

Capt. Thos. S. Hobbs,

Liberal Candidate for London City.

Large and Representative Convention Last Night.

Speeches on the Situation by Leading Citizens.

Strong Indorsation of Ontario's Grand Old Man.

Toronto's City Solicitor No Longer Wanted in London.

The City Must Have a Man Devoted to Its Interests.

And Will Choose No Deserter for Its Representative.

The Young Liberal Club rooms, Oddfellow's block, were crowded with delegates last night on the occasion of the nomination of a candidate by the Liberal party to represent the city in the Legislature. Many members of the party were packed into the corridors and stairways, anxious to listen to the deliberations of the convention, and the utmost enthusiasm in favor of Sir Oliver Mowat's Administration was displayed from first to last. It was early made abundantly evident that though there might be some difference of opinion as to who should be the man chosen to replace the Toronto city solicitor as member for London, there was no one who had any doubt as to the propriety of letting Toronto find a seat for its paid advocate if he wants one. Many names were placed before the convention formally, but it was very soon evident that but three would consent to go to the vote. They were Dr. Campbell, ex-Mayor Spencer and Capt. Thos. S. Hobbs. Each had many warm friends in the meeting, but on the ballot being taken it was found that Capt. Hobbs had a clear majority over the other two, and his selection as candidate became the unanimous finding of the convention amid loud cheers.

It was a few minutes after 8 o'clock when Mr. V. Cronyn, president of the London Liberal Association, took the chair and expressed his gratification at seeing so large and enthusiastic a gathering of Liberals crowded into the hall. They were all aware of the object of the meeting, and he therefore said he was ready to receive nominations.

MR. HOBBS NOMINATED.
Mr. Thomas H. Purdon said he had great pleasure in proposing the future member for London—Thomas S. Hobbs. (Cheers.) "If he can be persuaded to enter this contest he will carry the election by a very handsome majority. (Cheers.) He has been with us in every fight the party have had in many years, and we know him to be a worker of the most successful kind. If we can get a man—a young, energetic business man whom we all know—we have the first elements of success, and I think you will agree with me that Mr. Tom Hobbs will win. He possesses all the qualities to make a first-class man. We know him to be a whole-souled and thoroughly generous—one who has been with us no matter how the fight seemed to be going. (Cheers.) We all want a man who has been thoroughly identified with the Reform party. Mr. Meredith has been returned by acclamation two or three times, but not for many years has there been a fair and square fight between the Liberals and Conservatives for the Legislature. On this occasion it will be. (Cheers.) Whoever the Reformer is it will never be lost sight of that he has the prestige of the Mowat Government behind him, and that is no small thing. (Cheers.) London has hitherto been considered a stronghold for the Opposition leaders, but it is because there has never been a serious attempt to elect a Reformer. (Cheers.) It is very evident from the gathering to-night that you are prepared to unite upon whoever the nominee of this convention may be and to carry him to victory. (Cheers.)

It was not Dr. Geo. C. Davis' intention to make a speech, but he was induced to do so by the nomination of Mr. Thos. S. Hobbs. (Cheers.) When they had a candidate in the coming contest they wanted one whom they could depend upon at all times on being a Liberal. (Applause.) Mr. Hobbs had proven that he was one of them in every fight. He had made no parade before the public to gain applause, but when no applause was to be won he was working for them. (Applause.) And what was wanted in this campaign was a man over whom they could "enthuse," over whom they could say "That is the man of our choice," and whom they would be proud to have represent them in the Legislature at Toronto. He had interests in London in contradistinction to his opponent, who had moved everything to Toronto. (Applause.) Mr. Hobbs had large mercantile interests here. Everything he owned was in the city of London, and he asked them if it would not be a powerful thing when they appealed to the electors with a man whose every interest was here. Mr. Hobbs had won a position in the city, but he had done it by his own indomitable will, perseverance and hard work. It was in his recollection when Mr. Hobbs worked in London for the smallest wages that were received by anyone in the room. By hard work and nothing else but his indomitable will he had worked himself up to his present position, and he was the gentleman whom they could support and elect overwhelmingly against any opponent that might come against him. (Loud cheers.)

