

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

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NO. 306

## Mr. Whitney Sounds Clarion of Victory

### The Coming Premier Opens His Campaign With Visit to Kent County

### HOLDS A MAGNIFICENT MEETING AT RIDGETOWN

### Other Prominent Political Gentlemen Present and Deliver Eloquent Addresses.

### JOHN DAVIDSON GIVEN EAST KENT NOMINATION.

*Grand Gathering of Enthusiastic Liberal-Conservatives--Effort to Win East Kent--Mr. Whitney's Splendid Address--Unanimity of the Convention.*

### Leader Sends Special Message to the People of Kent.



Hon. J. P. Whitney.

Thursday, November 21st, 1901, can be put down in scarlet ink as an epoch in the Liberal-Conservative annals of East Kent. It witnessed the largest and most enthusiastic convention in the history of the riding and the initial visit of the able and



JOHN DAVIDSON.  
Coming Member for East Kent.

eloquent leader, J. P. Whitney, to the constituency.

Ridgetown was the scene of the gathering and the good old town did the grand. Everything was eminently successful. From the dawn of a delightful late Indian summer day, which signaled the commencement of the arduous work of the reception and decorating committees, until the last rousing cheers of the evening meeting upon adjournment at midnight, all was life, activity and enthusiasm. And if the feeling of the constituency can in any way be gauged by Ridgetown's magnificent assembly and vigorous vitality East Kent Conservatives will be heard from in the



JAMES CLANCY, M. P.  
The Popular and able Member for Bothwell, who urges a Big Provincial Rally.

winning columns of the general election results.

The afternoon meeting with its convention duties was both impressive and encouraging. The gathering of delegates was the largest and most representative since the days of Confederation. There were the old men—the stalwarts of the party—with bronzed faces and hoary heads; there were the men of middle age—campaigners of no mean calibre—with bright, earnest countenances and active personality; there were the young men—the promise of the Province and the party—with eager and expectant look and evidences of energetic enthusiasm. They were all there with one aim, one purpose and one ambition. It was indeed an impressive sight—one that will be remembered.

The large opera house was filled when ex-Warden John Davidson, President of the East Kent Liberal-Conservative Association took his place upon the platform and called the gathering to order.

"I cannot tell you how pleased I am to see such a large, representative and enthusiastic gathering," he declared. "An early convention of this character augurs well. It is six years since a meeting was held in this district, but I see the men of East Kent are perhaps, more alive and earnest than ever before. We are here to choose a candidate—and we will do it first."

The following gentlemen were called to the platform amid much applause:—James Clancy, M. P.; F. G. Macdarmid, M. P.; West Elgin; Mayor W. B. Graham, Ridgetown; A. B. Mason, Camden; J. S. Fraser, Conservative candidate for West Kent; J. W. Sharp, Dresden; A. Leverton, Zone; B. W. Willson, Ridgetown; John Vester, Harwich; Henry Buller, Howard; J. Mayhew, Thamesville.

### THE HALL

**Magnificent Decorations Grace the Platform—The Band Present.**

The convention opened at two o'clock, but long before the proceedings commenced the hall was well packed with interested and enthusiastic delegates who came with the purpose of entering heartily into the business of the hour and to help on to victory the man who was to be the choice of the convention. No one was disappointed and the results of the meeting were entirely satisfactory to everyone present.

The sight which met the eye as one

entered the hall was a most gorgeous one. The Conservatives of Ridgetown showed that they were wide-awake and up-to-date. The platform was most tastefully bedecked with union jacks, flowers and rugs. At the rear was a large union jack extending from side to side and from floor to ceiling. In front of this were two other large flags hanging from the sides, and in front of this again were two more flags tastefully draped on either side.

On the left side of the platform were arranged large photos of the King and the late Sir John A. Macdonald, while on the right were Sir

selves in their work and are to be highly complimented.

### DAVIDSON

**Kent's Ex-Warden Chosen a Candidate of Convention on Close Vote.**

After the credentials of all the delegates had been duly examined and credited the following names were submitted in nomination:—  
J. W. Sharpe, Dresden.  
P. H. Bowyer, Ridgetown.  
John Vester, Harwich.  
Neil Watson, Mull.



FINDLAY G. MACDIARMID, M. P. P.

The man who successfully coped with the monstrosities of the machine in West Elgin.

Ralph Meredith and Sir Chas. Tupper. A large engraving of the late beloved Queen was placed at the rear directly in front of the large flag.

In front of the table and facing the audience was a large, fancy rug, on which was woven that popular picture of a bull-dog standing on a union jack, illustrating the motto of the Conservatives during the coming campaign, "What we have we'll hold and what we haven't got we'll get."

At the top of the stage and directly in front was placed a large motto, "Whitney and Victory."

