr. Lugrin and Mr. Smith were most effective, and throughout were punctuated with unrestrained cheering. The latter made an especially powerful address, in fact one of the ablest and most stirring efforts ever heard on a platform in this city. Fortunately there was in the meeting a condition which never fails to draw from this sturdy orator his very best. This was the presence of two or three disturbers—certain individuals who called themselves Socialists, who unwisely undertook to interrupt the speaker by hurling charges at him. Those who have heard Mr. Smith do not require to be told what happened. Certainly Socialism in Victoria received a scorching such as it never got before, a blow which was administered by a man who had the full sympathy, esteem and commendation of his audience.

After each of the candidates had spoken Mr. McMicking arose in the audience, and on behalf of the Lord's Day Alliance put the two questions regarding the liquor traffic regulation act specified below. Needless to say the answers of the candidates, given unhesitatingly, were in thorough accord with the view of the audience and assuredly the citizens generally.

The Chairman.

The chairman complimented the meeting on its large attendance, which he described as an augury of victory. In fact throughout the whole campaign the prospects had been most encouraging to the Liberal candidates, and he had not the slightest doubt of the result.

Mr. Drury.

R. L. Drury needless to say was accorded a splendid reception. He pointed out that during the last ten days the Liberal candidates had addressed public meetings throughout the city on the vital questions of the day, dealing exhaustively with the multitude of matters wherein reform was badly needed.

The speaker then enumerated these questions briefly enunciating the attitude of the Liberal party throughout the province towards them.

He referred particularly to the maladministration of land. For the past fifteen years the government record on this question had been shameful, and there was no right-thinking man in the province who would not recoil from a repetition. And among the Conservative candidates were men responsible for this state of affairs.

This was a great province—a country with matchless resources and a bright future if wisely governed. It therefore behooved the electors to establish in power men who would give the government which the province needed. All remembered the era of prosperity ushered in with the return of the Liberal administration in 1896. He appealed to the electors to repeat this triumph, to ensure an administration worthy of this splendid country. (Applause.)

Before Mr. Drury resumed his seat Mr. McMicking arose in the audience and asked the following questions:

"1st. Will you support a measure legalizing the opening of saloons or other places licensed for sale of liquor, or the sale of liquor therein on Sundays, or on any of the hours during which such sale is now prohibited by law?

"2nd. Will you oppose such a measure as above stated?"

Amid an uncontrollable outburst of applause Mr. Drury gave an emphatic "No" in reply to the first question and a decided "Yes" to the second.

The chairman then called upon Ald. W. G. Cameron, whose reception reflected the high esteem in which he is universally held.

Ald. Cameron.

In opening his remarks Ald. Cameron promised not to exceed his time limit, but there were a number of points which should be touched upon no matter how brief may be the time allotted him. As a Liberal candidate he endorsed the Federal government, especially their recent legislation such as the Grand Trunk Pacific and the granting of the lead bounty.

Electors doubtless understood thoroughly that the conditions of British Columbia were deplorable. This was due to bad government. A change was needed to restore confidence in this splendid province. If the party which had been in power so long (of whom the Conservatives were in the majority) were returned again no improvement could be expected.

But the Liberal party stood for the restoration of prosperity and confidence in the province. To those who were doubtful he appealed particularly to record their votes in favor of the movement for a change.

If elected, as they expected to be, they would do their utmost to be faithful to the trust reposed in them. He urged all to turn out in force and return the solid Liberal ticket. (Applause.)

The two questions above mentioned were then put to Ald. Cameron, who unhesitatingly replied "No" to the first and "Yes" to the second, amid applause.

Richard Hall.

Richard Hall was very favorably received. He observed that although the Liberals didn't have the opera house they had the people, and on Saturday they would carry the electorate. (Applause.)

The indications throughout were most encouraging and gratifying to the Liberal candidates.

