

"It Was the Revolt of High-Minded Men Against the Sickening Spectacle of Corruption in High Places."

GREAT GATHERING OF LIBERAL CLUB MEMBERS VOICE DETERMINATION TO END ERA OF GRAFT IN PUBLIC LIFE OF CANADIAN DOMINION

Patronage System Must Go, and With It Political Corruption.

OLD REGIME DEATH KNEEL

Cleaner Politics Featured in Stirring Addresses at Meeting.

PLEA FOR RURAL CREDITS

George S. Gibbons of London Elected as 1916-17 President of Federation.

Liberalism lives and is a mighty potential force in Ontario today. This was the meaning of the great gathering held in the city of London yesterday, when leaders of Liberal thought from every corner of Ontario, and representing some seventy constituencies, north and south, east and west to the most extreme bounds of the province, thronged to the city for the fourth annual meeting of the Liberal Club of Ontario.

The formation of the federation took place in 1912, and the intervening years, notwithstanding the war, have been marked by great success. Yesterday's meeting was not only the culmination of the success of the past year, but also the greatest day to the present time in the history of the organization.

Not even at the former annual meetings has the enthusiasm been so marked, the tone of the addresses so confident in regard to changes in administration which must take place in the immediate future.

The gathering was a demonstration and at the same time a portent of the coming end of an old order of graft and weakness and corruption, and a ringing in of a new order worthy of the Dominion of Canada and her citizenship.

While the fact was emphasized by the president, Gordon D. Conant, in his opening address, and by subsequent speakers that the object of the federation at the time it was formed was educational rather than taking an active part in political campaigns, it was evident that the representatives present were ready and eager to give expression to their Liberal ideals in action.

Two elections were predicted by Secretary McCreath within the coming twelve months in connection with a discussion regarding the future policy of the federation. At the meeting of the Liberal Club of Ontario did for Sir Alexander MacKenzie in 1914.

Revolt of High-Minded. In the demand of yesterday for the removal of election in the midst of war time conditions, there was no hint of party cry. It was the revolt of high-minded men against the sickening spectacle of corruption in high places, of knaves waxing fat in riches upon the spoils of war and at the expense of the ill-fated of the fellowmen.

Clear and insistent was sounded the death knell of the patronage system. "There can be no trace of honest men with corruption," thundered A. McCreath, "The death knell of the good name of Canada, all the world sees the poor young men go forth to fight in a glorious cause, while the rich men who are the beneficiaries of the patronage system are longer allow men to profit by their country's sorrow or to permit men longer to occupy high positions who allow this thing."

The applause evoked by the pronouncement of Ald. J. G. Ramsden in regard to the subject of the meeting, "Country Needs Leadership." "What we need in Canada today more than anything else is strong leadership," he declared. "A leadership may be honest, but if it is weak it borders on the criminal." The leadership that gives us a Camp Borden borders on the criminal. The leadership that produces a John Wesley Allison borders on the criminal. The leadership that permits an increase from \$10,000,000 to \$13,000,000 in the public works department expenditure in three years borders on the criminal. A leadership which says "We will give prohibition for three years in Ontario and have been satisfied with a mere beginning of the end of the country to the other."

A sturdy blow at the patronage system was struck by Dr. Rogers of Tillsonburg. "If the Liberal party wishes to succeed, and it is going to, it must wash its skirts of all forms of graft and patronage system as well. Locally, when a member is elected and he begins to deal out patronage, that moment he begins to die. What is true of an individual is true of a government. No government, Liberal or any other, can expect to live successfully and continue to hand out patronage as in the past."

Dr. Rogers had a prescription to offer, guaranteed to abolish graft and the patronage system; also the evil of vote-buying. "Let every man possessing the franchise to vote and, a statement which met with considerable enthusiasm mingled with amusement. He would give women the right to vote. George Wilkes, K.C., of Toronto, in the course of his address on "Nickel" in which he had startling revelations in regard to the amount of Ontario for German dreadnaughts and into the making of the German guns which have been leveled with deadly effect against the sons of Canada and of Ontario administered a stinging rebuke to an administration which could thus allow the country to lose control of a mineral of such importance and value.