The credit of these decorations is due to messrs. W. E. Maxwell, of the Northway & Co., and E. Duke, of Craig's, both of the town of Ridgetown. They certainly outdid them-

John Davidson, Thamesville.  
Arthur Leverton, Zone.  
W. B. Graham, Ridgetown.  
Francis Gifford, Camden.  
B. W. Willson, Ridgetown.  
Jas. B. Carscallen, Dresden.  
T. P. Watson, Ridgetown.  
Henry Buller, Ridgetown.  
Dr. McRitchie, McKay's Corners.  
W. R. Hickey, Bothwell.

This closed the list of names placed before the convention and the nominees were asked to the platform. A letter was read from W. R. Hickey, stating that under no circumstances could he accept the nomination, but pledging himself to support the choice of the convention.—Applause.

Henry Buller said there was more enthusiasm exhibited in the Conservative party than he had witnessed for many a long day. He was sorry, he

could not serve the convention, but he was prepared heartily to work for its choice. He believed this time East Kent would enroll itself in the ranks of Mr. Whitney.—Applause.

T. P. Watson also withdrew his name, but assured the delegates that there was lots of vim in him for their choice and had no doubt of victory.—Cheers.

J. B. Carscallen was not a candidate, but was prepared to do his utmost to secure the election of whoever was chosen.—Applause.

B. W. Willson withdrew his name but spoke many encouraging words. "We are out to win this time," he declared amid applause.

Frank Gifford declined the nomination but contributed a splendid and spirited speech, which called forth repeated cheers.

W. B. Graham said he was not a candidate but was out to help elect the winner.—Applause.

Arthur Leverton in withdrawing his name assured the gathering that he would be heart and soul with the man selected.—Cheers.

John Davidson said he knew Kent could be redeemed. He was present to abide by the decision of the delegates. He thought prospects never looked brighter. If chosen, he was ready to take off hat and coat and work on every sidewalk and concession.—Applause.

Neil Watson withdrew his name. He said it would have been a great pleasure to accept did circumstances permit it. He was sure success would crown the party efforts.—Applause.

John Vester also withdrew. He was prepared to heartily support the nomination.—Applause.

P. H. Bowyer congratulated the party on the splendid convention. It was the best he had known, and if it were true, as he had been told that the Conservative party in East Kent were dead, it provided the liveliest corpse he ever had seen. "We are going to win," declared Mr. Bowyer enthusiastically. Proceeding he paid high eulogy to the sterling personality of the late Robert Ferguson, and added, "Candidly, I have no great desire for this nomination. Personally I don't wish it, but if it is deemed that I can serve my friends and our party, if the nomination is given to me I will do the best I can. If I am not nominated I will heartily support whoever the choice may fall upon."—Applause.

J. W. Sharpe withdrew his name and pledged himself to do all in his power to secure the election of the nominee of the convention.—Cheers.

A ballot was then taken, the names of Messrs. Davidson and Bowyer being submitted. It resulted as follows:—  
Davidson—70.  
Bowyer—68.

Mr. Bowyer at once moved that the nomination be made unanimous. Mr. Buller, the mover of Mr. Bowyer's name, seconded the motion.

The motion was carried on a standing vote, amid three hearty cheers.

### HE ACCEPTS

**Mr. Davidson Takes the Nomination and Will do all he can to Win.**

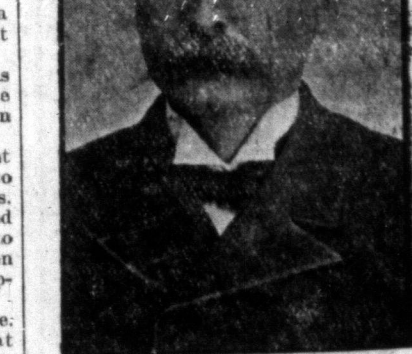
Mr. Davidson, the chosen candidate, upon arising to his feet was greeted with three long cheers.

He thanked his mover and seconded very kindly for bringing his name before the convention, and also the electors upon appointing him their chosen

candidate to carry the banner of the Conservative party through the contest of East Kent.

"If you had not appointed me as your choice," said he, "I would not have been in the least disappointed, but I would have entered the fight earnestly and helped along to his election the man who might have been your choice. However, I am indeed

happy to think that you have so much confidence in me and my work and I can assure you that I will do everything in my power to redeem the riding. I would ask you to give me your most hearty and undivided support in the contest and if you do this I feel that we will be sure to win. I hope to be able to get through the riding soon and see you all personally, but all I would ask is your earnest co-operation. The strength of the men who have won the riding in the past is unlimited capital. This, however, they cannot have for the coming election. Mr. Ferguson, the late member, would, I believe, have been just as big a success as a Conservative as he was as a Reformer, and there is no



JOHN S. FRASER.  
Coming Member for West Kent.

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MAYOR W. B. GRAHAM, RIDGETOWN.  
President-elect of the East Kent Liberal-Conservative Association.

reason, why the Conservatives should not win this time.

"I am apt in a position to say anything to you at present. In the near future a meeting will be called at

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