After Mr. Hobbs' nomination others flowed in this and that. "He is a gentleman who will do credit to the city and credit to the party," said Mr. Moses

Masuret in nominating Dr. Cl. T. Campbell. The name was vigorously applauded. Mr. Geo. M. Reid briefly nominated Mr. Gibbons, referring to his splendid work in the Liberal cause. R. K. Cowan took great pleasure in nominating "that old war horse Mr. John Campbell." Dr. Geo. C. Davis was nominated by Mr. J. D. Clarke, amid cheers, as "the Chaucery Dewey of Canada."

Mr. M. H. Rowland nominated Geo. M. Reid, whom he said was a man who had been identified with the Liberal Club and Liberal party ever since there was such a club in the city. If he could be prevailed upon to run, the speaker was sure that he would succeed. The list speedily rolled up, and at the close of the nominations the following had been named:

Nominees. Mover. Second.

Mr. W. Spencer. Ald. J. W. Jones. Wm. T. Tyler.

Thos. S. Hobbs. T. H. Purdon. Geo. C. Davis.

Dr. Campbell. M. Masuret. Geo. Coffey.

G. C. Gibbons. Geo. M. Reid. R. K. Cowan.

Ald. Parnell. J. Stephenson. J. R. Milne.

R. K. Cowan. W. H. Hardie. Dr. Geo. C. Davis.

T. Macbeth. J. B. McKillop. Mr. H. Rowland.

Campbell. R. K. Cowan. Hy. Warner.

G. C. Davis. Thos. Gillies. Sam. Stevely.

L. W. Burke. Thos. Gillies. John Pritchett.

A. O. Jeffery. Finlay McNeill. T. Macbeth.

A. H. Purdon. J. Campbell. Dr. Westland.

M. Masuret. J. Campbell. Dr. Westland.

Frank Love. G. C. Cameron. John Purdon.

Geo. M. Reid. M. H. Rowland. W. Gerry.

V. Cronyn. W. B. Kilgour. W. J. Craig.

Ald. J. W. Jones. W. Craig. J. Stephenson.

MR. GEORGE C. GIBBONS.

He was glad to see the interest Liberals were taking in the election again. "I don't need to speak to you of the Mowat Government. You are all convinced. (Cheers.) I am proud we have a Government to support such as has ruled Ontario for twenty years. It deserves our support, because it has been honest, because it has given us a pure, good government, and because it has refused to take advantage of sectionalism and intolerance as the Opposition has tried to do, or through corruption in its contracts or otherwise. We have had no Mowat scandals. (Cheers.) The man who has had charge of the public works of the Province is about to retire. It is a matter of the greatest regret to Ontario and to me personally, for there is no member of the Government for whom I have higher esteem. He has been true to the interests of the country; he has built that magnificent building free from the taint of extravagance; he has watched the affairs of the Province as closely as if they were his own; and he departs from public life without a single stain on his character. (Cheers.) The Mowat Government, while maintaining Liberal principles, has been fair towards every section of the people of this Province. It is the only way of building up a united country—by ignoring the sectionalism and factionalism which had been the underlying principles of Mr. Meredith's policy. These feelings have awakened, and are ready to express their disavowal of these views. (Cheers.) You have a fine array of candidates. I am not in the field, though under other circumstances I would have been glad to accept the high honor. We want a Liberal in every sense of the word, and we have him in this list undoubtedly. We want no uncertain sound. There was a time when Liberals have been policy to hedge, but Liberals need not hedge now. (Cheers.) We have won our position in this city—(Cheers)—and our colors will again be the winning colors. (Cheers.) I am ready to support any man the convention names, though I think in Mr. Hobbs you would have the representative you ought to have in this city. (Cheers.) Mr. Hobbs only allowed his name to go before this convention on the strongest urgency. He is an enterprising citizen, a good Liberal, a large employer of labor, and an upright, moral man. (Cheers.) A better candidate you could not run against a man who is not a resident of London, whose interests are in another city, who has a room for him in Toronto; let him run there if he must. Mr. Meredith has had a monopoly here for twenty years, and that is long enough. I am confident of the result of this election. Mr. Hobbs will not only get the support of the straight Liberals, but many of the moderate outsiders. You have only to do your duty to relieve the city from the thralls of Toryism." (Cheers.)

