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Mercier to address

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the campaign. In past years the party had suffered disasters for want of proper organization. He trusted, however, that all that over-confidence in the honesty of their adversaries was at an end, and that henceforth they would stand and fight together for the popular rights of the people. (Cheers.) The meeting to-day was a happy omen for the future of the party in this Province. It was a meeting of intelligent and honest men, whose sole aim was the good of their common country, and he was convinced would meet with the appreciation of the country. He was not at that time going to speak of a programme for the coming elections, that would come in good time. They would profit by the occasion. It would not do to give the enemy a chance. The Conservatives had again and again accused the Liberal party of being a party of revolutionists, but he denied the charge, and would point their accusers to the long and noble record of Liberal triumphs, and always in favour of the people's rights. (Loud cheers.) The Liberal party were for maintaining the Constitution in all its grandeur, while at the same time jealously guarding the patrimony of the people.

At this moment the Hon. Edward Blake accompanied by Hon. L. S. Huntington arrived, and, as they came upon the platform, the whole assembly rose and cheered the great Liberal leader for some moments. The Hon. Mr. Blake bowed his acknowledgments of the warm welcome accorded him.

Hon. Mr. Mercier, continuing his remarks, said the Liberal party were for upholding just laws and good Government for all men, without distinction of creed or nationality. It was a purely Constitutional party, devising a general progressive policy for the administration of public affairs. The question of tariff was a Federal question, which they had not to decide just now, because the organisation was rather Provincial, but the day was coming when the Liberal party would have something to say on this great question. Tariffs should have a permanent character, and every party should endeavour to lessen the burdens of the people, but, at the same time, should not forget the vested interests of the manufacturers, and care should be exercised in the revision of the tariff in order not to ruin well-meaning manufacturers. For revenue purposes the tariff would have to be pretty high. Another question was that of public instruction. The fate of the Liberal party depended upon the education of the people. Ignorance was the basis of absolute government, while education was the right of progress. The people of Canada were a working peo-

ple, and should have every means placed within their power to improve their own and their children's mind. After pointing out how the School question had benefited England, France and Germany, the hon. gentleman closed his speech with a few well-timed remarks at the presence of the Hon. Mr. Blake, the great leader of the party in the Dominion, and who they and the country were proud of. Mr. Mercier resumed his seat amid much applause.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the Hon. Mr. Huntington had been requested to address them, and, though suffering from a cold, had consented.

The Hon. L. S. HUNTINGTON, M. P., addressed the gathering. He said that the Liberal party need not be ashamed of its record. It need not be ashamed either of its members, but he thought perhaps they would prefer to be judged rather by the number of people their representatives represented, than by the number of representatives. They were a small band in Parliament, but the party had laboured hard in what they believed to be the public interest, and they now called upon the party in this Province and in this district to re-organize, so as to carry into effect the views which they believed to be for the benefit of the country. A party that deserved success never desponded, so it was said, in the hour of disaster, and if they had fallen in consequence of circumstances, which it was unnecessary to recapitulate, and if they now had not the representation to which they had been accustomed in Parliament, and which he was sure, from that meeting, they were determined to have again; if they had not their old strength, still they had faith in the future, and in the eternal vitality of the principles on which they stood. Though it was not his intention to make a speech, they would not regret listening to the expression of the opinion from one who could, at least, claim the credit of fealty to the Liberal party, that the future was as bright for them as the past had been. (Applause.) If for a moment, the great Liberal party had been found under a cloud, for want of popular appreciation it had been only the accompaniment of that general disturbance which had passed over the world, and which had affected even the fiscal relations of one man to another, and they could look forward hopefully, if they displayed fealty to their principles, to the great influence which these principles would ever cause in the future of the country they loved. (Applause.) They were assembled to make some step in the direction of organisation, by which they would have a voluntary association, composed of individuals in the party, allying them-