

HON. G. HOWARD FERGUSON SPEAKS AT WATEORD

Ontario Leader of Conservative Party and Mr. W. R. Dawson, candidate for East Lambton Address Electors in Lyceum.

The Lyceum was crowded Thursday afternoon by electors anxious to hear Hon. Howard Ferguson and Mr. W. R. Dawson speak on the political issues of the hour. This was the first meeting of Mr. Ferguson's Western Ontario tour and his speech was attentively listened to and enthusiastically received. He reviewed the road program of the Drury Government, denounced their extravagance, which he declared, was out of all proportion to the financial ability of the province; declared Hon. Peter Smith had lost the province thousands of dollars by his methods of bond selling, and predicted direct taxation in Ontario if the administration was returned to power.

"My question to the farmers is this: What has the Prime Minister done for you?" Hon. Mr. Ferguson put it, "and I ask you that because I want it understood that I am not in opposition to the farmers, but that I am in opposition to that aggregation in Queen's Park which misrepresents the farmers. I say they have done but one thing for you and that is raise your taxes anywhere from 50 to 150 per cent. What else have they done?"

"Raised their own salaries," an obliging voice replied. "I had forgotten that," Mr. Ferguson returned, "but that is because they have been so good at the raise, and they are good not only in raising their own salaries, but in raising the money out of you. But what is a mere six hundred a year to men who are accustomed to dealing in reckless millions and who should be back on the farm?"

Hon. Mr. Ferguson warned the electors of East Lambton that Hon. Mr. Drury would doubtless come this way later and attempt to lay claim to many farming benefits which he had not conferred upon them. For instance, he had gone about other parts of the province talking in a highly idealistic manner and saying that his aim was to elevate the rural communities. But he should not forget, nor should the voters of Lambton, that the Community Hall Act was on the statute books long before the Drury Government was ever heard of. That was a legacy from the Conservative regime which put under way those fine things of which Hon. Mr. Drury had talked so freely, but which he had left up in the air with his words.

Tien, as to actual Government expenditure on the farms, Hon. Mr. Ferguson continued: The old Conservative Government expended six and a half per cent. of its revenue on agriculture and was condemned, because of its so-called parsimony and niggardliness towards agriculturists, but the Drury Government, in the last year reduced that percentage to a little over three, and that represented one of the things they had not done for the farmers. The Drury Government, in spite of great openings to help the farms, had fallen down. For instance, if there was one thing which the farmers needed more than anything else, it was power, but when a fine opening was presented in the Legislature to have Hydro power extended in to the rural communities, it was the Prime Minister who was tossed into the balance and found wanting. That was the movement to have the movement bear 80 per cent. of the cost of the trunk extension lines, but in spite of the Drury failure, Hon. Mr. Ferguson was confident that something could be worked out in the interests of the agriculturists, providing, of course, that Ontario got a stable government instead of a wavering one. "We offered to help the bill through the house," Mr. Ferguson recalled, "but the Premier lacked the courage because the corporate interests did not want it, and they have more influence with the Government than any other body in Ontario."

Mr. W. R. Dawson Speaks

Mr. W. R. Dawson, of Inwood, the candidate of the Conservative party in Lambton East, dealt with a few Government weaknesses and showed how their shattered political plans had left them with a tottering platform. For example, they had preached economy, but having consulted Mr. Webster, the candidate felt that Hon. Mr. Drury must have used a different dictionary. It must surely be a new dictionary which the Premier was preparing for the public, a dictionary which would prove as tricky as his election battle cry. For the mere fact that the Ontario debt reached only fifty-four millions in 52 years, forgetting all about Hydro expenditures, and that in four years of Drury rule it climbed to \$122,000,000 seemed strangely in

conflict with Mr. Webster's definition of economy, but perhaps the Premier would title his book "Drury debts and taxes substitutes for economy." Again there was that green-eyed monster patronage, which in any other man's household seemed a hideous monster, but it must be like sin "which seen too oft we first endure, then cherish, then embrace," for Mr. Drury had been most lavish in his embraces. He started his flirting with the green-eyed monster in the first six months of his rule. Then the wedding came quickly, but the marriage ring was costly for it was bought on the installment plan and one of the beneficiaries of the installment plan is now being paid off at the rate of \$125 a day, that being a legal gentleman with the Gregory Commission.