FOR MR. SPENCER.

Ald. J. W. Jones said he was there to speak for Mr. Spencer—(Cheers)—who was somewhat unwell. "Mr. Spencer gets the nomination he will make a representative of whom we will feel proud. (Cheers.) His interests are all in the city of London, as are Mr. Hobbs'. (Cheers.) He has grown up amongst you, and is known to all. His record as mayor should commend him to all the right-thinking men of the city, not only in the party but outside. (Cheers.) Whoever the convention elects I am with you. (Cheers.) I can answer for Mr. Spencer; whoever is the candidate he is with you. (Cheers.)

MR. M. MASURET.

Mr. M. Masuret regretted that Dr. Campbell was not present. He was a man of great ability and had been a Reformer all his life. (Cheers.) If Dr. Campbell got the nomination he would be a credit to the city. (Cheers.)

ALD. PARNELL.

Ald. Parnell was warmly received. He asked leave to withdraw his name. During the late municipal campaign he told the public that he was a candidate for the mayor's chair for 1895. (Cheers.) "I am still of the determined opinion that I am going to be mayor next year. (Cheers.) I do not care whether the nominee of this convention is white or black, or any other color, I am going to support him, and he will be at the head of the polls by an overwhelming majority over his opponent, who has monopolized the honor for twenty years, and has given us nothing in return. (Cheers.) As a representative of No. 6 ward, I might say that we were never in better fighting trim. We gave Mr. Purdon 95 majority there; and the delegation from South London to-night are prepared to roll that majority up to 125 for Mr. Hobbs." (Cheers.)

MR. R. K. COWAN.

Mr. R. K. Cowan declined to stand in a very witty speech. He thought there were sixteen or seventeen men who could beat Mr. Meredith, judging by the nominees. At some future time he would consider entering himself for a contest. However, he would support the present nominee for the division in which he was engaged within three or four of the actual vote. He had always done it and would do it again. (Cheers.)

MR. TALBOT MACBETH.

"I am glad," said Mr. Talbot Macbeth, "to see such a representative meeting of

the Liberals of London assembled here to-night to select the next member for London in the Local Legislature. But I have done in a few contests in this city, and also had a little work to do later with the voters' lists, which has brought me into close contact with Liberals. The Liberal party in this city never yet was so thoroughly united, so full of fight and so eager for the fray as they are at the present time, and never have I noticed upon this present occasion. We are here to select a candidate. The choice rests with you. Choose a man on whom the Liberal party can unite as one man in the support of several questions arising between the candidate whom we select. For Mr. Province and Toronto, and how can Mr. own part, I can only thank the gentleman who has been good enough to bring me before this meeting. (Applause.)

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL.

Mr. John Campbell said: "I thank the gentlemen who have nominated me to this high and honorable position, but must certainly decline the honor. I have been 30 years younger I would not seek better fun. You are all here with fire in your eye, every one of you. Go on and heartily support the man of this convention. There must be no backing out, no feeling of spite for the defeat of the candidate or the other candidate—because we can't nominate 15 or 16 men. There is hardly any choice between them. If I were to make a choice myself I would be like the Irishman who was in the graveyard with the undertaker. He had buried two wives, and like myself he was getting old and about considering the spot where he would like to lie. The undertaker asked him where he would like to lie.

"Oh, lay me exactly between the two biddies," answered Pat. "Here is my biddy's grave and here is Mollie's. I want to be laid exactly between the two biddies."

"So you want to be laid exactly between the two?" asked the undertaker.

"Yes, between the two," replied Pat. "But," as he reflected a moment, "you might just give my head a slight can towards Biddy." (Laughter and applause.)

"I am perfectly willing to work for one or the other, but I might have a little can towards one of those."

Mr. Campbell closed his address with the plea for religious tolerance. "Men are women," he said "are largely what they are by the accident of their birth. How can I help being a Presbyterian? (Cheers.) How can Mr. Masuret and Mr. Coffey help what they are—good Catholics—or Mr. Cronyn a good member of the Anglican Church? (Renewed cheers.) Perish sectional and religious strife in this grand country." (Cheers.)

DR. GEO. C. DAVIS.

