

# Hon. J. M. Gibson's Address

At Fergus, on October 21st, 1901.

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THE meeting was held in the Town Hall and was the occasion of the Attorney-General's first appearance at a meeting in East Wellington since his renomination. The Chair was occupied by Mr. Argo, who made a brief speech by way of introduction. The Hon. Mr. Gibson was well received and spoke as follows:

My first word to the Liberals of East Wellington at the present time is naturally an expression of gratitude for the unanimous nomination at the Convention. When I first entered the constituency in 1898 the understanding was that the representation should be given to me for the balance of the Parliamentary term, and I gave the assurance that a nomination for a further term would not be sought by me. That assurance has been lived up to on my part in good faith. Frequently, when I have felt a desire to visit the constituency and become better acquainted with my constituents, I have been deterred from doing so by the consideration that it might be charged against me that I was in reality seeking to make myself solid for another term and my visits to East Wellington have been confined to special occasions in connection with which my presence could not possibly justify any such construction of my motives.

## UNANIMOUS NOMINATION ACCEPTED.

There are many men in the riding of ability, whose names have often been suggested in connection with the Parliamentary representation of East Wellington, and from among whom excellent candidates might have been selected. It has not been without some misgiving therefore, on my part that my connection with the constituency should for the time being seem to stand in the way of very reasonable and natural aspirations on the part of any of these gentlemen. The invitation, however, appeared to me to come with such a degree of unanimity as to justify my immediate acceptance in a response to the telegraphic message sent from the President of the Association, asking my reply on the afternoon of the Convention. The honour of having represented East Wellington has been greatly appreciated by me. It can safely be said without flattery, and without any insincerity on my part, that East Wellington stands second to no constituency in the Province in the material advantages it enjoys as an agricultural section of the country and certainly not as regards the solid, sterling and intelligent qualities of the people. (Applause.) Correspondingly great is the