

FRANK OLIVER IS THE UNANIMOUS CHOICE OF THE MONTELEONE CONVENTION LIBERAL CONVENTION IN EDMONTON

Delegates Gathered from all Parts of Constituency Pay Tribute to the Late Federal Representative—Magnificent Gathering that Marks Epoch in Liberalism in Alberta.

With the utmost enthusiasm and unanimity the greatest Liberal convention ever held in Edmonton yesterday afternoon nominated the Hon. Frank Oliver as candidate for the House of Commons. The convention which acclaimed the Minister of the Interior as its representative in the Federal campaign was one of the most remarkable political gatherings in the history of the city. It was composed of delegates from every part of the Edmonton constituency from the city there were personally present one hundred and seven duly accredited delegates. From the district extending east and west and hundreds of miles to the north of Edmonton, one hundred and six delegates; in all, two hundred and twenty-four representatives of the Liberal of the constituency. There were but eleven proxies, six of delegates from the city and five of delegates from outside. The total number of credentials received was thus two hundred and thirty-five.

Every chair in the Separate School Hall, the place of meeting, was occupied and standing space as well as at a premium when the gathering was called to order at three o'clock by Senator Talbot, President of the Provincial Liberal Association, who presided over the convention. The meeting was opened by a prayer and attended by spectators. Numbers stood in the rear of the hall and outside the entrance being closed to admit guests. Despite the crowded condition of the hall the meeting opened quietly and orderly. Business was conducted with dispatch, that the main object of the meeting might be reached. Short speeches made by a number of delegates and visitors were well received. Resolutions of confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his administration, and in the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, were passed with tremendous applause.

But it was not until the nomination was reached that the remarkable demonstrations of the feeling of the meeting were made. When W. H. Henry, of the Biow-Henry Co., Edmonton, concluded an eloquent speech nominating Mr. Oliver, cheers broke forth in torrents. The speaker repeated when nominations were closed after the speech in seconding by Frank Smith of Sturgeon, Alberta, and the chairman announced Mr. Oliver duly chosen as the Liberal candidate.

An Inspiring Reception. A few minutes after Mr. Oliver entered the hall, escorted by J. H. Gariepy. His entrance was greeted with the wildest cheering. Delegates and spectators alike rising to their feet in a spontaneous tribute to the candidate chosen by the convention as the one best fitted to carry the Liberal banner in the Edmonton constituency. When the storm of applause had subsided, Mr. Oliver made known his acceptance of the nomination, receiving it, he said, in the same spirit in which it was given. At the conclusion of his address, the cheering was renewed. The convention closed a few minutes later with the singing of the National Anthem. Delegates and many not delegates present desirous of giving still further expression to their enthusiasm accompanied Mr. Oliver on Third street in front of the hall and escorted Mr. Oliver along Jasper avenue and on First street to the King Hotel, where he is a guest.

Upwards of five hundred men were in line, marshalled by Barney Cooper, with James Gibson as leading deputy marshal. Flags were distributed among the delegates, the procession stretched out for two blocks. From the balcony of the hotel, Mr. Oliver took leave of the delegates, addressing a few parting words to the big gathering on the street below. Again he was cheered and re-cheered.

Absolute Confidence. Absolute confidence in the success of their candidate in the forthcoming election was the keynote of the big convention, a sentiment of absolute unanimity prevailed. The only question remaining to be decided, several speakers declared, was how large Mr. Oliver's majority would be. It should be made so large that it would establish a record for all Canada. While the committee on resolutions, organization and credentials were at work short addresses were made by J. L. Cole, M.P.P.; H. W. McKenny, M.P.P.; Lucien Boudreau, M.P.P.; John A. McDougall, M.P.P.; Stanley S. Jones, Calgary, secretary of the Provincial Liberal Association; Geo. B. O'Connor, president of the Edmonton District Liberal Association, and J. M. Macdonald.

A resolution expressing unbounded confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier, his administration and the negotiation of the reciprocity agreement, was read by Alex Stuart, K.C., of the resolution committee, and seconded by D. R. Fraser, and a resolution expressing entire confidence in the Hon. Frank Oliver was read by A. T. Cushing of the same committee and seconded by Robt. Lee. Both were unanimously passed with great applause.