Conservatives had said that the Liberals lacked a leader, but when the Liberal party was returned a leader would be selected who would be worthy of the people's trust. They would have a government which would carry out the principles laid down by the Laurier government—an administration which had done more for Canada than any government in her history. They had a splatform embodying legislation which all must admit was sadly needed. But what about the Conservatives? They had no policy and nothing to justify their claim for the suffrages of the electors. They alleged that Dominion politics should have no place in this campaign, and yet they were continuously criticising the present Federal administration. The Laurier government had provided for a transcontinental railroad which would work marvels for the development of commerce generally and British Columbia in particular.

The speaker then succinctly enumerated the various conditions of the contract, showing how advantageous they were to the country, and emphasized some of the many benefits which would follow the construction of the road.

The Dominion government had restored prosperity to the Kootenay by granting a lead bounty; had increased the head tax on Chinese to $500, and had exemplified its interest in the welfare of Victoria by the presence of the dredge, saving the municipality thousands of dollars.

Why, then, should not the electorate return a government in harmony with the Federal administration?

Mr. Hall then enunciated the different planks of the Liberal platform, devoting attention to the necessity of diminishing the cost of legislation, civil service reform, the preservation of game, the desirability of affording adequate educational facilities, and the establishment of state aided technical institutes.

In closing Mr. Hall said that the splendid conscientious fight being waged by the Liberal supporters was highly creditable. They had no mercenaries in the field—their work had been clean. He asked the electorate to return the solid ticket on Saturday, and usher in an era of prosperity throughout the province. (Applause.)

Mr. Hall gave a strong "No" in reply to Mr. McMicking's first question and an equally strong "Yes" to the second. (Applause.)

J. D. McNiven.

Mr. McNiven, the labor representative on the Liberal ticket, was received with cheers.

He expressed pleasure on addressing so large an audience as the standard bearer of the great Liberal party, which all must acknowledge was the party of progress. He was the representative of the workingmen on the Liberal ticket. His nomination was due to the workingmen. But if elected he would represent the community at large—not one particular class. In the past labor had not had proper representation in the legislature. Their conditions would undoubtedly be improved by the presence of one of their number in the House, and he felt that they would show their recognition of this fact in the election on Saturday.

He emphatically declared that history showed that the Liberals were the only party from whom labor could get justice.

Take the present field of candidates. On the Liberal side throughout the province there were seven labor candidates; on the Conservative tickets there were none. Liberalism and labor went hand in hand.

This country had had many strikes and lockouts, but these had not been as disastrous to its property as the bad government for which the Conservatives stood.

Not only in this province, but throughout Canada, the Labor and Liberal parties worked together. In support of this he read the following dispatch to the Times from Ottawa:

"A delegation from the Trades and Labor Congress waited on Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir W. Mulock yesterday and protested strongly against the Manufacturers' Association's conduct in attacking the labor department and the minister of labor. The delegation spoke strongly in favor of the department, and approved of the minister of labor. Sir William Mulock, in reply, said that the department of labor was there to stay." (Applause.)

This was the attitude of Liberalism towards labor. He asked that the workingmen recognize this by returning the four candidates on the Liberal ticket. A great deal of clap trap had been indulged in by Conservatives in regard to the Dominion government's attitude towards the Chinese. This talk was entirely for the purpose of vote catching. The Federal authorities had made adequate provision which would prohibit Asiatics from obtaining employment on the Grand Trunk construction or other works. Mr. McNiven closed with an earnest appeal on behalf of the Liberal ticket.

Before resuming his seat he gave a vigorous "No" the first of the Lord's Day Alliance question, and an emphatic "Yes" to the second.

Alex. Wilson arose in the audience at this juncture and asked the candidates if, in the event of their election, they would introduce an amendment to the present liquor regulation act, of absolutely prohibiting the sale of liquor in saloons on Sunday and compelling the removal of blinds and screens from saloon windows.

All the candidates expressed themselves strongly in favor of the strict enforcement of the act prohibiting absolutely the sale of liquor in saloons on Sunday.

Mr. Hall and Ald. Cameron pointed out that the present act provided for such prohibition, and if it was not enforced the fault rested with the municipality. (Applause.)

Mr. Wilson remarked that Chief Langley had told him that the act as it was at present was defective. Convictions could not be obtained unless men were actually caught drinking on Sunday.