Cochrane's Cant. "Cochrane said, 'It can't be done.' In regard to the reform of the nickel in Canada. A certain political party may not be able to do this, but I refuse to admit that the Canadian people cannot do it. Irrespective of party, I'm with the Canadians as opposed to the 'Canadians'."

In the address and discussions of the day, especial prominence was given to the problems of the farming community. Since the cry is continually going out for more production; since both the Dominion Government and that of Ontario have spent and are spending large amounts towards this end; since agriculture is the basic industry of this country," urged H. J. Patterson of Forestburg, "it would be in favor of asking the leaders to free this industry of agriculture from tariff taxation, a sentiment which found an echo in several of the other addresses."

The first topic to be discussed was agriculture, several phases of the subject being touched by the different speakers. Mr. Rogers of Ashtaburgh introduced the subject. "In explaining the agricultural situation the speaker said that in 1911 the acreage of the Ontario was declining agriculturally, in fact, a decline of 100,000 in the agricultural population was noted by the census of that year. The decrease was also striking, he said, in the rural public schools. "Today we stand even in population in the country and cities, and a condition which is not a country agricultural," said Mr. Rogers. "It is a national problem and will affect in a marked degree the future of Canada."



GROUP OF DELEGATES TO LIBERAL CLUB CONVENTION

Quarter of the Federation Members Have Donned Khaki-- Many Are Dead

"Where are the young Liberals?" was a question asked by speakers at the federation convention, looking over the audience largely composed of men of gray hair and thinning locks. The question was reiterated for the reason of an answering "Serving the colors." Of a 5,000 membership in the federation, since the outbreak of war some 1,200 have donned khaki and many have made the supreme sacrifice, an answer to traders that followers of Sir Wilfrid Laurier do not follow the colors even to death. Five clubs have given all their officers.

The University Liberal Club of Toronto, including Toronto University, McMaster and Osgoode Hall, alone has in its honor roll the names of 46 or 47 who have given their lives at the front in living up to the motto of the federation, "Service." They and many of their comrades fully realized that for them the most effective service would be enlistment. Several other Liberal clubs, as well as the London Association, have given over their quarters, to be used for Red Cross and other patriotic purposes.

means prosperity for the East, and the development of the East means prosperity for the West. "The West is the growing end of the country at the present time. Give us a show, and we will send you down from the West a majority such as you have never had before. Give us one-third of Ontario and we will put back Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the place where he belongs." (Prolonged cheers.)

Back in Another Year. "Inside of another year we will be back in power again," Sir Wilfrid Laurier will again be premier of the Dominion, and we will start on an unprecedented era of prosperity." (Cheers.) J. D. Wylie, speaking on the subject of the present financial system did not grant sufficient time to the farmer on loans from 40 to 60 days. The speaker declared this to be all right in the case of other lines of business, but with the farmer the situation was different. The farmer should be allowed as long a time on loans as was compatible with safety.

Long Term Notes Needed. In the newly settled districts of the West the speaker characterized as ridiculous. "Do not separate city from country thought, but lay in the country schools a foundation for a thorough business education," said the speaker in conclusion. Thomas McMillan of Seaford was next introduced. "The first principle of Liberalism is freedom and liberty, and that's what our soldiers are fighting for today in the trenches," he said. "If there is anything we ought to give to agriculture it is the liberty it has been seeking for thirty years, and seeking largely in vain."

"The best place in Canada to live is on the farm. Upon the success of agriculture depends the future of every other business. At the end of this great war, when the period of reconstruction comes, let us see to it that there is such a readjustment that every industry will come into its own," said Mr. McMillan in his address on the problems of agriculture.

