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The Edmonton Bulletin.

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1907.

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ALBERTA LIBERALS FOREGATHER AT VEGREVILLE TO HONOR J.B. HOLDEN

Complimentary Banquet to Vermilion Member a Brilliant Social and Political Demonstration----Two Members of Government Deliver Agressive Speeches----Announcement Made by Minister of Agriculture of the Securing of the Services of Arch. McNeilage, of Glasgow, Expert Stock Judge, for the Agricultural Society Exhibitions in the Province This Summer.

The lusty young town of Vegreville was the scene of a brilliant social and political demonstration Tuesday night in honor of Mr. James B. Holden, the member for Vermilion in the Alberta legislature. The event took the form of a banquet, which went off with flourish and eclat from start to finish. The whole function was characterized by excellent speeches, and model decorum. During the course of the evening excellent music was furnished by Messrs. G. A. Barker and Chas. Lynch with the violin and harp and by the Vegreville brass band.

Representatives from every corner of the mammoth riding of Vermilion were present to add their quota of praise to their energetic and popular young member in the legislature. The banquetting room was lavishly decorated with flags and bunting and over against the head of the table hung a splendid photoengravure of His Majesty the King.

Mr. Harry Bowtell, of Vermilion, and president of the Liberal Association, presided. Two members of the government were present who preside over the two departments that are most intimately connected with the development of this young province. These were the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Agriculture. Both delivered strong practical addresses which were enthusiastically received.

A considerable number of gentlemen were present who are not of the same political stripe as Mr. Holden, but who nevertheless are his personal friends and will always vote and work for "Jim" as he is known in every part of the riding. Possibly the most graceful and warm-hearted personal tribute of the evening was exjressed by Mr. F. A. Morrison, who is proud of his Tory ancestry and education, but at the same time was a cordial supporter of Mr. Holden's candidacy for the legislature. Similar remarks might be made of Mr. A. R. Moody, of Beaver Lake, and others. It was a question of manliness and devotion to public interests transcending all the badges and shibboleths of party.

The chairman opened the proceedings in a formal speech after which telegrams and letters of regret were read from Premier Rutherford, Senator Roy, J. E. McPherson, M.P.P., E. H. Riley, M.P.P., J. R. Boyle, M.P.P., W. C. Simmons, M.P.P, John T. Moore, M.P.P., W. T. Telford, M.P.P., J. A. Simpson, M.P.P., H. W. McKenney, M.P.P., Jas. McGeorge, Edmonton, Geo. Harcourt, Edmonton, J. McCaig, Edmonton, Frank Pane, Beaver Lake, Lloydminster Liberal Association, and Edmonton Liberal Association.

It was eleven o'clock when the chairman opened the toast list with that of the King, which was received and drunk in the usual patriotic and enthusiastic manner. Then followed the toast of the Senate and House of Commons.

The Alberta Legislature.

Wm. Clements, mayor of Vegreville, proposed the toast of the Alberta Legislature. He said the policy of the government was in high favor in this province, but in no place was the policy so heartily approved as in Vegreville. He commended the telephone policy as far as it affected the province and particularly the town of Vegreville. He was assured the aim was the most efficient service at the least cost to the people. What had been done in Vegreville had been duplicated in every town in the province. The toast and speech of Mayor Clements was received with great enthusiasm.

Hon. W. H. Cushing.

The Minister of Public Works responded to this toast in one of his characteristically logical and business-like speeches. He expressed his pleasure at having an opportunity to do honor to the ability and faithfulness of the member for Vermilion. He could attest to his persistency and care in looknig after the interests of his constituents. Mr. Holden was always busy and no member of the legislature worked more continuously.

The Progress of Vegreville.

He considered the growth of the town of Vegreville phenomenal and rejoiced with the citizens in its prosperity. No town he knew had made greater prorgress. It was a town of plenty. He paid a graceful tribute to the excellent menu and to the efficient manner in which the catering was performed.

A Healthy Youngster.

