

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18th, 1899.

Liberal Conservative Convention in Kings.

Pursuant to notice a convention of the Liberal Conservatives of the riding of Kings was held at Dundas, on Wednesday last. The purpose of the convention was to nominate a candidate to contest the riding at the next Dominion election. The convention was a large, enthusiastic and representative one, delegates being present from every section of the riding, and the greatest harmony and unanimity prevailed. Hon. D. Gordon, President of the Liberal Conservative Association of Kings, presided. The President having called the meeting to order and having stated the object for which those present were assembled, John McLean Esq., ex M. P., ascended the platform, and in a brief and appropriate speech proposed Mr. A. C. McDonald, M. P. as the Liberal Conservative candidate for the next election. The nomination was seconded by Robert Carran, Esq. of Bellville. The motion being put to the meeting by the President was carried without a dissenting voice, amid the greatest enthusiasm. Mr. McDonald then took the platform. He heartily thanked the convention for the unanimous and enthusiastic nomination they had tendered him, and in a rousing speech dealt at some length with the principal public questions of the day. He showed up the dishonesty and inconsistency of the Government; pointed out their record of broken promises and unfulfilled pledges; their present ardent support of measures strenuously opposed when in opposition. He contrasted the statement of expenditure under the present Government with that of their predecessors in office, showing the Liberals to have increased the annual expenditure some twenty millions since their advent to power. And all this in the face of their solemn declarations, made previous to the elections, to reduce the expenditures. The President read a letter from Cyrus Shaw Esq., M. L. A., regretting his inability to be present in consequence of his somewhat impaired health; but expressing his loyalty to whatever course the party should decide to adopt at the convention.

Mr. John Dewar, of New Perth, then delivered an eloquent speech and ended by moving the following resolution:

Whereas our grand old leader, Sir Charles Tupper, has by his untiring energy, prudence and sagacity, contributed much towards inducing a spirit of enthusiasm into the ranks of the opposition;

Resolved, therefore, that this convention take the opportunity of expressing its great admiration of his worth and ability as a statesman, as well as its high appreciation of his valuable services as leader, and trust that he may long be spared to guide the destinies of the Liberal-Conservative party.

This resolution was ably seconded in a rousing speech by J. G. Starns, Esq., Souris, and carried unanimously with three cheers and a tiger for the great Liberal Conservative leader.

J. C. Underhay, Esq., moved the following resolution which after a few appropriate remarks was seconded by Mr. Starns and carried:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to remove from amongst us a political leader who was always a prominent and welcome figure at our meetings, in the person of the late respected and lamented John F. Sullivan;

Resolved, therefore, that we hereby record an expression of the deep loss we have sustained in the death of a wise councillor, an able organizer and a true, honest and noble man.

Short and pointed speeches were then made by John McLean, Esq., Souris; A. W. Bruce, Red Point; Jas. H. Dingwell, Morell; James McLean, Charlottetown, and others. A vote of thanks was enthusiastically tendered the President of the association, to which Hon. Mr. Gordon responded in an excellent speech, in which he showed up the short comings of the Provincial Government.

Mr. Saville, of Amqui, then took the floor, condemned the deception practiced upon the temperance people of Canada by the Government, commended Mr. A. C. McDonald's action in Parliament denouncing the double dealing of the Government on the plebiscite, and ended a well constructed and ably delivered speech by moving:

Whereas, our present member, Mr. A. C. McDonald, has merited the support of the temperance party of Kings, by his vote on the prohibition resolutions in the past session;

Resolved, that this convention desires to express its satisfaction at his action, and express its desire for him to continue to vote and speak in the same manner in future.

The Asylum Investigation.

