

# THE SWING OF LIBERAL VICTORY

Victoria Theatre the Scene of an Enthusiastic Mass Meeting Last Night—Voters Solid For the Government.

The Efforts of the Administration on Behalf of the Laboring Classes Admirably Elucidated by Mr. Maxwell—Rousing Reception to the Candidates.

If any doubt existed in regard to the prospects of the election of the government candidates, it must have been dispelled last night when perhaps the most enthusiastic political meeting which has ever been held in the city of Victoria took place in the Victoria theatre. By 8 o'clock almost every seat in the big building was occupied, a noticeable feature of the gathering being the attendance of a large number of ladies, who occupied seats reserved for them in the boxes and in the two front rows of the orchestra circle. But the sterner sex was out in force, and although in the earlier stages of the meeting interruptions were encountered, the laugh was so persistently turned upon the interrupter, that all criticism of the speeches was silenced before Mr. Maxwell rose to speak.

The platform had been beautifully decorated with potted plants, ferns and holly, the background of the stage being composed of two large British ensigns, with a Canadian flag in the centre, the whole surmounted by a picture of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. The chairs of Messrs. Riley and Drury, too, were decorated with the flag of the Empire, to which the leader they support has rendered such signal service.

The walls were embellished with legends referring to the main issues of the campaign. Among them were noticed the following:

- Vote for Riley, Drury, and the Prosperity of Victoria.
- Vote for Riley, Drury, and the Party of Progress.
- Vote for Riley, Drury, and the Mint.
- Vote for Riley, Drury, and the Preferential Tariff.
- Vote for Riley, Drury, and the Government.
- Vote for Riley, Drury, and the Railway Co. to the North.

Seated on the platform when the curtain rose were the following gentlemen, who are to-day supporting the government cause in this city:

Messrs. Geo. R. Maxwell, Alex. Henderson, ex-Attorney-General, Geo. Riley, R. L. Drury, J. Kingham, W. H. Langley, John Piercy, Mr. Fraser, I. D. H. Warden, Capt. Cox, S. Perry Mills, C. Wm. Dalby, W. H. Hanna, H. Munn, Alex. Wilson, H. McKenzie-Cleland, Ald. Brydon, A. B. Fraser, Ald. Stewart, Dr. Ernest Hall, Ald. John Hall, T. Burns, Capt. Buckholtz, F. J. Deane, A. B. McNeill, Ald. J. S. Yates, D. G. Walker, Jas. Bell, Jno. Bell, Thos. Sorby, J. S. Crumb, Ald. Cameron, S. Sea, W. Ditchburn, Dr. T. J. Jones, Gordon Hunter, H. S. Salmon, Jno. Jardine, Dr. Mackenzie, E. V. Bodwell, —McGregor, A. E. McCandless, A. McF. Fraser, Ald. J. Kinsman, Walkley and Prout.

The singing of the Laurier quartette was one of the most delightful features of the gathering. Their campaign songs made a great hit with the audience, who insisted on a recall after each selection. The speeches were of high order. Mr. Hunter devoted his attention principally to the matter of trade, his terse treatment of that important subject being heartily appreciated by the crowd. Mr. Drury eclipsed all former efforts, in spite of the fact that his remarks were abbreviated to leave time for the visiting speakers, and the ovation which he received would inflame the vanity of a less modest man. Whatever the issue of the campaign may be (and on that point there is little doubt) Mr. Drury has forged into the first rank of political speakers in this province.

Mr. Riley, although still indisposed, was able to speak sufficiently long for the audience to become infected with his good nature, while Mr. Henderson, unfortunately for the audience, was obliged by the lateness of the hour when he rose to speak, to curtail his speech to five minutes' length.

The effort of the evening undoubtedly was the wonderful address of Geo. R. Maxwell who, for an hour and a half, held the undivided attention of the audience, as he dwelt with the achievements of the government, particularly with reference to its efforts to relieve the disabilities under which the laboring classes suffered. In addition to the talent of being able to put a forcible argument,

he was \$188,000,000 deposited in the savings banks of Canada. In August of 1900 there were nearly \$900,000,000, showing that the amount was nearly doubled within a period of five years. The deposits had increased at the rate of nearly two and a half millions per month under a Liberal administration. Then there was less crime in proportion to the population. There were fewer mortgages on property, something that went to show that the country was more prosperous.

They have seen, this in other cities and it could be seen in this city what the preferential tariff has done. The great stroke the Liberal government had made was to inaugurate this tariff. If the country is prosperous under it, why is it that the Conservative party is trying to get back into the old ways. The Conservative party is.