Speaking of the Alberta legislature Mr. Cushing said that like the good town of Vegreville, it was young, but all would agree it was a healthy youngster. There possibly were some in the province who did not agree with the policy of the government, but if there were they were keeping very quiet. Mr. Cushing discussed in some detail the work of his own department, that of public works. The work was large inasmuch as it involves the equitable distribution of a large sum of money from the Peage river to the international boundary. The province was broken by so many streams that large sums were required for bridges, and still larger sums for roads to accommodate the rapidly increasing population of the province. It taxed the ingenuity of the administration and the revenues to provide all these much needed facilities.

Coal for the People.

Referring to the coal industry in this province Mr. Cushing said that from the events that were transpiring at the present time it looked as if some day in the near future it will be the duty of the government to take drastic steps to see that this great utility will be so managed that in a country where there is an abundance of coal such conditions and regulations shall prevail that the people shall not suffer through strike or famine.

Mr. Cushing said he often wondered why the local improvement districts were so loath to pay up the taxes when it was all spent in the district solely for road sand bridges. Last year $400,000 taxes had been assessed in the local improvement districts yet only $260,000 had been paid up. The cost in collecting had been $50,000.

1,500 Miles of Telephone.

The telephone policy of the government was reviewed. "The government had not been in office four months," said Mr. Cushing, "when enquiry was made into this question and legislation passed towards municipal and provincial control and operation." Ninety miles were built the first year and this year $200,000 were appropriated for the extension of the telephone system. It was expected if men and material were available 400 to 500 miles would be constructed this year. The government had in view the construction of 1,200 to 1,500 miles of telephones in this province so that in the end every town and city would be connected. Rural lines would be constructed which he hoped would do away with isolation of farm life and be a great blessing from a social and business point of view.

Foundations of Good Government.

As to the legislature itself there was none in Canada that had taken hold of the work entrusted to it that had discharged its duty so faithfully. "The members are warmly interested in their work, and are thinking more of laying the foundations of good government than seeking party advantages," said Mr. Cushing, "and after all that is the grand purpose of legislatures and parliaments in all countries."

The minister of public works predicted that immigration to this province would continue as long as land was available. It rested upon the government and the legislature to see that the affairs were managed by faithful and honest men. A great responsibility lay upon the electors to discharge the duties of high and unselfish citizenship.

F. A. Walker, M.P.P.

Mr. Walker drew a picture of the Vermilion valley today and fifteen years ago, when he drove up the valley before a house had been built in or a farm located. Now it was a rich and populous district of cultivated farms and thriving villages.

He paid a personal tribute to Mr. Holden and said in characteristic phrase of the west: "It's all coming to Jim." He humorously referred to his duties as whip, which gave free weep to his Irish proclivities to attempt to run the government. He paid a splendid tribute to the personnel of the legislature, and the members of the government, whom, he said, were not surpassed in Canada. They were always accessible and affable and willing to hear the members on behalf of their constituents.

The Guest of the Evening.

Mr. T. J. Cunningham proposed the toast of "Our Guest," which was received with round after round of applause and the singing of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

"Jim" Holden, the Energetic Liberal Member for Vermilion in the Provincial Legislature.

On rising to his feet Mr. Holden was greeted with another round of hearty cheers. He thanked them from his heart. Words could not express his appreciation. Conservatives and Liberals were present and gentlemen from every part of the riding. One gentleman, Mr. Turgeon, had come all the way from Hardisty, via Edmonton, to be present.

He reviewed the history of Vegreville and said when he drove a stake in the town a little over a year ago he had no idea of ever being marked for such honor. He admitted that he was working for the riding. People were coming fast. "As long as there is paper and postage the minister of public works will hear from me," said Mr. Holden. Vermilion was not wanting public buildings, but they did need roads and bridges.

"Let Frank Walker have his buffaloes, but I must have roads and bridges." "Let the people send in their wants to me and I will try and attend to them," was the ground Mr. Holden took before his constituents He expressed pleasure in being surrounded with so many of his school mates, who to a man had been his supporters.

The Liberal Party.

The honor of proposing this historic toast fell to the lot of Mr. J. A. McDougall, of Gilpin. The years of greatest prosperity in our history had been the years of Liberal administration in Canada.