C. H. Lugrin.

Mr. Lugrin delivered an able address which roused the greatest enthusiasm. Cheering was frequent, and when the speaker was finished he received an ovation which lasted several minutes.

He said he felt a great responsibility in addressing so large an audience, but that responsibility rested equally upon him as a voter, and upon his hearers as voters. If it was his duty to encourage the Liberals to victory, it was also theirs to do their utmost to secure the triumph of a party which the welfare of this province demanded should be returned.

This was a great province in every respect, but capital shunned it and prosperity had given it the cold shoulder. For years there had been great uncertainty as to the laws and government. There had been discrimination, repudiation and extravagance which had piled up a heavy debt. This over-expenditure had been increasing three times as fast as the revenue of the province. The government was embarrassed in financial matters, so that big enterprises could not be carried out, while transcontinental matters had been made a football of. Was it a wonder that a change was needed?

All had hoped when John Oliver, that splendid Liberal, had launched his thunderbolt at the government, when the Prior government was dismissed, that good times were coming. But the same men who had so notoriously misgoverned this country were standing behind Richard McBride's back trying to secure his return in this contest.

Mr. McBride should have told the people of British Columbia how he proposed to remedy the conditions under which they suffered. He had not done so except in one instance, to which the speaker would refer later.

At Comox Mr. McPhillips had said that the Conservative policy was the platform adopted by the party in Revelstoke two years ago. But the platform of a party was not the policy of a government. It was the duty of Mr. McBride to announce his policy.

The Premier, however, had announced himself on one point. He had declared himself unalterably opposed to fish traps. Mr. Pooley had said this was a Dominion question, but Mr. MyBride by his declaration made it a provincial question. If the people of British Columbia returned the McBride government how difficult is would be to impress upon Hon. Mr. Prefontaine, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, that fish traps were wanted here.

The provinces claimed the water within the three-mile limit. If this view was confirmed by the court the question of fish traps became a vital local issue. The Dominion government may grant licenses, but the provincial government would have the right to say whether fish traps would be established or not.

If Hon. Mr. McBride was returned and the contention of the province sustained, would there be any fish traps established in this province? No, there would not.

The Liberal candidates had informed the Board of Trade that they were in favor of fish traps. Three Conservatives said the same, but Hon. Mr. McPhillips evaded the question—he shuffled. He knew he was bound by the declaration of his leader.

Mr. Lugrin enumerated the benefits which would follow the establishment of traps, and asked that men should be returned who would unite with the Dominion government for the establishment of methods of salmon fishing which would place British Columbia fishermen on equal terms with those on the other side.

Passing to the finances of the country, Mr. Lugrin said he believed the country would stand large expenditure, but he was opposed to borrowing money to pay interest, to pay salaries, to keep in office a lot of useless individuals. Applause.)

The cost of legislation, executive government and administration of justice in Manitoba was $179,000, while in British Columbia it was $580,000. This province has gone behind at the rate of $600,000 per year for five years, and yet the government of Mr. McBride had no remedy to restore equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. For that reason alone he should be condemned.

The speaker then took up the record of the Conservative government with reference to legislation affecting the Chinese. In 1884, when this province sought to impose a head-tax of $50 on Chinese, the act was disallowed by the Conservative government. In 1885 it was re-enacted and again disallowed, and eventually the best the Conservatives could do was to provide an inadequate tax of $50.

White labor must never be driven from this province by Asiatics. (Applause.)

The Liberal party had shown that it wanted British Columbia to be a country of homes and not a camping ground for coolies; and the Conservative party in the Senate had opposed legislation which would make British Columbia a country of homes. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. McPhillips had said that the Conservative party in this province was the lineal descendant of the reformers of Ontario. He wondered that the ghost of Sir John Macdonald did not rise from his grave and reproach the Attorney-General for such a statement.

Mr. Lugrin then indulged in a number of witty sallies at the expense of the so-called "Liberal-Conservatives," making use of Disraeli's scathing reference to them, which caused great merriment.

The speaker paid a high tribute to the personnel of the Liberal ticket. Of Mr. McNiven he said there was no man in Canada worthier to represent the great labor party in the legislature. (Applause.)