In June last some correspondence appeared in the public press, severely criticising the management of the Lunatic Asylum and the report of the Grand Jury visiting the institution shortly afterwards, to a great extent bore out these criticisms and was, on the whole very damaging to the management. The public demanded an investigation and the Government promised one. It was not, however, till some three months after these exposures that the commission of inquiry was announced. In the meantime, several persons who could give evidence, from actual observation of the conduct of matters in the asylum, left the Province and took up their abode in the United States; whether or not with the connivance of the Government, we of course, know not. The commissioners appointed by the Government were Benjamin Rogers, Esq., Alberton, Dr. Conroy, Charlottetown and D. P. Irving, Vernon River. Mr. Irving subsequently becoming a Government candidate for the Legislature, he was replaced on the commission by John McEachern, Esq., Cherry Valley. The commission met and took evidence from Tuesday to Friday of last week, first at the Asylum and latterly in the Provincial Building, Charlottetown. The principal witnesses were the Superintendent of the institution, the medical attendant, the employees and the Board of Trustees. The commissioners have issued a preliminary report to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and will in due time publish a full report of the proceedings, with all the evidence. In their preliminary report, the commissioners urgently recommended that the heating apparatus of the building be at once attended to, and if the present apparatus cannot be so improved as to produce sufficient heat, new furnaces be put in. They also recommended that double windows be put on the southern side of the building. These recommendations of the commissioners refer to only a few of the most urgent needs of the institution. The evidence showed that the building was so cold during the winter that the attendants were obliged to wear their overcoats while going round the rooms and corridors; that the windows were so open that rain and snow came in; that water used to freeze on the floor; that the heating pipes had to be covered to keep them from freezing; and this was the atmosphere in which the poor unfortunate lunatics, sick or well, living or dying were constantly kept. More than this, the evidence showed that the pipes, at times, did freeze on the north side; that the water had to be let run to keep it from freezing in the pipes, and that about ten o'clock at night, the fires were extinguished and the patients were allowed to "sleep" in the cold. It was in evidence that there was at times "mice dirt in the porridge," and "dirty grounds in the milk," that the meat at times was "strong," "looked black," "was very tough" and "very lean." It was also shown that the food at times was "not good." These are a few of the disclosures made by witnesses. Premier Farquharson is chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Asylum, and the testimony of the medical attendant, Dr. Blanchard, shows that during last year, the trustees made only 14 visits to the institution, while in 1883 as many as 119 visits had been made. The law requires that one of the trustees shall visit the Asylum once a week. During the whole investigation Premier Farquharson was present, evidently to oversee by his presence the employees of the Asylum when giving evidence. He frequently asked questions of the witnesses and otherwise interfered with the commissioners in their work. So much so, indeed, that at last one commissioner threatened to resign if such conduct were persisted in. We have given but the meagre outline of the proceedings; but enough has been said to show that in their management of the Asylum the Government have behaved in a pretty kettle of fish. We shall have occasion to refer to this matter again, later on.

As elsewhere noted, one thousand volunteers from Canada are to go forward to engage in the South African District officers in the different districts named by the Government are enrolling such volunteers as come up to the requirements. In this city Lieut. Col. Moore, D. O. C. is receiving numbers of applicants. It is expected that the Canadian troops will sail on the steamer Sardinian, leaving Montreal on the 24th inst, going direct to South Africa.

The Columbian, published at New Westminster, B. C., has published a large illustrated supplement of an exhibition souvenir. It will be remembered that New Westminster was almost entirely wiped out by fire about a year ago. It has risen, Phoenix like, from its ashes, and is again on the high road to prosperity. We are pleased to notice among the illustrations of the supplement mentioned, an excellent likeness of our esteemed friend Alderman Roderick C. McDonald, of McDonald Bros., formerly of this Province. The people of New Westminster have shown excellent judgment in selecting Mr. McDonald as one of their aldermen, and it is a source of pleasure to us to hear of his success, and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen.

Rev. FATHER MORGAN, Catholic parish priest at Halifax, received orders Thursday afternoon to leave for the Transvaal. In two hours he was on his way, having taken the maritime express en route to New York and Southampton.

AT OTTAWA.

CANADIAN CONTINGENT.—THE PREMIER'S UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT GIVES MR. TARTE A CHANCE.—TO DECLARE THAT CANADA WILL SEND NO CORPS.—CONFLICTING STATEMENTS ON AUTHORITY.—EVIDENCE IN A QUARREL WHAT SHALL THE END BE?

(Special Correspondence to the Herald.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 18.—The one chief topic of political interest at the capital all over the Dominion during the past week has been the South African trouble and the action of Canada in regard to it. The statement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, given in the last letter, that the government had not even considered the question of sending a corps for this service came as a shock to the people of both parties through the country. The effect of this public sentiment soon began to be manifest in cabinet circles. From members of parliament supporting the government, as well as from those opposing it, from mayors of towns, from reeves and wardens of other municipalities, from active and retired officers, and from citizens in private life have come urgent requests that the government should consider the matter at once. The patriotic pride of Canadians has been touched as they have read the offer and the grateful acceptance of contingents from New Zealand and the colonies of Australia, and especially the description of the popular demonstration in England over the New South Wales corps, which has just embarked for South Africa, after a period of drill at Aldershot. There is a feeling of indignation that Canada alone, the first and greatest of all the colonies, should have no part in this great imperial movement.