"Prosperous Farmer" Exaggerated. H. B. Cowan, editor of "Farm and Dairy," Patterson, Ont., took a different line in his address and declared that the "prosperous farmer" is, to a great extent, exaggerated. "It looks as if everything that could be done by the farmer has been done, but yet the problem remains unsolved," said the speaker. "What is the reason?" he asked. "After giving all the millions of dollars to help the farmer that the problem remains unsolved, and we find many poor farmers today."

Bonus Taken Away. "The answer is this, gentlemen, that as we help the farmer with one hand we take away with the other. When we grant a bonus to the farmer we raise the tariff, and the result is what is given by the Government with one hand is taken away with the other. Another reason for the poor financial condition of many farmers is increased land values. The values are raised without necessarily assisting the farmer in any way."

Equalize Tariff Burden. "When the tariff is rearranged, we should see that the burden is equalized," said Mr. Parliament in conclusion. J. G. Turfiff, M. P. of Assiniboia, spoke on New Ontario and land settlement. "I have heard out in our country in Western Canada that the Liberals of Ontario are up and alive, and are working as never before, and I must say that I am delighted to hear it. There is absolutely no doubt that when the time comes that the Scotch Grits of Ontario will not be fooled this time as they were carried away on the reciprocity issue."

Double-Action Prosperity. Dealing with the question of New Ontario and land settlement, the speaker said that the development of the West

an interesting and significant feature of the afternoon was the presence of Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, president of the Women's Liberal Association, accompanied by Mrs. Stewart of Toronto, the former conveying a message of greeting from the women's association. Mrs. Macdonald stated that just before the outbreak of war five local women's Liberal associations had been organized in Toronto, Hamilton, Stratford, Brantford and Brant, for the purpose of promoting sound Liberal principles and educating in sound Liberal ideas. Brantford and Stratford associations have merged their identity in patriotic organizations. Toronto, Hamilton and Stratford associations have largely devoted their energies to Red Cross and other forms of war relief work.

While 100 members was considered a good maximum for which to work when the organization was formed in Toronto, at the present there are 750 on the active membership roll. Educational Program. The educational program includes each vital question as "Education: Are the City and Rural Schools Meeting the Present Needs?" "The Wider Use of the School Plant." "Industrial Homes." "Public Work." "Women in Isolated Districts." "The Problem of Poverty." "Mothers' Pensions." "Women's and Juvenile Courts." "Women's Suffrage and How to Use It When It Comes."

Dealing first with the question of food prices, the speaker said: "Many food prices are going up and out of sight, and as Liberals we all know why." The chairman, at the conclusion of Mr. Sanagan's address, announced that two representatives from the Provincial Women's Association had arrived. Mrs. J. A. Macdonald and Mrs. D. Stewart of Toronto were then presented and given seats on the platform.

R. S. Muir of Dundas spoke on the labor question, and said that he believed the more the Liberal party did to show the Labor party that they were true friends and doing everything within their power to help them, that the better it would be for the party. Has Not Had Credit. "The Liberal party hasn't received the credit in this respect to which it is entitled. The fact of the matter is that the Conservative party has tried to steal our thunder," said the speaker.

Hotshot by Carter. Sam Carter, M.P. of Guelph, poured out some hotshot on the question of provision for workmen's old age, sickness and unemployment. "We must not divide labor, neither on the farm or in the factory. We have all got to work, and unless someone works we don't eat. We must not divide labor on the farm or in the factory produces the wealth he should receive a living wage." (Cheers.)

"The mass of men who have gone to fight our battles are from the factories, and when they should be paid a living wage." (Cheers.) "The way our natural resources have been parted with is a crying shame, and we should see that it is stopped, and we will. All men should be insured against old age and unemployment. Let's be constructive and let us feel that we have a government that will make good men."

Eight Hours Enough. "Eight hours' work a day is sufficient for anyone in any factory. It should be made a criminal offence to work a man for more than eight hours a day. This has been made this way has been stolen from someone who works. We smashed the liquor traffic, and we can smash other things, too. Keep them off our feet. Keep your head off the ground, the fellow that has got his ear to the ground will regret it," said Mr. Carter, as he concluded his speech amid cheers.

