THE CAMPAIGN.

Nomination Day May 29, Election June 5.

The Workingmen Rallying in Support of Hon. Oliver Mowat.

Address of the Knights of Labor Presented to the Premier at Woodstock.

WOODSTOCK, May 12.—In spite of a thick, drizzling rain, and a cold, bleak wind the North Oxford Reform Convention Saturday was the largest and in every sense the most representative that has taken place here. Every corner of the constituency, every class in the community had delegates in attendance, and when the business began the Town Hall was completely filled. Local men were nominated, who vied with each other in the promptitude with which they withdrew their names, and left the field clear for the Attorney-General. They did more than this. Having nominated the Reform leader with acclamation in order to enable him more easily to meet the wishes of candidates in all parts of the Province, they released him from further attendance in the constituency during the contest and pledged themselves to hold the fort for him against all comers. The most significant feature of the day's proceedings, however, was the presentation of an address from the Knights of Labor—a body which up to the present time has refrained from taking any active part in electoral contests. The organization—Liberal and Conservative members alike—has thrown in its lot with the Government on this occasion, and the memorial drawn up should be carefully read by every workingman in the Province.

Mr. Mowat, unfortunately, although in other respects in excellent health, is suffering from a severe cold, which has so affected his voice as to render protracted speech an impossibility. He was reluctantly obliged, for that reason, to leave the bulk of the speech-making at the convention to others, and to content himself with two short efforts.

Mr. Douglas, president of the Reform Association, occupied the chair at the convention, and every religious denomination in Woodstock was represented by a clergyman on the platform. There were the Rev. G. W. Kirby, Rev. W. Cuthbertson, Rev. W. A. McKay and Rev. Dr. McMullen, ex-moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly. The other gentlemen on the platform were: Hon. J. M. Gibson, Mr. James Sutherland, M.P.; Dr. McKay, ex-M.P.P. for South Oxford; Mr. Andrew Patullo, editor and proprietor of the Sentinel-Review, and Mr. J. J. Hall.

Mr. Mowat, on entering, was accorded a tremendous ovation. On motion of Mr. Emanuel Freeman, of Blenheim, seconded by Mr. Francis Patterson, it was resolved and unanimously carried:

That the Reformers of North Oxford in mass meeting assembled desire to record their unfaltering faith in the Reform Government of the Hon. Oliver Mowat; its administration of the finances of the Province, whilst strictly economical and free from the taint of corruption or scandal, has been liberal in all branches of the public service and to all sections of the Province; its legislation has been wise, progressive and truly Liberal, and its whole management of public affairs has been such as to make the Province of Ontario admittedly the best governed and model Province of the Dominion.

Mr. George Middlemas, of Chesterfield, moved, and Mr. Wm. Stewart, of East Zorra, vice-president of the association, seconded the adoption of a resolution extending a hearty welcome to Hon. John M. Gibson on this, his first official visit to North Oxford, and acknowledging the wisdom of his choice as a worthy colleague of the Hon. Oliver Mowat and the other able and efficient Ministers who constitute his Government. The motion was carried with acclamation.

Besides Hon. Oliver Mowat, D. R. Ross, Embro; Jos. Pettigrew, Ratho, and Andrew Pattullo, Woodstock, were nominated. The local candidates having retired, Dr. R. Ross moved that Mr. Mowat's nomination be accepted with acclamation. The motion was enthusiastically carried and Mr. Mowat rose amid prolonged applause and thanked the meeting for the kind reception they had given him and the kind words that had been said of him. Several gentlemen had been nominated upon this occasion, and all of them had been good enough to retire in his favor. (Hear, hear.) He did not feel like retiring—(laughter)—and inasmuch as everybody else that had been nominated had retired he did not see how he could get out of the duty of accepting the nomination they had given him. (Renewed laughter and applause.) He appreciated the feeling that must prevail among ambitious young men. He well knew that there were young men here who would discharge the duties of a member of Parliament with ability and efficiency, and he quite appreciated the fact that some of them would one day occupy seats in the Legislature. But he felt it to be his duty not to look elsewhere for a constituency so long as it was shown that it was the wish of the general body of Reformers that he should continue to represent them. (Cheers.) He had found it of immense advantage in the discharge of his duty—he had derived great strength from the fact—that he was the representative of one of the strongest Reform constituencies in the Province. That gave him a moral strength that he would not possess if he represented a less strong constituency—less strong in numbers, less strong in intelligence and less strong in attachment to the Reform cause. (Cheers.)