There were too many patronage cases for Mr. Dawson to mention but he gave the assurance that if he became the representative of East Lambton one of his first aims would be to shatter that wedding ring of the green-eyed monster which the Drury Government so greatly cherished. "If we get in somebody is going to get hurt," he declared. "As a matter of fact somebody is going to get hurt anyway, for if we don't get in it will be you farmers and other electors of Lambton who will get hurt in your pocket books." As to roadways, Mr. Dawson was generally critical on the grounds of cost rather than principle, and he pointed out one rather startling fact, startling that was, to the electors of Lambton who were interested in the education of their children, and it was that the Drury Government had spent more money on 34 miles of improved highway in Peel County than they would spend on the education of the children of Lambton in 140 years on the present scale of spending.

A brief speech was made by E. R. Dennis, president of the Western Ontario Conservative Association, who paid a fine tribute to Mr. Ferguson as a man and a leader and predicted victory for the party at the polls on June 25. Mr. T. B. Taylor of Watford filled the position of chairman of the meeting in a most efficient manner.

Ontario Election Results

Election results in Ontario since Confederation have been as follows:

- 1867—Unionist supporters of Sandfield MacDonald, 54; Reformers, 23; Independents, 5.
- 1871—Reformers, 41; Unionists, 32; Independents, 7.
- 1875—Liberals, 51; Conservatives, 33; Independents, 4.
- 1879—Liberals, 58; Conservatives, 29; Independents, 1.
- 1883—Liberals, 48; Conservatives, 36; Independents, 2.
- 1886—Liberals, 64; Conservatives, 25.
- 1890—Liberals, 54; Conservatives, 36.
- 1894—Liberals, 49; Conservatives, 27; Patrons of Industry, 14; P. P. A., 2.
- 1898—Liberals, 49; Conservatives, 43; Patrons, 1.
- 1902—Liberals, 51; Conservatives, 46.
- 1905—Conservatives, 69; Liberals, 29.
- 1911—Conservatives, 83; Liberals, 21; Labor, 1.
- 1914—Conservatives, 84; Liberals, 25; Independent Liberal, 1; Labor, 1.
- 1919—United Farmers of Ontario, 44; Liberals, 29; Conservatives, 25; Labor, 11; Soldier, 1; Independent, 2.

FOREST

Mrs. Beatty of Manitouling, Manitouling Island, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Susan Johnson, who has been in ill-health for some time, but is now improving.

Miss Jennie Smith has been appointed a delegate from the Forest Congregational church, to attend the Union meeting of Congregational churches held in Ottawa the first week in June.

About forty young people of the Forest Methodist church spent a social time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clare Stonehouse, townline, Bosanquet and Plympton, on Monday evening. Games and music were enjoyed to the utmost by all. Before returning to their homes Mr. and Mrs. Stonehouse were presented with some beautiful pieces of fancy china.

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W. R. DAWSON

To the Electors of Lambton East: THE DRURY GOVERNMENT AND PARTY PATRONAGE

This week I draw your attention to one more promise made four years ago which has been disregarded, and I do not need to remind you how at that time the system of party patronage as practiced by the two old line parties, was held up before as something to be avoided, and the definite promise was made and incorporated in the platform, that if entrusted with the reins of government, the system would be abolished.

Shortly after the election was over and a cabinet had been decided upon a seat was necessary for the Hon. Manning Doherty, the elected member for Kent was prevailed upon to resign his seat in favor of the cabinet minister, and in the course of time he was made Registrar of Kent county. Then the Hon. Mr. Raney was found to be without a permanent seat and the member elect for Wellington kindly gave up his constituency and was also promptly rewarded by being appointed Police Magistrate.

We have seen Mr. R. T. Harding K.C., who distinguished himself as counsel for the timber commission and who also acted for Mr. E. W. Backus in his now famous timber deal, placed in a position where he received as fees, the modest sum of \$26,448.19.