The Conservative party claimed that it was the only party that could govern the country, but one had only to glance at its record to show how unfounded was this claim. That party had always fought against the rights of the people; and Mr. Lugrin mentioned a number of instances in Canadian history in proof of his assertion.

After a glowing refernce to the Grand Trunk Pacific the speaker closed with an eloquent appeal for the return of the Liberal party. (Applause and cheers.)

Ralph Smith.

The chairman expressed deep gratification at the stand taken by the young men in this campaign. He then introduced Ralph Smith, in the course of which he paid a high tribute to Mr. Smith as a public man. He stood in the Dominion parliament as a representative of labor——

A voice: "Yes, and he has gone back on labor."

The chairman: "Mr. Smith is like Mr. McNiven. He is not representing one class only, but the country as a whole." (Applause.)

Continuing, the chairman said that Mr. Smith had shown himself to be a true representative of the people in the parliament of the country, and was widely respected as one who always stood up for the people's rights. (Applause.) He then called upon Mr. Smith.

The well-known labor leader was received with a storm of cheers, which lasted several minutes. When he was able to proceed he said:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—I just now heard a remark from the audience to the effect that I had gone back on the Labor party. I will be pleased to give the gentleman who uttered it ten minutes in which to prove his charges."

A young man rose from his seat in the hall, strode jauntily to the platform and struck an attitude which caused a great deal of amusement. It was G. W. Wrigley, a member of the local Socialist body, and there were apparently two or three trusty henchmen present to supply him with the necessary sand—and mud. He started in vociferously:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen——"

"Who are you? Where do you come from? What are you?" were the questions fired at him from the audience who gleefully anticipated an exhibition (which certainly followed).

"I recognize no boundary line," replied Wrigley with fine scorn, a roll of the eye and a majestic sweep of the arm.

Mr. Hall and others: "If you are not a British subject we don't want to hear you." (Applause.)

"Did you come to ask a question?" queried the chairman.

"No," bawled out Mr. Wrigley, "I did not. I am a native of Canada, but I recognize no boundary line. In the words of Tom Paine the world is the workingmen's country. I belong to that great Socialist party which had rolled up such a vast majority in Germany."

That was enough. The audience with infinite disgust told him to expose himself no longer. They wanted to hear reasonable issues discussed. The Socialist posed interestingly for some time, but was plainly unable to appreciate the fact that his presence on the platform was distasteful to the ladies and gentlemen in the audience. He had been invited by Mr. Smith to make his charges and prove them, so the chairman indulgently permitted him to remain.

Ultimately Wrigley charged that Mr. Smith had gone back on labor because he had been elected as a Labor representative from Nanaimo, and was now on the Liberal platform. The chairman said Mr. Smith had risen in the estimation of the public. He had not risen in the estimation of the workingmen.

This was all the audience would permit Mr. Wrigley to say. He attempted to say more—apparently intending to give an exposition of the Socialist platform. He was evidently wound up for the night. The audience wanted to hear Mr. Smith, not Mr. Wrigley, and quite properly intimated so. The Socialist, who had now thoroughly advertised himself, left the platform, remarking that he could not get a fair hearing.

Mr. Smith resumed his remarks amid a renewed outbreak of cheering. He said that he was so accustomed to the picture that had just been presented that it was not at all disconcerting to him. He was so accustomed to hearing false statements, malicious lies from men who called themselves Socialists, but who could be more appropriately designated anarchists—(applause)—that he was not at all disturbed by the interruption. He was so accustomed to hearing charges hurled at him and finding his traducers unable to prove their calumnies that, he repeated, he was not in the least disconcerted.

Those two or three men in the audience who interrupted him were sleeping when he went down into a coal mine to work at eleven years of age. They had had privileges which had been denied him. They, like the petty fellows they were, did not know anything at all about the conditions of the workingmen. And yet they posed as the saviours of the workingmen.

The speaker's conception of the workingman was too broad for the Socialists. If these manifestations of character stood for anything, if the vicious slandering of people by slanderers who never knew them stood for anything, the champions of Socialism should be masters of the country. He conceded that these people who called themselves Socialists had the right to their own opinions, but they were the last to admit that anybody else had.

