

THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION OF ONTARIO, HELD AT LONDON ON OCTOBER 11, 1916.

LIBERALISM has awakened. Any apathy that has been apparent on the part of Liberals in Ontario, seems to be a thing of the past. More Liberals were gathered together in London, Ontario, on October 11th, than have been gathered in conference in many a day, and the general tone of the discussions and the high plane of the speeches of the Liberal Leaders make it plain that the future of Liberalism in Federal and Provincial fields is in good hands.

The Annual Gathering of Delegates from the Clubs in the Federation was held in the afternoon at the London Liberal Club, and the evening meeting took the form of a banquet at the Princess Winter Garden.

At the banquet, where more than sixteen hundred attended, the principal speakers were Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. N. W. Rowell and Hon. T. C. Norris, Premier of Manitoba, with Hon. Geo. P. Graham and Mr. S. W. Jacobs, K.C., of Montreal, making short speeches at the close of the meeting.

The London Liberal Club co-operated with the Federation in the matter of the arrangements and the programme developed fine speeches on many subjects of interest to Liberals at this time.

Agriculture was debated with much enthusiasm by some of the agricultural experts of Western Ontario, and to close the discussion on this important branch of Governmental activity, Mr. H. B. Cowan, Editor of Farm & Dairy, Peterborough, gave a ten minute address outlining the Legislation that the farmers of Ontario were desirous of having passed. Those who took part in this discussion were: Mr. Walter Rogers, Aylmer; Nelson Parliament, M.P.P.; J. G. Turriff, M.P.; J. D. Wylie, President of the Cardinal Liberal Club; Thos. McMillan, Seaforth and others.

The subject of Labor and Social Reform was one that created much enthusiasm, and the speakers did not hesitate to flay the Corporations and the Government for the way in which Labor had been trodden upon for the benefit of the favored few. Claude Sanagan of London, and R. S. Muir of Toronto, dealt with different phases of the situation, and to close the discussion, Sam Carter, M.P.P., of Guelph, gave a fifteen minute address that took the delegates by storm. Mr. Carter was in his best form, and proceeded to detail the many grievances of the laboring classes, and the fact that he is himself a manufacturer, gives him an insight into this subject that few men are able to get.

A pleasing feature of the afternoon was the presence of Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, Toronto, President of the Provincial Women's Liberal Association and Mrs. Ross Stewart, bringing greetings from their Association. Mrs. Macdonald dealt with different phases of the work undertaken by their Association, and made a special appeal to the women of Ontario to assist in the foundation of Women's Liberal Clubs. Mrs. Macdonald specially requested any women interested in this subject to communicate with her in Toronto.

The subject of Citizenship embodying Graft and Patronage Evil, were dealt with by Alderman Ramsden of Toronto and Dr. Rogers of Tillsonburg.

Mr. George Wilkie of Toronto who has made a special study of Nickel, gave the delegates the history of Canadian Nickel and his arraignment of the Government for their policy in this regard was very strong.

C. C. Grant, President of the University Liberal Club, Toronto, opened the discussion on the work of the Liberal Club Federation in a telling speech in which he appealed to the young men of the Province to take a more active interest in politics. W. C. Lewis, W. P. Charlton and C. M. Goddard also dealt with different phases of the work to be undertaken during the ensuing year.

Mr. A. R. McMaster of Montreal brought greetings from Quebec Liberals and received a tribute that showed the feeling among the Liberals of the two Provinces was for better and more friendly intercourse.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee brought forward the following list of nominations which was unanimously adopted by the Meeting:

President—George S. Gibbons, London, Ont.

First Vice-President—J. D. Wylie, Cardinal.

Second Vice-President—Dr. J. M. Rodgers, Ingersoll.

Secretary-Treasurer—B. H. McCreath, Toronto

Executive Committee:—

H. E. M. Chisholm, Ottawa

W. K. Murphy, Toronto

J. R. Marshall, Hamilton, Ont.

A. E. Moore, Owen Sound, Ont.

Claude Sanagan, London, Ont.

Sydney McPherson, Belleville, Ont.

James Devine, North Bay, Ont.

W. B. Preston, Brantford, Ont.

The Session was attended by more than 800 people and the enthusiasm augurs well for the most successful year the Federation has yet experienced.

We quote herewith extracts from the Speeches delivered at the Banquet.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

THE WAR FOR CIVILIZATION.—

"I need not tell you that we meet under the shadow of a terrible war, which for the past two years has been desolating Europe and engrossing the attention of the civilized world. Neither would it be amiss if once more I recall that this war is a war for civilization. If there be anyone in this audience, or elsewhere, who may be of the opinion that this has been said too often, that it might be left unsaid, I beg to dissent.

STILL AGAINST MILITARISM.—

"And so saying I abate not a jot of my lifelong profession, reiterated in the House of Commons and upon many a platform of this country, that I am a pacifist. I have always been against militarism, and I see no reason why I should, on the contrary, I see many reasons