Mr. W. D. Gregory, who as a particular friend of the government, sat on the Public Service Commission was made chairman of the Hydro Electric Inquiry, seeking to destroy the spirit of Sir Adam Beck, and the greatest public ownership enterprise in the world, has already received as fees \$17,940.00 and is still going strong.

Mr. Gordon Waldren K.C., for his good offices has been enriched to the extent of \$11,017.00.

Mr. Shirley Dennison K.C., who completed the bitter partisan persecution started by Mr. Drury has been paid \$12,500.00.

Mr. N. W. Rowell K.C., who was government counsel in the Shilville Clark litigation and who is now assisting on the Gregory Commission has received for his labor \$17,700.00 and his firm have received \$29,950.00.

Then getting closer home, I find that one of the men who so vehemently denounced party patronage in East Lambton four years ago has applied for the best paying job in Lambton, the Registrarship of Lambton county. It is reported that the appointment has already been made and that the government is only waiting until after the election is over to declare it.

It is my candid opinion that the system of party patronage will never be entirely eliminated from our politics and so long as the public treasury is not robbed in the process, I do not regard it as a serious crime. It is just one more instance in this case of a promise made last election time which has not been fulfilled. Promises will be forthcoming this election, no doubt. Can we, in the face of what has happened to the promises in the past, rely on them this time?

Yours truly,
W. R. DAWSON.

PETROLEA

A. Matheson B.A., M.D., and Mrs. Matheson, of Miami, Florida, have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. Pratt of Maud street. Dr. Matheson is a brother of Mrs. Pratt. Dr. and Mrs. Matheson drove in their large touring car from Miami, a distance of 2350 miles by way of Washington and Niagara Falls in eleven days. They intend spending the summer in a cottage on Lake Huron.

Mr. John R. Nevills was seriously injured at the Canadian Oil Companies refinery on Tuesday. While operating chain blocks, one of the angle lines came off, hitting him and throwing him backwards to the ground, causing him to fall on his back across a piece of iron. The injury was very painful.

As a result of the final ballot for the election of the board of directors

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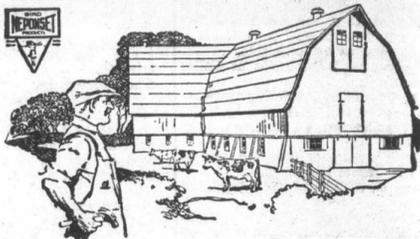
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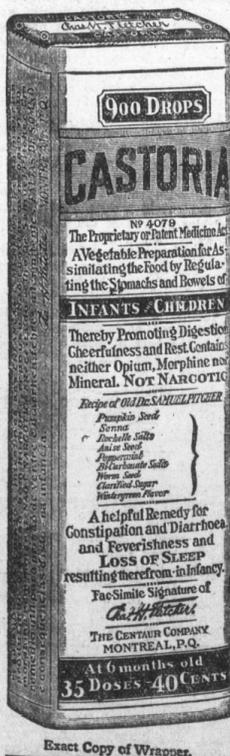
J. McKERCHER

for the chamber of commerce for 1923, the following were elected: Dr. J. A. Drummond, Andrew Elliott, Earl R. Kirkpatrick, I. Greenzen and Bert McLeod.

The Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Huron has arranged to administer the rite of confirmation in Christ Church, Petrolia, on Sunday, June 10th at 11 a.m.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kitchen and Mrs. F. Kitchen and mother, Mrs. Austin, visited friends in town on Sunday.

A committee of the quarter official board of the Methodist Church interviewed the stationing committee at Sarnia on Saturday, to secure Rev. Murray Stuart of Merlin, as their pastor.



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TIME TABLE

Trains leave Watford station as follows:

GOING WEST
Accommodation, 11.11. 8.4
Chicago Express, 17. 12.4
Detroit Express, 83. 6.5
(a) Chicago Express. 9.1

GOING EAST
Ontario Limited, 80. 7.4
Chicago Express, 6. 11.2
Express. 2.5
Accommodation, 112. 5.3
(a) Stops to let off passengers at Hamilton and east thereof.

Hamilton and east thereof take on passengers for Chicago, C. W. VAIL, Agent, W.

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