Slander, demagoguery and ignorance had ruined many a body, and would inevitably ruin the Socialist party of British Columbia. He challenged anyone to say when he had been negligent of the interest of the workingmen, when he did not speak against tyranny of which workingmen were the victims, whether in the provincial or Dominion House. He had stood by his principles, and was not afraid to do so.

What would the Socialist do if sent to the legislature or to Ottawa for instance? Party affiliations compelled a member to vote either yes or no on the great questions brought up. What would the Socialist vote? Would he vote or sneak out the back door. He (the speaker) supported Liberalism in preference to Conservatism, because he was sensible enough to take the best that's going. He had been accused of going back on the Labor party and of being a fakir. If the gentleman and his friends who made these charges are not fakirs and deceivers, he most emphatically declared that it was not their fault.

Mr. Smith then instanced a case in which one of the interrupters present had branded a sterling labor representative as a fakir because he had a position in the employ of the Dominion government, and yet that very same man was now in the employ of the provincial government.

Mr. Wrigley: "That man sacrificed his principles for his job."

Mr. Smith: "Have you a job? How do we know you didn't sacrifice your principles for your job?"

A crisis now faced the country and the time had come when the spirit of the people must rise and take this evil of slander and blackguardism by the throat and destroy it. An honest man could not walk down the streets without being subjected to vile aspersions. The very papers of this element had sunk so low as to call the churches of this land houses of prostitution. Mr. Smith quoted from the Clarion, the Socialist organ in Vancouver, to prove his statement.

He supported the Liberal party because he believed it would do the best for Canada. Within the past three years he had sat in the Dominion House more had been done for workmen than in the thirty years previously. The speaker then alluded to the great labor leaders in the old country who were supporting the Liberal party, and pointed out that only one of the number who had started out as a Socialist remained Socialist. That one was H. Kier Hardie, a political Ishmaelite.

If for no other reason, he appealed on the platform to support James McNiven, a printer, a trade-unionist, and, best of all, a gentleman, and worthy to represent the great laboring classes in the legislature.

Comparing the two parties, Mr. Smith said the Conservatives were not interested enough in the welfare of the country to think a policy necessary. They must be judged by their individual record and their collective record as a party. Mr. Helmcken, Mr. Joseph Hunter, Mr. Pooley, Mr. Eberts, Mr. McPhillips, A. W. Smith were the same men who contributed to the misgovernment in the past. The Conservative party stood for an open ballot. In 1894 the speaker lost his deposit when running against John Brydon because the ballot was open. Mr. Foster and Mr. Kidd (Liberals) were the chief among those who won the closed ballot. The spirit of Liberalism always fought for the rights of the people.

Mr. Smith then scathingly alluded to the fact that it wasn't until the Semling government (composed principally of Liberals) came into power that the coal company was compelled to test the validity of the act to exclude Chinese from mines, an act which had been passed seven years previously. The Conservative party—the gang that tied up the public domain—gave away 23,000,000 acres of land to the C.P.R. and $50,000,000 and reserved for the country not one particle of control. Why should this party be expected to give consideration to the masses of the people?

Mr. Smith then compared the C.P.R. and Grand Trunk Pacific contracts and said that the Liberals should be supported if for no other reason than for the magnificent legislation that had just been provided. It was the greatest business proposition in the history of the country.

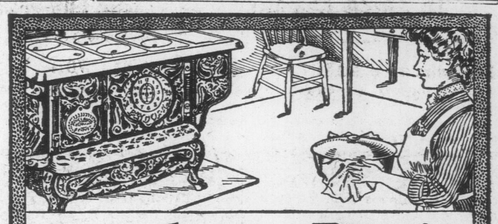
He was surprised that Premier McBride had criticised it. Mr. Borden had nothing to say against it. It had been suggested that the government should own the Grand Trunk Pacific from ocean to ocean. What indication had the Ottawa authorities that the people of Canada wanted this course? The municipalities of British Columbia did not adopt government ownership of utilities, although they could do so if they wanted.