Future of Federation. Though no definite decision was reached in regard to the immediate future of the Ontario Federation future clubs, the delegates present were supplied with ample food for thought in the discussion which took place on this question.

One of the younger members present, Mr. Grant, president of the University Liberal Club of Toronto, in connection with his introduction of a resolution to a tribute to the many young men of the federation who have gone overseas, including a large representation of the University of Toronto, also expressed the desire to follow them in the near future. Touching upon the relation of the Liberal Club Federation to the party, he raised several questions. Shall the function of the club be the assisting of individual candidates in political schemes, or shall it be a straight party organization, used by the Liberal party for local and federal campaigns?

Secretary McCreath wanted to know the answer to the practical question: "Must we strike out, do spade-work for new clubs, and thus get ready for two elections in the next few months, or shall we be content with an educational program, as in the past?" Asks for Practical Support. W. C. Lewis of East Elgin, out of long years of experience in political work, made a plea for more practical support of candidates. Frequently the very best candidates are the ones who cannot afford the necessary expenses of a campaign.

W. V. Charlton, Liberal candidate for East Elgin, was of the opinion that the ideas and ideals fostered by education, should be transmitted to activity and service. Not all wrongs to be righted are in Europe, and not all Canadians can go overseas. The opportunity comes to the men and women of the Dominion to show their citizenship, good homes, and a good government. Given these, Canada will be the greatest nation the world has seen. C. M. Giddard, of the central Liberal information bureau of Ottawa, who was called upon for suggestions, advanced the view that the Federation is not one-tenth as strong as it should be. "You have some eighty Liberal clubs established," he said. "You should have a thousand." He saw in the Federation the possibility of a great system for the support of the Liberal party.

Some of Those at Liberal Rallies and Something About Them

E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., one of the greatest criminal lawyers Canada has yet produced; in fact, one of the biggest minds of the Dominion, was an interested visitor to the federation. He is a most ardent Liberal, and recently made his first voyage into political life.

Peter MacArthur, the author and journalist, was a quiet listener at the convention. He is a humorist, and he may get some amusing sidelights. He will have some serious stuff in any event, that will be well worth while.

R. S. Muir, Toronto, by way of Dundas, took a prominent part in the discussion. He twice ran against Sir James P. Whitney in Dundas, and although he had a creditable run, did not succeed in getting the place. He's more of a Liberal than ever.

Hal B. McGivern, K.C., cricket player, amateur, and gentleman, came up from Ottawa, and is looking things over. An Ottawa seat in the House is what his friends are predicting for him.

Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, wife of Dr. J. A. Macdonald, former editor of the Toronto Globe, was a visitor at the federation meeting in the afternoon.

Alex. Smith, former general organizer for the party, and one of the most astute politicians in Canada, was on hand. He is looking things over, and although he resigned from his position, he still loves the game.

F. F. Pardee, M. P., Sarnia, has West Lambton well represented. Chester Belton, a former Londoner, is showing the boys about, and looking after their interests.

E. W. Nesbitt, M. P., Woodstock, never overlooks any chance to be in the big league game. He was on hand early, and took good care of his deputations.

Hon. C. S. Hyman is taking a deep interest in the proceedings. After a retirement of some time, he has again smelled the smoke of battle, and is in the game from the start.

M. G. Charlton, a retired minister. He is the Liberal candidate in East Elgin. He is showing merit. He is a first-class platform man, a clever canvasser, and has convictions. He was on hand.

There was a great gathering of editors and newspapermen at the sessions. There were at least 25 political writers from the dailies, and 40 or 50 weekly men on the job. They are looking for inspiration, and getting it.

Reuben Trux, who redeemed South Bruce, and in measure started the stampede against the Borden Government, told the "fellows" how it was done. There are few better political managers in the game than Trux.