HE SPOKE TOO SOON. So strong and general has been the protest that it has had great weight with most of the ministers, while doubtless some were never in harmony with the declaration of the premier. Yet here was his statement: "There is no menace to Canada, and although we may be willing to contribute troops I do not see how we can do so."

"Then again how could we do so without parliament granting us the money? We simply could not do so."

"So it is that we have not offered a contingent to the home authorities."

"The government has not discussed the question."

So the premier spoke a week ago. Then he went to Chicago as the leader of the Canadian contingent which took part with President McKinley in the arduous contract of laying the cornerstone of the new post office in that city. The reports say that the premier took Chicago by storm on Saturday. A great public reception was given him on Sunday evening by the French Canadian societies to whom he delivered an eloquent speech in his own language. On Monday he was eloquent in English as he addressed the assemblage at the corner stone gathering. On Thursday he arrived at Ottawa to find that while he was gone the people of Canada had been making themselves heard from. The Toronto Globe, the great organ of the party, had been engaged in the task of quelling the government with the people. Two issues of that paper contained long dispatches from the capital explaining that while the minister had not said much, elaborate and thorough preparations had been made by the department of militia for the despatch of troops to South Africa. The Ottawa correspondent assured his liberal readers that "it was at the request of the imperial government that the Canadian administration refrained from making public announcement as to its intentions." He went on to tell that the home government had asked how many units of 150 men could be provided, that the minister had made enquiries, that makers of militia clothing were preparing tunics and trousers with all possible speed; that the assembly of the force would begin at once if war was declared, and that in ten days the whole force would be armed and equipped and ready to step on board the steamship to sail for the seat of war.

MR. TARTE HEARD FROM. This was reassuring. But the day after the Globe gave the first suggestion that a corps was to be sent to South Africa, a prompt contradiction came from Mr. Tarde's paper, La Patrie of Montreal. It was more than a contradiction. It was an emphatic condemnation of the whole South Africa programme.

Mr. Tarde, through his paper, expressed his astonishment at "the inconsistent manner in which a certain number of our citizens have spoken," meaning those citizens who desire to see Canada in a line with the other colonies. Then he reassured these citizens in this way:

"What have we to do with the affairs of Africa?"

"What interests have we in the Transvaal?"

"Why should we take the money and the blood of the Canadians and send them to squander them in these far away regions?"

"We put this question to all who are able to think and ponder?"

MR. TARDE'S PERSONAL CHALLENGE. The next morning came the Toronto Globe again with the fuller information above quoted about the despatch of troops. This time Mr. Tarde protested over his own name in a statement to La Patrie newspaper. In this signed statement the minister of public works declared: "I am in a position to give you the most positive assurance that the government has not come to any decision relative to the sending of a military corps to the Transvaal. The merits of the dispute between England and the Transvaal are one thing; the interference by Canada in the foreign wars of the empire is another. It is sought to create a precedent which would have for result the compulsory participation in the future by Canada in any and all the conflicts which may sweep over Europe and over the various parts of the world in which the large European governments are interested."

"The government will be happy to favor the departure of all those whose wasteful instincts and patriotism make them want to go to the Transvaal to fight, but I do not believe that public opinion in this country asks more and I will add will never consent to come in such an eventuality as now exists."

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We also carry a large range of English, Scotch and Canadian Tweeds, also English Worsteds and Serges and English Pantings. We have the largest range of Cloth in the city.

We buy our Dress Goods in the best English Markets, and our large department is replete with the best and most up-to-date goods to be found. Everything is marked in plain figures. Double width Dress Goods, all wool, from 19 cts. per yard up. Ladies' Underwear in large variety, Side Combs, Back Combs, Belt Buckles, Hosiery, Corsets, Goggles, Trimmed Hats.

Our Head Milliner, MISS MUTOCH, is a born artist, and her large department is FULL of the choicest material for trimming. Plain and embossed Silk Velvets in all the leading shades, Plumes, Mounts, Tips, Sprays, Ribbons, Crowns, Everything. Leave your order for your Wedding Hat and get the best, leave your order for your Fall Hat and get satisfaction.

Herewith is a skeleton front of our large four story brick store. You will see that it is the highest store building in the city. You will also notice that the height of our building stands in marked contrast to our prices; for while our building is the highest, our prices are the lowest.

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