Dr. Geo. C. Davis said that he had no intention of being a candidate. He did live in Toronto at one time, and Toronto water did not agree with him, and he did not wish to go there again. (Laughter.) I was perfectly useless for any gentleman to ask them to be united on the nominee of the convention, because no matter who the nominee was he had yet to find a Gri-Liberal. (Laughter.) Let Mr. Campbell, who had so wittily signified his intention of giving his head a little can towards Biddy, so was he, but in his case "Biddy" was Mr. Thos. S. Hobbs. (Prolonged cheering.) He believed he was the strongest man in the room, but he would work just as hard as any man for the Liberal cause. He would support the nominee of the convention as he would for his fellow-nominee, but he declined to allow his own name to go to the ballot.

MR. T. S. HOBBS.

Mr. Thomas S. Hobbs was greeted with deafening applause. "I had no idea of being a candidate until a short time since," he said. "But my friends urged me to let my name be put before the convention, and I am sure that if you work for me I will win better men behind him than those who have never been beaten, and I will be beaten in this. (Loud cheers.) I will give cordial support to the Liberal party."

MR. L. W. BURKE.

Mr. L. W. Burke, president of the Young Liberal Club, thanked the convention on behalf of the Young Liberals for the honor done them through him. (Cheers.) "Whoever receives this nomination will be the big dog in the fight. The Young Liberals are ready and eager to surround the standard, fall into the ranks and stand by the guns until the last cartridge is fired. (Cheers.) We will rally to the support of a Government that has done justice to all classes, creeds and colors."

MR. A. O. JEFFERY.

Mr. A. O. Jeffery said that while declining to stand himself he would support the nominee of the convention, and was prepared to work with the delegates from his Conservative ward under so close that Mr. Meredith would wonder where he used to live. (Laughter.)

MR. THOS. H. PURDON.

Mr. Thos. H. Purdon thanked those who had nominated him. Under certain circumstances he would have been very much obliged to circumstances he could not accept. It was quite plain from the very business-like speech that Mr. Hobbs had made that if chosen, and from the hearty manner in which he had been received by the undivided support of the Liberal party, that he would float into victory on the night of the election in June. He was heartily in favor of Mr. Hobbs' candidature, and if they would all unite as one man and put the Reform constituency of Mr. Thos. S. Hobbs. No time could be any stronger when the ballots were counted and he placed with the redeemed in the gloaming. (Cheers.)

MR. MOSES MASURET.

Mr. Masuret thanked Mr. Campbell, but felt that he was barred from being a candidate for two reasons. Mr. Meredith had four years ago told the people of Ontario that the French were a very dangerous people. (Hear, hear.) Whether Frenchman from "wayback"—(laughter)—and for fear that he (Mr. Meredith) might say that he was the advance guard of those who were to conquer Ontario—(hear, hear, and laughter)—in time, he must decline, Mr. Masuret's other reason for declining was on account of the objection some of Mr. Meredith's warmest followers would have to him on account of his creed. (Cheers.)

MR. F. LOVE.

Mr. Frank Love was in his usual happy humor and imparted it to his audience. Notwithstanding all the encouragement he

had received he had resolved to decline the nomination. (Laughter.) He thought the one who would have the greatest support would be Mr. Thos. S. Hobbs. (Cheers.) "His recommendations have been pointed out to you, as have the demerits of his opponent. Mr. Meredith's course in Parliament has been erratic. He is not only a citizen of Toronto but a paid official of the Toronto take our city clerk, Mr. Kingston, or our city solicitor for the last time. Is there a better way to show our gratitude to that great and good man, who has done so much for his country, than by electing Mr. Hobbs?" (Cries of "We will!" and cheers.)

ALD. J. W. JONES.

Ald. J. W. Jones said if he got this nomination he was sure of election, because, judging from the past record of the Ontario Government, whoever received the nomination was certain to win if he went as a supporter of the Mowat Government. (Cheers.) He had always claimed that Mr. Meredith, now of Toronto, had been a traitor to the land of his birth and to the Province of Ontario. Every constitutional question that he opposed had been won by Sir Oliver Mowat every time before the Privy Council. He declined. (Cheers.)

MR. V. CRONYN and Mr. Geo. M. Reid declined to stand in a few grateful words.

CHAS. S. HYMAN, M.P.