The Nomination. W. T. Henry moved the nomination of Mr. Oliver in an eloquent speech of eulogy in the course of which he declared that Mr. Oliver stood today as he had always stood for the rights of the people against those of the corporations. Mr. Henry recalled how, single-handed and alone, Mr. Oliver had fought the greatest of all Canadian corporations, and how when he came into office he put railway monopoly in Western Canada at an end. In addition to his extraordinary qualifications, Mr. Oliver stood as the representative of the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the greatest Canadian had ever known. It was the duty of Edmonton Liberals to roll up for him a majority which would eclipse all past records and establish a record for the whole of Canada. The nomination was seconded by Frank Smith of Sturgeon, Alberta, and declared that Mr. Oliver had been one of the most useful men in public life in the Dominion and would continue to be so after the 21st of September.

No other nominations were offered when the chairman called for them and nominations were declared closed and Mr. Oliver duly chosen as candidate. A few minutes later Mr. Oliver entered the hall escorted by J. H. Gariepy. He took the platform at once and addressed the convention when the storm of cheering which his entrance evoked had subsided.

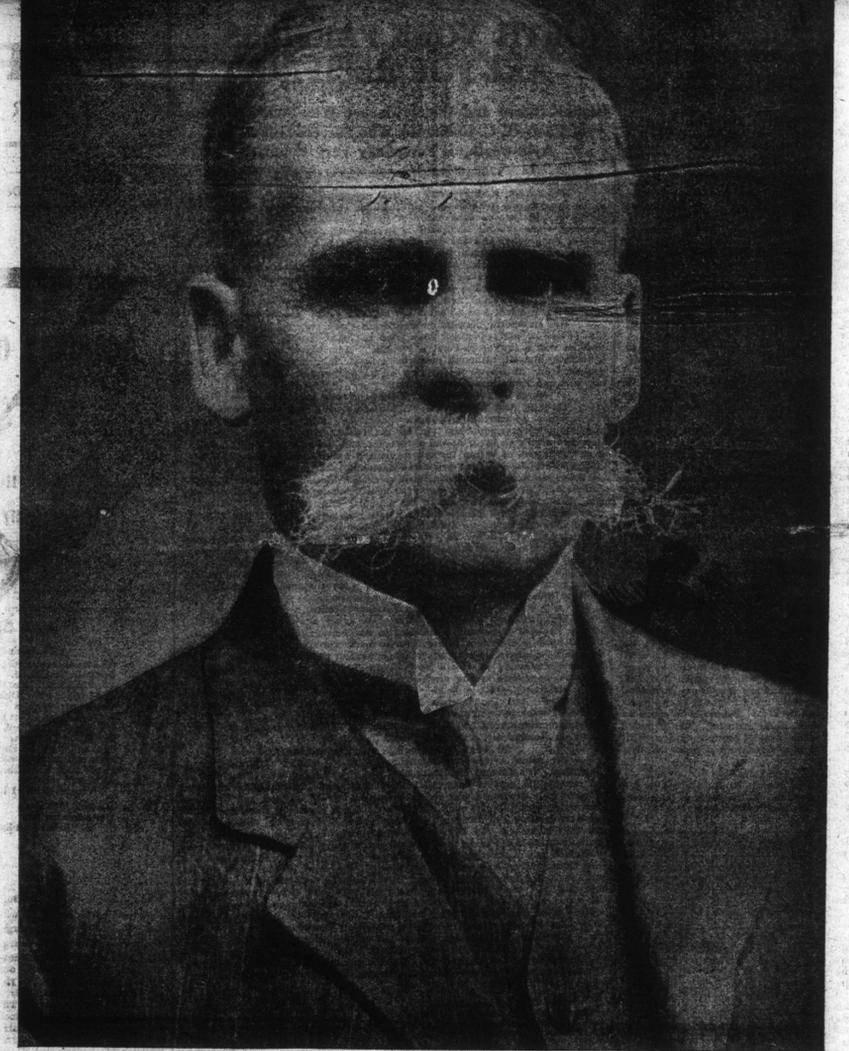
Mr. Oliver's Address. He spoke as follows: "Senator Talbot has asked me if I would accept your unanimous nomination. I have only one answer to make, and that is that I accept it in the spirit in which it is offered. (Loud cheering.) "I believe you have given me the honor which I deserve. (Cheers.) So far as I am able everything I can do to win the support of the people will be done. You will excuse me, gentlemen, if I am somewhat at a loss to express myself on this occasion. I should not, I suppose, impart the personal element into this occasion, but I cannot help but feel personally a deep sense of gratification and a sense of pride that I should be the choice of such a large and representative convention of the citizens of this great country, where I have lived so long with which I have been so closely identified and with the life of which my hopes and aspirations are so closely associated. If there was one thing that I could have wished for it would have been to receive this expression of confidence on the part of my fellow citizens.