Duncan C. Ross, M. P., West Middlesex, wanted to bring almost everybody from his riding to the banquet, but did not succeed. He says he will try to get Duncan does not get about all he wants.

The most pleasing feature of the sessions was the presence of the rank and file of the party. The men who work hard and say little. W. C. Kennedy, Windsor, who championed the Windsor cause, had only one thing to say. He could not bring a large enough deputation with him. He wanted to half-fail the place.

David Nickel, the 80-year-old man from Westminster Township, who got a seat through the kindness of Thomas single men, with \$700 for unmarried married men and \$500 for single orphans.

Among the writing newspapermen present were: H. F. Gadsby, of Sarnia; Harry M. Anderson, M. P., of Hammond and R. Roberts, of the Globe; Tom King, of the World; J. K. Munro, of the Telegram; W. J. Elliott, of the Press; Sutherland, of the St. Thomas Journal; F. Maxwell, Chatham; William Wallace, of the Mail and Empire.

The male chorus, under Ed S. Craford and George Leithbridge, was a feature of the banquet. The boys did fine work, and did much to make the evening more delightful.

Wonderful Tribute To Maj. Fairbank

Speakers at Federation Praise His Shining Example. At least one Western Ontario officer of the Liberal camp, who is serving his country in France could have no reason to complain of lack of appreciation of the sacrifice he is making on the part of the Federation of Liberal Clubs of Ontario.

Dr. Fairbank of Petrolia was cited Wednesday afternoon by H. D. Petty-piece of Forest, at the Federation as the shining example of a rich man, past his first youth, who refused to give up his home and profit by the emergency of war, but who sacrificed comfort, home and rank to get on the firing line.

Dr. Fairbank said Mr. Petty-piece, "was our defeated candidate in 1911. He organized the 70th Battalion, and held in it the commission of major. He accompanied the unit to England. The battalion was not allowed to go to the front as a unit. Major Fairbank was under no compulsion to go at all. He was not even asked to do so, but he did so as a lieutenant, rather than remain behind."

"It was proposed in East Lambton to call a convention to fill the place of Dr. Fairbank. But we decided to put him in the field; let him stay in the trenches, and we will elect him anyway."

The narration was punctuated by cheers, and at the close the mayor of Petrolia sprang to his feet and called for three cheers for Major Fairbank. The response that followed was almost enough to raise the roof and to start a wireless message well on its way to the western front.

SALARY SCALE SET FOR METHODIST MISSIONARIES. Grants to Conferences Made. London Getting \$1,370. TORONTO, Oct. 11.—At today's session of the Methodist General Board of Missions the scale of salaries was agreed upon as follows: For the eastern and central conferences, except the Toronto missions will be, ordained married men, \$500; ordained single men, \$700; unordained men, \$500. For the Toronto and Western conferences, except the Toronto missions will be, ordained married men, \$600; ordained single men, \$800; unordained men, \$500.

FOR SALE BY ALL Standard Drug Stores

Further reports of the Banquet and stirring speeches delivered there appear on Page Ten.

Take "her" a box of Neilson's "The Chocolate that are different"

Former St. Thomas Girl GRANTED CLEAR DIVORCE. DETROIT, Oct. 11.—Clad in modish fashion and looking little more than a girl, Mrs. Dora Duncombe, wife of Charles Duncombe, both former residents of St. Thomas, where the families were well known, was granted an absolute divorce here after she had related several stirring incidents of her brief married life.

PARKHILL FANCY STOCK ATTRACTS ATTENTION. Six Clydesdale Fillies and Seven Short-horns Sold to Outsiders. PARKHILL, Oct. 11.—W. J. McCullum of Brantford has purchased four pure bred Clydesdale fillies from John Cruickshank, East Williams, and two pure bred Clydesdale fillies from L. P. McDonald, West Williams.

Messrs. Nicholson Bros. have sold five pure bred Short-horn cows and two Short-horn heifer calves to Mr. Crosby of Oklahoma.