Mr. Duncan Marshall, manager of the Edmonton Bulletin, replied in a characteristic and forceful speech. He declared he was in favor of party government as it best kept the administration up to the line of efficiency by a competent and energetic opposition. The Liberal party had been historically the party of the people and had won every principal reform on the statute books of the land today. He referred to the unexampled growth of our trade and commerce under the Liberal rule since 1896 and exploded the fallacy that it was due to the national policy. The secret of our prosperity was the stream of immigration and the consequent development of western lands. This was due to the best immigration propaganda ever inaugurated and to the fact that at the head of every department of the public service were men who were familiar with the needs of the country.

Mr. Marshall then went into a detailed account of the reforms enacted in the department of the interior by Hon. Frank Oliver. He showed that the department is administered solely in the interests of the actual settler. First there were the new timber regulations where, in unsurveyed districts squatters are given prior rights. Then again, in the northern part of this province the timber regulations had been liberalized in order to permit settlers to get timber at $1.50 per thousand feet, to use for building purposes. Hitherto it was impossible to get the timber unless the settler purchased a timber berth.

In the second place free miners' certificates were abolished which greatly facilitated the staking of miners' claims in the north. In the third place there were the new regulations regarding coal, that no coal lands shall be sold henceforth; simply leased subject to operation. That meant the coal for the settler. Another regulation of great importance was that the prior right was given to the homesteader for the coal on his homestead. When coal was discovered the settler had the first right to secure it. Mr. Oliver who knew the wants and hardships of the settlers by his twenty-five years of experience had abolished every vestige of red-tapeism, and had closed the door on speculation of every kind that might be practised at the expense of the settlers.

Referring to the alleged scandals charged by the opposition in the House of Commons, Mr. Marshall pointed out that no minister could remain in the cabinet of Sir Wilfrid Laurier who was not above suspicion. Liberalism was true to the core. In contrast to this Mr. Borden could not dislodge Foster and Fowler. Mr. Marshall further pointed out that the Conservatives of Dufferin, in Ontario, saw fit to choose as their member a man who had been disqualified for seven years for electoral impurity.

Continuing, the speaker pointed out the splendid work of the Railway Commission and Dr. McIntyre in securing the 3c rate. He justified the increasing expenditures which had not increased in the same ratio as our revenue and trade. The present Liberal government were spending many times as much on immigration, railways and public works as the former Conservative administration and yet the net debt of Canada had been decreased six million dollars during the last ten years.

In conclusion, Mr. Marshall paid a tribute to the provincial government for the beneficial legislation passed last session and cited the corporation tax as one of the most courageous pieces of legislation ever attempted in Canada.

Learned Professions

This toast was cleverly responded to by W. A. D. Lees, of Fort Saskatchewan; H. V. Fieldhouse, Vermilion; J. R. Louckes, of Vegreville, and F. A. Morrison, of Vegreville.

Mr. Lees, with considerable jovial banter, replied to the current criticism of the lawyers by the public, who regard them as a class of dishonest men. He had a good word for the other professions, especially for the medical men, who should be happy since they had no court of appeal in this world. The legal profession had distinguished itself in parliament and on the bench to the pride of the whole nation.

Mr. Fieldhouse said the lawyer's training gave him a splendid advantage as a legislator. He paid a tribute to the Alberta bar, and was convinced that with the present attorney-general at its head it would follow the best traditions of the profession and in the direct interests of the country.

Mr. Morrison said he was there because blood was thicker than politics, and if a banquet were given to Mr. Holden anywhere he would be there, and hoped he would be none the less a Conservative for it. Speaking of the profession of the lawyers, he said they answered for their sins every day. They were the men to whom the public came when in trouble, and to whom the business man gives his confidence. Of the common criticism often raised that there are too many lawyers in parliament, he said that no man should be elected because of his profession, but because he was the best available man in the riding. He was quite satisfied with the present representative of Vermilion, and heartily endorsed Mr. Cushing's sentiments that party names and labels were not all to be desired, but a government which sees through externals and trappings, and seeing understands is the government all true citizens desire.

Mr. J. R. Louckes said he was something of a stranger, only being four weeks in the town. He paid a personal tribute to Mr. Holden, and remarked on how muc hpublic and professional men owe dto their school teachers. He recited "How Batoche was Won" with splendid effect.

Agriculture, The Oldest Profession.

Mr. A. L. Horton, editor of the Vegreville Observer, proposed the toast of agriculture in a short and felicitous speech. He referred to agriculture as the oldest profession among men and one that had been practised on the earth since Adam left the garden. The farmer worked the soil, and everybody else tried to work the farmer.