National Matters. "We are not met here, however, to deal with personal matters. We are here to deal with national matters. We are here in the interests of Liberal participation in the interests of Liberal policy, to give our endorsement to the principles and policy that we believe to be the best for the future of this great country. It affords me an opportunity to find out what you think on the boundary wherever a convention has been held, there has been no quarreling as to who should lead the banner of the party. The people, having decided for the maintenance of these principles, have in every instance, called in the name of a judgment in the determination to carry him to victory. "The character of the convention and of the others indicates, I am satisfied, that the people of this province are of one mind as regards the question at issue in this election. We are here for the good of the country. We are here for the progress of the country, and whether allied with one party or the other in the past, we are here today for the purpose of supporting the policies that we believe will ensure the progress and success of our country. We are not here merely as partisans. We are here to take the part which is ours by right and duty as citizens of this country in the conduct of its affairs, satisfied that a certain line of action will be for the welfare of this country. Under these circumstances the fact that I should be chosen by you as your representative, with such unanimity—may I say with such enthusiasm—is certainly a matter of pride and gratification which carries with it only the doubt that I can justify the confidence which you have so fully placed in me.

Young Settlers for Country. Gentlemen, I may say that I have been in the service of this country and of this part of the country for a very long period. Whether I did well or ill I want to say to you that I always did the best I could, that I held back nothing that I was able to do for the good of the people or of the country. If again I am honored with the confidence of the people of this constituency, as I hope to be, I am here to give all I have in the way of energy and ability for the service of the people of this country, to carry out your mandate with benefit to you and with credit to myself.

"And now but one word more, I do not imagine that you wish me today to discuss the principles that you are here to support in this contest, but let me emphasize one point. You have decided in favor of a certain candidate. Now the success of the policy depends on the majority behind him. Though I speak with the tongue of men or of angels it would be of little effect if it were not for the value of the vote and the opinion and the strength of the people behind me. Now if I am to be your representative in parliament, and you say that I am to be, (applause), it is important that as your representative, I should be of service to this country, I should be made as strong as you can make me by the votes that you give. If you are satisfied with your choice then it is for you to be sure that you have done everything that you can do to make your chosen representative successful, not only in the election but in the responsibilities of administration that properly and necessarily follow elections.

Appreciates Honor. "I appreciate highly the honor of representing a constituency in the Dominion parliament. I appreciate still more highly the honor of representing this constituency, but I do not want to represent this or any other constituency unless the people are behind me, and unless I have such support as would leave beyond question the opinion of the people. I am going to do my part and I ask you to do yours. You have shown your interest in this contest by coming here today. I ask you not to let your interest cease with today, but to back up your action today by the efforts you can make between now and the twenty-first so that your representative can go to Ottawa with all the strength you can give him. My only fear would be that when we have met here together in such large numbers we might think that the fight was over. That is, or might possibly be, my serious danger that we cannot succeed with our election, but if we could be strong where we wish to be strong we want behind us the big majority that will demonstrate absolutely that the opinion of this country is not divided either in regard to the candidate of its choice or the policy of its choice.



Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of Interior.

The Government Policy. "May I say one word in regard to the general policy of the government which is now appealing to the country—because let me bring to your minds that this is not only a matter of securing the election of a representative in this constituency, but it is a question of securing a majority for the policy of the government throughout the Dominion. It may be, and in fact it is, a part of my duty in the responsible position which I hold at the present time to lend assistance

in public, nor do I intend to take advantage of the fact that I am here in the presence of friends to speak of those who are certainly my enemies. But I want to say this, that all the advertising I have received could have been avoided if I had chosen to submit to political blackmail. Now I want it to be distinctly understood that no one ever could, and no one ever will be able to blackmail me, either politically, financially or in any other way. (Loud cheering.) "I do not pretend to be better than any other man, but I do say this, that no man will ever hold control of me so long as I am on top of this earth. (Cheers.) That whether I have done good or ill I am responsible for what I have done, and will take that responsibility here or elsewhere. I want to say this, that the fact of such a campaign having been entered upon in this constituency of Edmonton tends to the discredit of Edmonton through the Dominion of Canada. (Hear, hear.) It is not to the credit of Edmonton that it should be the place where this new departure was made in Canadian politics.