The Colonist was "playing up" a resolution introduced by Mr. Bennett in the Dominion House excluding Chinese from employment on the Grand Trunk. Nobody should be alarmed. This resolution was simply a coincidence. There was a provincial election on in British Columbia and a dispatch line to Ottawa. That explained the whole thing and why the Conservative party at Ottawa was allowing itself to be used as a tool in this campaign.

The speaker then referred to the increase in the Chinese head-tax to $500 and expressed an honest pride in what he had done to accomplish this much-needed legislation. The Colonist of all things was the last which should make any complaint. This paper, which was so abjectly subservient to outside influences, was killing itself by personalities. Mr. Smith stigmatized the Conservative organ as the greatest literary catspaw in the country, for which he had as much respect as he had for the Socialists. It associated with people who stood for Chinese employment in its worst form.

Mr. Smith then alluded to the Colonist cartoon of Tuesday morning and suggested another. He would have the ship in the picture replaced by a mine with Chinese bodies lying inside and dead white men around. For the sunshine and animation in the picture published he would substitute fire-damp and coal dust. Standing around he would depict widows and orphans whose woe was caused by the employment of Chinese in those mines, and under the picture would appear these words, uttered by the mine inspector: "I believe that nearly all the accidents in these mines are due to ignorant Chinese."

Mr. Smith dealt with a number of other subjects and closed a magnificent speech with an appeal for the return of the party which would stand by the masses of the people. Three cheers for the candidates and the national anthem concluded the meeting.



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PLEASANT GATHERING IN METHODIST CHURCH

The Sunday School Workers Enjoyed a Banquet in Metropolitan Lecture Room Last Night.

On Tuesday the lecture hall of the Metropolitan church presented a lively appearance. The tables were richly laden with good things, to which the Sunday school workers of the city and surrounding country did ample justice. No efforts had been spared to make the annual gathering a success.

Promptly at 7 o'clock Noah Shakespeare invited all to take possession of the tables. After the supper considerable time was devoted to social intercourse. Mr. Shakespeare has been connected with Sunday school work since the year 1863, and is one of the most successful Sunday school superintendents in the Dominion. He has the happy faculty of retaining the good-will and confidence of a large army of consecrated workers, who heartily co-operate with him in his work.

In his address last evening he spoke of the origin of the Methodist Sunday School Union and to what had been done since its organization. The chief work that had been accomplished through its labors was the erection of the Strawberryvale church, a site being donated by Mr. Thomas Luscombe.

Events had proved the wisdom of their efforts. He was pleased to witness such a representative gathering, and spoke of the progress that had been made since Robert Rakies had organized his work in Gloucester in 1780. The scholars now numbered 25,000,000. The International Sunday School Association had now 100 paid agents who devoted their whole time to Sunday school work. The leading men in England, United States, Australia and Canada were engaged in this work, and the best minds had produced the best methods for successful work. Some people were afraid of change, but it was wise to get out of the old ruts and move into the line of progress and development. Union was in the air, everything was organizing; so Christian forces ought to unite and give a long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether and help on the work of God.

Miss Deaville sung an inspiring solo. Mr. T. W. Martindale read a very good paper on "Our Boys and Girls for Christ."

Mr. Holt and Mr. Westcott spoke in a complimentary manner and agreed with its sentiments and believed that it was necessary to give the scholars something to do in order to retain them in the school.

Mr. T. W. Martindale then sung a solo in pleasing style, entitled "For I Have a Savior With Me All the Way."

Mr. Lewis believed that good laws made good citizens, and that parents ought also to be more interested in their children.

Mr. Deaville spoke of the very great help the school had been to Christian people.

W. M. Ritchie then read a most helpful paper on the subject of "The Teacher's Preparation for the Class."

Rev. Dr. Elliott S. Rowe spoke of his pleasure at the large gathering and hoped that when Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, who would soon visit the Coast, arrived in this city there would be a similar gathering to so eloquently express the welcome. He spoke of the successful work being done among the children and classed the work of training the children as being most satisfactorily carried on. He was pleased to say that leading men of the learned professions, the best literary men and others had been engaged in Sunday school work, which was making rapid progress, notwithstanding such adverse criticisms as had been made by the editor of the Ladies' Home Journal.

