

EAST YORK ELECTION.

Reform Convention.

J. K. LESLIE, NOMINATED

Perhaps the largest, most unanimous and enthusiastic reform convention ever held in the East Riding of York, was the one held on Monday last at Marlham, for the selecting of a candidate to fill the vacancy occasioned by the lamented death of the late Hon. Alex. Mackenzie. The village was quite astir with the large influx of strangers, and the town hall was filled to overflowing, for there were representations from every part of the riding. It was a spontaneous gathering too, for no cards or circulars had been issued, simply the announcement of the meeting made to the officers of the local organizations had been sufficient to bring this large representative gathering together, and the spirit of determination to win seemed to animate every one. A special train left the Union Station taking the different stations on the route. On arriving at the hall no time was lost in proceeding to business, the first thing being the regular annual business of the Association. Mr. J. C. Clark occupied the chair. On calling for nominations the first name mentioned was Capt John Knox Leslie, which was received with rousing cheers, others nominated were H. R. Frankland, John Richardson, Jos. Tate, E. Schoff, Preston, J. H. Mackenzie, J. T. Moor, John Brown, J. S. Willison, J. Gibson, ex-Ald. Hill and Crosley. All these addressed the meeting in turn, those of them having a personal acquaintance with Ald Leslie, having made that acquaintance while clerk in York township or as an alderman of the city, or from residence in the same neighborhood, spoke very highly of his ability and honesty and fitness to represent

the constituency in parliament. The remainder addressed themselves to questions of political moment, and all retired in favor of J. K. Leslie.

Mr. Leslie in rising was received with great applause all present rising to do him honor. He said that he had not been desirous of the nomination, though he fully appreciated the honor that had been conferred upon him so unanimously, but it having been represented to him that he was probably the best man to carry the constituency, he had thought his duty to lay aside personal considerations and take up the standard of the party. He paid a very high tribute to the noble character of the late member, the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie. He also thanked those who preceded him for the kind things they had said of him, and if elected he would do all in his power to deserve the confidence placed in him, and to prove himself a worthy successor of the noble statesman who had preceded him. He then dealt with the question of trade. He contrasted the state of the country in this respect before the adoption of the National Policy, with what it is now, and he said that he would leave the census and trade returns to say whether what had been promised as the result of its adoption had been realized. While the farmer had been made to pay 35 per cent more for implements and other requisites, had he obtained a better price for his produce? Were the number of factories increased around us, and more mechanics receiving a higher rate of wages in proportion to the greater cost of the necessaries of life? Had our population increased to the extent it was said that it would? The census returns would show we had not retained the number of people that the natural increase has given us, to say nothing of those that had been brought here by a large expenditure of money. He was not op-

posed to reciprocity of trade with the United States, but he was of the opinion that the best market for Canada was the British market, and what he was prepared to advocate was free trade with England. If we have this the government at Washington may pass what restrictive measures they please, and it would be a matter of indifference to us. With free trade with England, the United States would soon see it to be to their advantage to obtain like privilege. He was proud of being a British subject, and he had no desire to seek protection under any other flag, Annexation was not an issue in this contest, neither is it likely to become an issue at any rate for some time to come. He was in favor of the appointment of a railway commission to settle difficulties on a fair and just basis. He was in favor of appointing a commission to investigate the workings of all combines. The men who contribute to huddle funds are of combines. He rated the Government for their hoodling transactions, and for taking back after the elections, men who had been discharged before for dishonesty, and paying their salaries for the time they were out. He was pleased of having been the choice of such a large and respectable gathering, and he hoped that the relations so pleasantly commenced would long continue. He accepted the nomination. At the close of this speech the meeting went into the work of organization. The special tram returned about half past seven o'clock.

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