An Unholy Trinity. It is Tupper, the father, Tupper the son, and Hugh John Macdonald—the ghost of former greatness. (Laughter and applause.) The policy of the party was one of deception, deception and disunion. What did Sir Charles Tupper do? He went to the Yukon and gathered together a lot of garbage. He made it into a bomb and he placed that bomb upon the floor of the House at Ottawa and then he sneaked off to Vancouver to hear the explosion. (Laughter.) The speaker then told the story of the Brandon meeting, which has been published several times and is now generally known as one of the greatest fiascos of the Conservative campaign. The same plan of campaign had been pursued with respect to all the high members of the government from Sir Wilfrid Laurier down. Mr. Blair was accused of being a thief but the moment the tradesmen put their statements in such shape that the courts could take hold of them they were quickly smoked out of their holes.

The Policy of Deception was carried on in all parts of the country. Do we not find Sir Charles Tupper lying in Quebec that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too British for him? At the same time in other parts of the country we find his henchmen saying that Laurier is disloyal. Col. Prior says that the Premier likes French songs and French heirlooms. It is well known that he would not have any French heirlooms. The Frenchmen and Englishmen had leaped together in the trenches of Sebastopol, they slept together at Paderberg, and they entered shoulder to shoulder that den of barbarism—China. (Loud applause.) Suppose that Providence had ordained that we were all living under French rule, and some French bully entered the House of Col. Prior and said you must dispense with certain books and pictures which you have that are not of our nation. Col. Prior would have said: "Providence has ordained that I shall live under your laws and I will respect them; but you shall not invade the sanctity of my home. If he did not say that he would not have the true spirit of a Briton. (Prolonged cheers.)

Col. Prior dare not say the things in Quebec that he says in his speeches here. He is a soldier, but he is not brave enough for that. He jingles his spurs in times of peace only. (There were several laughs.) Just then and the chairman reminded the disturbers that there were ladies present and said that if any one present wanted to represent Col. Prior he would be glad to have him come forward to the platform and he would be given a hearing.

After telling a few of the things that the Conservative party had not done for the country, the speaker read an extract from the Montreal Star, which said that he was going to sweep the country from one end to another. A small boy in the audience interjected, "Yes, mister, and with the same weapon."

The chairman, upon Mr. Riley resuming his seat, said that the senior candidate, with his customary modesty, had not mentioned his indisposition, which prevented him speaking at any length. He then introduced the Laurier quartette, which rendered "We're Had Enough of Tory Rules," the audience furnishing parenthesis of cheers.

Mr. Gordon Hunter was the next speaker.

GORDON HUNTER. Gordon Hunter felt it the greatest honor of his life to have the pleasure of addressing a Victoria audience in Victoria's favorite temple of amusement. The Liberals had a good cause and all they wanted to enable us to succeed was good judges. No doubt they had good judges in Victoria. There were grave issues in this campaign, and one of these was whether we were to have economic slavery or economic freedom. Another chief issue was free trade and protection. As far as he could reason for himself he never could understand why people wanted protection. He never could understand why one portion of a community should be taxed for the other portion. (Cheers.) A system of protection might have some redeeming features, but he did not see why 75 per cent. of the people should be taxed for the benefit of the few. The speaker then quoted trade figures from France, Germany, the United States and Great Britain to show how far ahead of the other nations Great Britain was in trade. All the nations mentioned, with the exception of Great Britain, had a protective tariff, and yet the records showed that Great Britain's trade was far greater than all the other nations combined. In the United States, a highly protected country, there was an increasing trouble and unrest. There were signs of anarchy in all the countries mentioned with the exception of Great Britain, and there they met with short shrift. The people in the United States were being slowly pressed to death by a united capital. Great Britain is the only country that had discovered the principle upon which a stable government should stand. He continued:

"The preferential tariff is the first step towards the introduction of Free Trade. I hope that the people of Canada will find that they have only got the first installment of this principle. The total trade of Great Britain the past year was \$4,000,000,000. On the same basis Canada with free trade and her present population would have a trade of \$500,000,000. (A Voice—No free trade in some things.) No there are some things people are better without; such as tobacco, spirits and beer." (Laughter.) Under Conservative rule in 1886 there

was \$188,000,000 deposited in the savings banks of Canada. In August of 1900 there were nearly \$900,000,000, showing that the amount was nearly doubled within a period of five years. The deposits had increased at the rate of nearly two and a half millions per month under a Liberal administration. Then there was less crime in proportion to the population. There were fewer mortgages on property, something that went to show that the country was more prosperous.

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hundreds of dollars more than the Conservatives. He omitted altogether to say that the volume of trade had increased by millions over what it was under Conservative rule. Supposing that the city of Victoria should increase as much in population in the next four years as in the past eighteen, would the amount of expenditure of the council remain stationary? If there was such a growth and the council failed to rise to the occasion they would very soon be told that they had outlived their usefulness.

Their opponents failed to make allowances for the dispatch of the continent and the administration of the Yukon, or for the deepening of the canal system. Yet, despite these extraordinary expenditures, the revenue last year was sufficient to meet ordinary expenditure and to pay the interest on the debt.