Only One Answer. This kind of campaign, demands and admits of only one answer. It was commenced for the purpose of accomplishing my political destruction. It is being met today in the far eastern part of this country, and

no doubt in the far western part, for the purpose of accomplishing the political destruction of the Liberal party. There is no war of dealing with such a campaign save one, and that is by the answer to be given by the electors at the polls. And I would say to this assembly that the opportunity will present itself on the 21st of September for clearing the fair name of Edmonton from—I have difficulty in finding polite words (Cheers and laughter) and "Go ahead." "Let it go"—anyway you know what I mean. (Cheers.) The opportunity will come for Edmonton—to clear its fair name from—we will call it, if you like, the evil smell—that comes to it because of the operations of a gang of thugs, thieves, cut-throats and blackmailers, who have undertaken to dictate the policies of this fair city, of this constituency and of this province. (Prolonged cheers.)

Reflection on Edmonton. It is an opportunity that I am satisfied will be seized and used to full advantage, and it is the only answer that can be given to a campaign that is a reflection upon the citizens and the city of Edmonton even more than it is a reflection upon myself.

Mr. President and gentlemen, I would not be warranted in holding you here longer. I am not able to express today as I would wish, on behalf of the Liberal party and of the great leader of the Liberal party, my appreciation of the splendid enthusiasm and unanimity of opinion that has been displayed. I hope and believe that this is an indication of the success that will be achieved on the 21st of September. But remember gentlemen—and this is my last word—remember that the success of the principles that you are here to represent depends upon you individually as much as upon me.

Tribute to Senator Talbot. Senator Talbot, who has presided at all the Liberal nominating conventions in the province by virtue of his office of President of the Provincial Liberal Association, called the convention to order sharply at 10:00 o'clock. He conducted the business of the meeting with admirable dispatch, and introduced the various speakers with consummate tact. Towards the close of the meeting a vote of thanks to the chairman for his work in conducting the convention was moved by J. T. Travis-Barker, and seconded by the Hon. Frank Oliver, who declared that there was no truer friend of sound Liberal principles in Canada than Senator Talbot. He wished to say all that could be said of the reliability, integrity and ability of the Senator. The vote of thanks was carried unanimously with great applause.

When the meeting had been called to order, C. Ross Palmer, was appointed secretary. Geo. B. O'Connor moved that committees on resolutions, credentials and organization be appointed, and named as a standing committee, Wilfrid Gariepy, Frank Smith of Stoney Plain and Harry Bell of Sturgeon. This committee retired and on their return named the following committees: The Credentials—Angus McDonald, Wm. Clark, Oscar Tessier, E. H. Wilson, Harry Bell, G. Camau, G. B. O'Connor, Jacob Miller, G. Myers, C. Gagnon and C. B. Palmer. Committee on Organization—J. M. McDonald, J. Chase, T. J. Alexander, S. J. McCoppen, J. J. Croighton. Committee on Resolutions—Alex. Stuart, J. P. Travis-Barker, R. Lee, Thos. Bellamy, D. R. Fraser, A. T. Cushing, W. Gariepy, S. A. G. Barnes, P. Kelly, E. Halvick, Alf. Walle, J. E. McConnell, R. E. Banerman, W. Pichard, Alphonse Lamoureux, J. M. McDonald, Mr. Stewart, Sturgeonville, Geo. Wellman, Alex. Lewis, Chas. Carson.

The Resolutions. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted amid great applause: Moved by Alex. Stuart, K.C., seconded by D. R. Fraser: Resolved that the Liberal of the Edmonton Federal district assembled in convention on this 23rd day of August, 1911, in the City of Edmonton, hereby express our unbounded confidence in the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier. By his rare power of eloquent expression, his loftiness of motive, his sound judgment and untiring energy, he has done much to unite the various elements composing the people of this vast Dominion, and has made Canada stand forth as the greatest of the co-ordinate nations which are proud to form our great British Empire.

We believe in, and continue to subscribe to the principles of Liberalism enunciated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and so well illustrated by his successful negotiations for an honorable reciprocity agreement with our great Southern neighbor which must contribute greatly to the prosperity of our country.

Confidence in Mr. Oliver. Moved by A. T. Cushing seconded by Robert Lee: Resolved that this convention expresses its entire confidence in our representative the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior. Mr. Oliver has been identified with the Edmonton district for thirty-three years. He has been our representative in the

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