Mr. Longfield presided at the piano, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to the ladies for the good things they had provided, after which the pleasant gathering was brought to a close by Rev. Osterhout, who pronounced the benediction.

Many teachers and workers were in attendance, which included the following superintendents and representatives:

H. J. Knott, Metropolitan church; N. Shakespeare, Centennial; W. Moore, Spring Ridge; T. W. Martindale, James Bay; S. M. Okell, Victoria West; Mrs. Etheridge, Strawberryvale; Mrs. Sam Jones, Strawberryvale; R. Fowke, South Saanich; J. W. Pimlett, South Saanich.

Y. M. C. A. BANQUET.

Celebration of the Inauguration of Winter's Work—Enjoyable Function.

Members of the Young Men's Christian Association and their friends gathered at the Y.M.C.A. building Wednesday night for the purpose of celebrating the inauguration of the work for the ensuing winter season. A banquet had been prepared for the occasion at which R. W. Clarke, president of the association, presided. All those in attendance spent a pleasant time, and the excellent repast provided was not the only thing enjoyed, for an impromptu programme, consisting of musical selections and interspersed with speeches, was afterwards given, and, judging by the heartiness of the applause, much appreciated.

After the president had made a brief address, the Rev. Mr. Vichert was called upon and responded with a rousing speech. Pointing out the almost phenomenal progress the Y. M. C. A. had made since its inception, he said that its present excellent standing augured well for the future. The officers, he remarked, deserved to be congratulated. The Y. M. C. A. filled a need that was felt in every city. Its work in connection with the young men went further than that of the church, satisfying not only the spiritual needs, but the mental and physical.

J. T. Little, the secretary, outlined the work it is proposed to carry on in connection with the Y. M. C. A. during the winter months. There would be three distinct kinds of work, the physical, which included gymnastics and prescriptive exercises; educational, which embraces evening classes and occasional lectures; and the social. In connection with the latter, he said it was the intention to organize a chess club, a literary club, and a "first voting" club in the near future. In conclusion, he pointed out that at different times during the present week no less than 400,000 young men, members of the Y. M. C. A., had gathered throughout the country to celebrate the advent of the winter season. (Applause.)

Addresses were also given by A. J. Pineo, Leonard Tait and Mr. Taft, jr., who have consented to assist the Y. M. C. A. by conducting classes of instruction during the winter. As already announced, the former will teach mineralogy and the latter arithmetic, while Mr. L. Tait will have charge of practical bookkeeping classes.

Among those who contributed to the musical portion of the programme were Messrs. T. W. Martindale, Jos. Kingham and Talbot. Albert Middleton gave an excellent recitation, and a few remarks were made by Charles Burden on behalf of the young men's committee of the association.

PRIZE WINNERS.

A fairly large string of Victoria dogs were sent over to compete at the show being held in connection with the Westminster fair, and, as will be seen by the appended list of prize winners, they were very successful: T. P. McConnell's English setter, Count Rego, 1st puppy, 1st limit, 1st open and winners. T. P. McConnell's English setter, Alberts Rosalind, 1st limit, 1st open, winners and special for best English setter in show. This win makes Alberts Rosalind a champion. Geo. Florence's fox terrier, Wandee Revelry, 1st limit, 1st open and winners. Mrs. J. J. Bostock's fox terrier, Reminiscence, 1st limit, open and winners. W. F. Hall's fox terrier, Cadger of Oaks, 1st novice, reserve winners. W. F. Hall's St. Bernard, His Highness, 1st open, winners and special. J. W. Creighton's cocker spaniel, Jesamond Ravnef, 1st puppy, open and winners.

Reminiscence, a fox terrier belonging to Mrs. J. J. Bostock, won open winners and special prizes for best fox terrier in show. She is now a champion, having the necessary number of wins to her credit. Reminiscence was bred by Walter Kersey, of London, England, and has never met with defeat in British Columbia. Her record follows: First puppy, first limit, first open and first winners, Nanaimo, 1902; first limit, first open and first winners, Victoria, April 1903; first open, first winners, Victoria summer show, 1903; first open and first winners, Nanaimo show, 1903, and the above wins at New Westminster.