In response to loud cries for "Hyman," that gentleman stood up to speak and received an ovation. In the names that were before them for their choice there was, he said, more than one with the owner of their standard-bearer that would place the city of London amongst the redeemed in the next election. As Liberals they entered into the fight glad to know that they were supporting a Government that they could give an honest and true support to; a Government that for 23 years had conducted the affairs of the Province with honesty. There were no such scandals at Toronto as those in which the Dominion Government had been so prolific. Mr. Hyman referred to Hon. C. F. Fraser's hostile attitude as the Ontario Parliament buildings had been constructed without any Ottawa tactics—without the misappropriation of a dollar. (Cheers.) He spoke of the Montreal bridge scandal, that even a Tory commission characterized as disgraceful. The original expense of the bridge was to have been \$175,000, but it cost \$475,000 before it was finished. The Liberal party, he was glad to say, declared no man on account of his religion. He cared not what color a man's skin was or what religion he professed so long as he was a man, and if such they could honestly support him. He was prouder now than ever that he was a Liberal and had been brought up a Liberal. (Cheers.) He would be very sorry were he in Mr. Meredith's position to-day. Although that gentleman pretended not to be responsible for the dividing agitation that was taking place, never yet had he appeared on the platform and decried the tactics that his colleagues were taking advantage of through the country. The nominee of the Province had refused, not only once, but in every instance, to make any appeal to the prejudice of any action of the people. (Cheers.) They decided simply to be judged on the records of their Government. (Applause and cheers.)

He felt that the nominee of the convention, whoever he might be, would receive the support of every Liberal in the city of London. He knew what it was to give the solid good before the convention, and he could not but feel that the candidate that he wanted was Mr. Thos. S. Hobbs. He was ready to win better men behind him than those who were ready to back him up and help him to win with fair and honorable weapons. (Cheers.) In conclusion Mr. Hyman said that he would throw himself into the midst of the fight and work heartily for the election of the gentleman to whom the convention tendered the nomination.

THE BALLOT.

The room was then left entirely to the delegates, and preparations made for the balloting. Mr. R. K. Cowan and Mr. M. H. Rowland acted as scrutineers. The names before the election were Thos. S. Hobbs, W. M. Spencer, and Dr. Cl. T. Campbell. It required only one ballot to show that Mr. Hobbs had over twice as many votes as either one of his fellow-nominees. The doors were again thrown open, and the crowd thronged in. The chairman read the result and then followed much cheering, which was continued till Mr. Hobbs appeared.

Ald. J. W. Jones, on behalf of Mr. Spencer, withdrew that gentleman's name in favor of Mr. Hobbs. Mr. Masuret followed and withdrew Dr. Campbell's name. Ald. Jones then moved and Mr. Masuret seconded "That Mr. Thos. S. Hobbs be the unanimous choice of this convention."

MR. THOS. S. HOBBS.

To say that the nomination carried with cheers is putting it mildly. In the acclaim that followed Mr. Hobbs made his appearance, but it was several minutes ere he could be heard. "I am quite certain," said he, "that the cheers I have just heard will be heard again on the night of the election. (Hear, hear, and more cheers.) Again I thank you for the honor you have conferred on me by electing me unanimously as your candidate for the Local Legislature. I am not much of a speaker on the public platform. This is my first speech before so large an audience. My work has been in the trenches and among my fellow-citizens. I have no doubt of success with such a loyal band of friends as the Liberal party in London are. I am satisfied with Mr. Hyman that no man had such a loyal party behind him as he had. And I am sure that they will be behind me. (Cheers.) All I have in the city of London. I am not looking to Toronto for a living. I am a workingman and want to be a workingman's candidate. (Cheers.) I worked on the G. T. R. for \$1 a day when I came to this town, and I want to be a friend of all workmen. I am very grateful for the honor you have conferred upon me. We must buckle down to work. It will be work with me, and I will be in the midst of the fight from the word 'go.'" (Prolonged cheers.)

Dr. Geo. C. Davis then moved, and President Burke seconded the following resolution: "That this meeting express its fullest confidence in the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat, and also in the leader of the Dominion Opposition, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier."

The resolution was cheered to the echo. Three more cheers were given, this time for the Queen, and the meeting adjourned.

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