When Hon. W. T. Finlay rose to reply to this toast he was received with three hearty cheers and a tiger. His reception was most cordial. He said that when he accepted the position of Minister of Agriculture he considered that his first duty was to come into close contact with the farmers on every occasion. With that end in view he visited every fair in the province except two last year, and these clashed with other fairs. He determined from the first to begin a progressive policy in his department. The department took up the creamery business and supplemented the work done by the Dominion Government. Eighteen creameries had been operated by the department, and as a result a quarter of a million of money had been distributed among the farmers of Alberta, which was not only a benefit to the farmer but was at the same time reflected in the increased business of the storekeepers in those districts where creameries were in operation. The butter brought the average price of 21 cents, a good figure for the entire season.

The next thing the government took up was the poultry industry. They had met with success in this experiment, so much so that they will increase their efforts in this direction with sanguine expectation of greater success. It is expected to conduct 12 to 14 co-operative fattening stations in conjunction with the creameries this year.

Mr. Finlay advised the people of Vegreville to take up the creamery work, and they would be heartily supported by the government in their efforts.

Mr. Finlay then outlined the work and the success of the stock judging schools that were conducted by the department of agriculture last winter; and also the work of the agricultural societies. With respect to the latter the minister of agriculture said that he noticed one drawback at the fairs, viz., the programs of the horse-racing and stock judging took place at the same time to the detriment of the latter. He advised that this difficulty be eliminated from the program of the fair as soon as possible.

Important Announcement.

The minister made a very important statement with regard to judging of stock at the fairs this year. He had been approached by the breeders of the province to get a judge from the old country. As a result, Mr. Archibald McNeilage, of Glasgow, the best Clydesdale breeder in Scotland, will come to Alberta this fall, superintend the judging of the horses, and give a course of lectures along these lines. He desired that this be advertised as widely as possible, and hoped that the farmers would avail themselves of this advantage.

He explained the importance and working of the Weeds Act, and strongly advised farmers to spare no means to clean these pests out.

In conclusion, he added his quota of praise to the qualities and services of Mr. Holden. No man, he said, could be more attentive to his duties, or held in higher esteem by his fellow members.

The Fourth Estate.

The toast of the Press was responded to by Mr. W. B. Cameron, of the Vermilion Signal and John Blue of the Edmonton Bulletin. Mr. Cameron referred to the almost universal support the press of the province was giving to the splendid administration of the provincial government. It was a sure index of the excellence of the government's program. He referred to the services and sacrifices of the great men of the press, and its influence in raising and moulding public opinion, and closed with an appreciative tribute to Hon. Frank Oliver as a shining example of his observation.

The banquet broke up with the singing of the National Anthem, and three rousing cheers for the guest whom all had come to honor.

Those Present.