A glowing tribute was paid to Hon. Mr. Fielding, the pride of Nova Scotia, who should also be the pride of Canada, and a reference to his fine handling of the Canadian loan evoked warm applause.

Col. Prior claimed that the government only now on the eve of an election were ready to construct a rifle range.

The facts were that the department was ready to construct a rifle range, but that the range, but were met by a big petition praying that it be not constructed on the site selected. That difficulty had now been settled, and the range was being built. No fair-minded man could make such a charge.

The Colonist claimed the Dominion government had refused aid to the V. & E. Wagon Road, but, however, that the legislature had cancelled the subsidy, and although there was something of a history in connection with the matter, the Dominion House not knowing the facts, must have concluded that British Columbia did not want the road, in view of the action of the legislature.

There was something that British Columbia had to learn, and that was that we had to look well to our own affairs and keep our own House in order if we desired to receive proper recognition at Ottawa. (Loud Applause.)

Col. Prior claimed, too, that the Conservative government had given British Columbia a representation. Conceding the value of a representation, he asked the question, under what circumstances did he enter the cabinet?

He went in when Clarke Wallace walked out because he would not agree to the coercion of Manitoba. The government dared not open a seat in Ontario, so strong was the feeling against them. From a man who followed Clarke Wallace became a party to the coercion, and his appointment was not a proper

Recognition of British Columbia. Had it been he would not have narrowly escaped defeat at the consequent election, but would have been returned by a thousand of a majority.

Yet the same Conservative party, which Col. Prior said was wedded to a single line of policy, had utterly abandoned the coercion of Manitoba, a principle for which Sir Charles Tupper had once professed that he would lay down his life. (Applause.)

Still, he was prepared to say that the claims of British Columbia to better representation were ten times greater than they had ever been under a Conservative government. (Cheers.) British Columbia now had tried and experienced representatives, and if all six Liberals were elected they would get together, define on a man from British Columbia for a cabinet portfolio, press his claims on Sir Wilfrid, and if accepted, "we will expect him to stand by the province, and I know he will," added the speaker. (Applause.)

The Element of Scandal. Had entered largely into the campaign, Mr. Earle making sweeping general charges. He had claimed that Mr. Green shields had made hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the purchase of the Drummond County railway. The railway had been purchased by the government and it was one of the best bargains the government ever made. When a committee of inquiry was formed they failed to establish a single charge, and even Mr. Haggart backed out and said that they did not make any charges of personal corruption. Did any British Columbia members never say anything to the government? Yet he would never impute anything corrupt in such a proceeding, surely his opponents would be far wiser. (Applause.)

The two-British attitude of the opposition leader was referred to as an example of the sectionalism of Sir Charles Tupper. When speaking in Winnipeg, when the Manitoba school question was an acute one, he had failed to discuss the issue, but asked the audience if they thought their interest would be safer with him than with a French Roman Catholic.

No. 6 pamphlet and Sir Charles Tupper's inflammatory speech in Montreal, in which he appealed to the prejudices of the French race, by representing Sir Wilfrid Laurier as an Imperialist who wanted them saddled with \$46,000,000 for war purposes alone, was another example of Sir Charles's tactics. His campaign culminated when he expressed himself as regarding Laurier as "too British for him."

All this was one for but one object, to foment hatred between the two races. How did Sir Wilfrid Laurier's expressions contrast with these? Speaking of the British preference at Montreal he said: "For my part, I have no mystery to make. I gave it because I Love England."

He said this, too, among thousands of his compatriots. (Cheers.) Concluding, Mr. Drury said that no city in Canada was so highly favored in regard to representation as Victoria, as she had one-third of the British Columbia representatives.

He paid a loyal tribute to Her Majesty, who through her long life had given such an example to her subjects in her unblemished life. If all could not shed their blood for her on the battlefield, all could at least show they were good citizens by wearing the white flower of a blameless life. (Cheers.) If he were not a candidate he would say that no city had given greater proof of its loyalty than Victoria. He hoped it would send its supporters to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who had given the best years of his life

to the consolidation of Canada, and who by appealing to the higher instincts of humanity had lifted Canada into a sphere of prominence never occupied before.

The last four years had been the brightest in the records of the Dominion. Canada was to-day the brightest star in the constellation of colonies under that flag which, wherever it floats, is the symbol of freedom. (Prolonged cheers.) At the conclusion of Mr. Drury's address tumultuous cheering broke out in the theatre, which was renewed when a lady in one of the boxes tossed a beautiful bouquet to the talented candidate.