The banquetters included men of every shade of opinion and calling and was an emphatic endorsation of Mr. Holden's services to his constituency. Among those who sat down were the following: Mayor Clements, Rev. A. Paterson, M.D., Father A. Bernier, Father Maur Mourey, Vegreville; Hon. W. H. Cushing; Hon. W. T. Finlay; Gray Turgeon, Hardisty; J. H. Dawson, Denwood; Dr. C. W. Field, Vegreville; W. B. Cameron, Vermilion; John Fleming, R. G. Watson, Wm. Parker; J. Stanley Reid, Vegreville; W. H. McClinton, Vermilion; B. Theraux, St. Paul; M. Lambert, Sought; Thos. Balaam, Vegreville; M. M. Brunelle, Innisfree; Hugh McAllister; B. W. Allen; George H. Whitson, Mannville; M. A. Brimacombe, Vermilion; J. L. Meek, Alton, Ontario; T. J. Cunningham, Vegreville; B. Tetreau, A. M. Thompson, Chas. Gordon, N. McIntyre, J. B. Holden, Vegreville; H. Bowtell, Vermilion; F. A. Walker, Fort Saskatchewan; James E. Loucks, Vegreville; M. A. Worth, Vegreville; A. T. Keinnaird, W. T. Clements, F. R. Pike, A. D. Middleton, Vegreville; M. A. Harpell, Islay; Miles MacInnis, Vegreville; Wm. Milligan, Mannville; James Hunter, Innisfree; H. V. Fieldhouse, Vermilion; R. G. Dunsmore, Vermilion; W. P. Fraser, Vegreville; R. A. Mackenzie, J. A. Norn, Logan; E. E. Jennings, W. Steeves, Vegreville; W. A. Reid, Vermilion; A. H. Goodwin, Vancouver; James J. Stanton, W. Clements, Wm. T. Rush, R. H. Bradley, Vegreville; James A. Stewart, Beaver Lake; W. M. Worth, George Walker, Vegreville; Jno. E. Graham, Lavoy; H. L. Cunningham, Turin; Chas. N. Brisbin, Holden; John Ling, Robert Allan, Vegreville; A. T. Stewart, Holden; John Philip, Innisfree; R. J. McClinton, Vermilion; J. A. McDougall, Gilpin; I. B. Peterson, Jr., Howard H. Halladay, H. R M. Pozer, Vegreville; J. E. Mahaffey, Warwick; T. Leask, N. W. Lane, J. McNeill, Vegreville;; James C. Barker, Viking; J. D. Worth, Vegreville; A. Campbell, Innisfree; T. H. Currie, Kitscoty; H. C. Graham, Kitscoty; M. W. Hopkins, Vermilion; A. E. McDougall, Geo. M. Thompson, H. A. Cenk, S. L. Peacock, H. A. Meredith, J. J. Mohr, Vegreville; M. McNeil, Lansy; F. A. Morrison, Vegreville; A. H. Middle' Vegreville; David McF.l T. F Tierney, Wm. A. McKenzie, Vegreville; Wm. A. D. Lees, Fort Saskatchewan.

41 MINERS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED

By Terrible Explosion in West Virginia Mine. A Hundred Were Entombed.

Hinton, West Va., May 1.—An explosion occurred in the Whipple Mine at Scarboro, Fayette County, today, entombing nearly a hundred miners. Forty-one are still entomber with little chance of escape. The Whipple Mine is within two miles of the Stuart mine, which exploded January 27th, killing 80 men. Both mines are owned by the White Oak Fuel Company and were always considered safe. The cause of the explosion was probably the result of firing a heavy shot at the face of workings.

At the time of the explosion the men were in the Whipple Mine. At eight o'clock tonight 51 had been able to climb out of the air shaft stairway. The bank boss of the air shaft stairway is thought to be alive in the mine and the remainder dead.

TWO FATALLY INJURED

In Wreck of B. & O. Express Running at Sixty Miles an Hour.

Associated Press Despatch.

Parkersburg, W. Va., May 1.—A passenger train on the Ohio river division of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the fast flyer, between Penova and Pittsburg, was wrecked at Pleasant View this evening, while running sixty miles an hour. Twenty persons were injured, two fatally.

The relief train returned here at eight o'clock bearing the injured. The train was met by several ambulances, and the most seriously injured were taken to the hospital. The cause of the wreck is attributed to the bad condition of the track. The two fatally injured are: Judge Wm. A. Onley, of Charleston, W. Va., and Capt. T. R. Cowell, of Parkersburg.

Meredith by Acclamation.

Associated Press Despatch.

Montreal, May 1.—Frederick E. Meredith, K.C., a native of Quebec, and a son of the late Sir W. C. Meredith, chief justice for Ontario, was elected by acclamation battonier of the Montreal bar. Louis Coderick was made syndic and H. Gorin Lajoie treasurer. Leon Faribault and J. A. M. Pruneau are candidates for secretary.

MAY CENSOR "HAMLET."

Because Denmark is a Friendly Power With England.

London, May 1.—The censors' prohibition of the production of "The Mikado" as a mark of sympathy with Japan is causing considerable protest here. Vincent Kennedy, Irish Nationalist member for the West district of Cavan, has given notice that he will question the government in the House as to whether Premier Campbell-Bannerman will cause the presentation of "Hamlet" to be prohibited since "Denmark is a friendly power and a Danish king is therein produced as a murderer"

Wreck on B. & O.

Parkersburg, W. Va., May 1.—The fast flyer express on the Ohio River division of the Baltimore and Ohio was wrecked near Ravenwood this afternoon. Five or six people were reported killed.