Thereupon Chairman Duff claimed recognition as a prophet whose predictions had been fulfilled. He had nominated Mr. Drury, he said, and in doing so had prophesied that he would be recognized not only as one of the strongest public men in the city, but in the province. (Cheers.) He then called on the Laurier quartette, who contributed "We're Satisfied With Laurier," scoring another hit with the audience, who insisted on a recall.

the government has contributed materially to the interests of labor. The government has further recognized the union label. Now, I cannot for the life of me see why there should be any objection to the use of the union label. No manufacturer is ashamed to identify his name with his goods. Just so with the working men who adopt the label. It is a

Guarantee to the Purchaser of the goods that none but competent union labor has been employed in its production.

The speaker then devoted considerable time to the Senate, or rather the Conservative portion of it. He said: I wish some day a flash light could be taken of that body. You haven't the slightest conception of what our Senate is composed of. These men have grown old and decrepit in the service of our country, and when the union label bill was brought to them why they chuckled it out. Mr. Donoghue was sent to talk to them. Mr. Donoghue is Irish and something of a humorist. Just think of sending a humorist to talk to the Senate. He told them stories, he talked with them, he reasoned with them; but, in spite of his reasons, in spite of his facts, they

Chucked the Bill Out

again. Colonel Prior and Mr. Earle will tell you that these men saved Canada. I believe these saved Rome once. You never can tell what Providence will put some men to. They also attached a clause to the bill making labor unions unlawful. It would be hard to find a body of men like them—even in Kamchatka. And still you will be told by Prior and Earle that they saved Canada. I don't think there was a single member on the Conservative side of the Senate that knew anything about trades unions. Yet at the close of the nineteenth century there are men in that Senate that should have lived 300 years ago. Just think of it—the bulwark of the Conservative party—the men who are landed to the skies to-day. The bill came back to the House and the clause was struck out. It went to the Senate again, and these wise men from the east—some of them from the west—again inserted the clause making trades unions illegal. I ask in all fairness that if there is a man among you who is a member of a trades union, one of the most beneficial things that the government does, I ask you to vote for Drury and Riley to show them that you do not agree with them so far as trades unions are concerned.

There are times when disputes will arise between employer and employee, and there are strikes. I know something of the hardships and sufferings that come to the homes of the workmen on such occasions. I am glad to see that so far as Canada is concerned these strikes are not as frequent as on the other side of the line. Measures have been introduced paving the way for

Boards of Arbitration

and conciliation. The step towards conciliation is a good one, as was demonstrated at Rossland a few weeks ago when Mr. Clute, Mr. Ralph Smith and Smith-Curtis brought about a settlement of the differences existing between the miners and the mine owners. In the matter of the longshoremen's strike in Vancouver, I had the pleasure of appointing a man to settle the dispute. He went to the men, got their side of the story, and then went to Seattle and got the steamboat company's side. The result was that everything was amicably arranged in a few days, and the men went back to work. Wherever possible it is well to bring in some disinterested party so that a strike may be averted.

A labor bureau has also been established by the present government to collect statistics and other data of interest to workmen and men, all of them laboring men have been appointed to gather the information.

One more question I wish to deal with and that is the

Allen Labor Law

The Conservative party brought up this bill year after year, and year after year it was knocked out again. But a bill is in force now that permits an officer to send back any foreigner who comes to this country under contract. As a result of this legislation no alien can take the place of a Canadian. Another important point in the present government legislation is in connection with the sweating system. The Conservative government gave out contracts for different articles in such a way that it was found that there were women with fathers and mothers, or children to support, who were working ten hours per day for 25 cents—women who were being sweated to death for the benefit of the people of Canada. Mr. Mulock has made it a condition that every contractor taking work from the government shall pay the union scale of wages. I am a believer in

Government Ownership

and that state of affairs is coming. In this connection it might be mentioned that the government owned the telegraph line, which had been built by the Yukon and that line was built by day labor, something that the labor unions ask for. Col. Prior has said that there were no British Columbians employed on that line. Never was a more malicious lie uttered than when he said that the men at work on the line were all Frenchmen. There are only fifteen Frenchmen employed on the line, and what are they but Canadians? There are fifty or sixty men from Vancouver at work on the line. (A voice: Where did they come from before they struck Vancouver?) Where did you come from? (Laughter and silence on the part of the questioner.) At Atlin Mr. Charleson advertised for fifty men at \$3 per day and board and only two men answered the advertisement. I will wire Mr. Bergeron at Quebec to inquire what Col. Prior is saying about his countrymen and I believe there will be something to settle after awhile. (Laughter.) No Frenchman need be ashamed of his country. They had just as good right to sing the national anthem as a Scotchman had to sing "Scots Wha' Hae." (Laughter and shouts of "Go on Scotty.")

I hope the words French and British will soon be a thing of the past. I believe no people in Canada are more sympathetic or kinder hearted than the French, and I thank God to-day that we have a man like Sir Wilfrid Laurier guiding the destinies of Canada. We

(Continued on page 3.)