On the motion of Mr. J. J. Hall, seconded by Mr. William Stewart, it was unanimously resolved:

That recognizing the great importance of the presence and services of our veteran leader and candidate, the Hon. Oliver Mowat, in giving aid to his friends in other constituencies, and so enable him more easily to meet the wishes of candidates in all parts of the Province, therefore this meeting, representing the Reformers of North Oxford, hereby releases the Premier from further attendance in this constituency during the present contest, and we hereby pledge ourselves to "Hold the Fort" for him against all comers and return him by an old-fashioned Oxford majority, should opposition be offered to him on June 5.

Then came the presentation of the address from the local Knights of Labor. It was read by Mr. Wm. McKay, on behalf of the Executive of the body, who explained that the Knights of Labor were no political party, nor did they as a rule take sides with political parties. At the last general election they did not decide upon a political platform, nor did they ally themselves with either of the parties in the United States. Taking into consideration, however, the amount of valuable legislation affecting the laboring classes that had been placed upon the statute books by Mr. Mowat and his colleagues, they thought this was a fitting time to recognize his services, consequently they had appointed a committee to draft this address, which he had been delegated to present to the Attorney-General:

To the Honorable Oliver Mowat, Q.C., M.P.P., Attorney-General and Premier of Ontario:

Sir,—On behalf of the Knights of Labor of the town of Woodstock we beg to join with your many friends of North Oxford in extending to you a cordial welcome on the occasion of your present visit to this constituency. While not claiming that we have all been heretofore your party, we cordially unite in acknowledging your many services to the cause of labor and for the amelioration of the conditions of the workingmen.

Under your auspices the franchise has been gradually extended, as public opinion demanded, until now we shall for the first time enjoy the full benefit of manhood suffrage. This will, we believe, give to the workingmen a larger voice in the Government of the Province, and will also enfranchise a large body of intelligent young men who have hitherto been permitted to exercise no effective influence in public affairs.

To your Government we are also indebted for the Ballot Act, which has always been considered an important boon by all classes of employes.

The legislation passed under your Premiership, which specially affects the interests of workingmen, includes: A Mechanic's Lien Law, with numerous important amendments, all of which have given increased security for the payment of workingmen's wages; the Employers' Liability Act, which in certain cases secures damages for employes who may be injured by accident in factories and by railways; the Factories Act, which makes valuable provisions with reference to the age and hours of employment of children, young girls and women, and also for the careful inspection and proper sanitary condition of factories; the Railway Accident Act, the object of which is to make provision for the greater safety of railway employes and the public, and which compels railway companies to make certain improvements on their bridges, tracks and freight cars, and also provides compensation in certain cases for accidents to their employes. The Work and Wages Act and the Co-operative Associations Act are both calculated to benefit alike the employers and employed by facilitating agreements between them for sharing the profits of the business in which they may be engaged and by more easily adjusting disputes which may arise between master and workmen. The Mining Operations Act and the amendments to the General Mining Act, both passed last session, have our warm approval, being calculated to protect miners and to facilitate the development of our vast mineral wealth. The Franchise and Representation Act of '85 and its amendments of '86 also confer an important right on wage-earners by allowing them two hours' time on day of polling in which to cast their votes.

We congratulate you sir, on having had so large a share in placing this volume of important legislation upon the statute books for the special benefit of the working classes of our Province; and that while thus recognizing the interests of the workingmen, you have not been neglectful of other interests and classes in the community. We believe that in a young country such as this is the interests of all classes should be identical, and we strongly deprecate all agitation or legislation that would excite hostility or ill-feeling between the varied elements of our people. Harmony between all classes, and nationalities is absolutely essential to the building up and permanency of a great Canadian nationality.

We also desire to acknowledge the judicious expenditure of the public revenues of the Province by your Government, by liberal aid to railways, by aiding and encouraging dairy and agricultural pursuits in fostering and encouraging education in all its varied branches, the erection and maintenance of public institutions for the care and relief of the afflicted, the encouragement given to the settlers in the newly-opened sections of our Province, by your providing them with work on the colonization roads, and in this way enlarging the boundaries of our settlements, while giving material assistance to those who need it.

Hoping that you, sir, may long be spared to continue your good services to this Province, and by your example, in private as in public life, to inspire our young men to a nobler patriotism and with a higher ideal of public service, we are, very respectfully, your obedient servants.

ISAAC SMALE, M. W.
ROBERT MORNING,
WM. J. MCKAY,
W. C. HARDY.

(Signed.)

Spirited addresses were given by Mr. Sutherlsnd, M.P., Dr. McKay, the candidate for South Oxford, and Hon. J. M. Gibson.

Mr. Mowat was again cheered as he stepped forward and said: "I am deeply grateful for this address. I have heard it read with great interest. I do not know that I ever had an address presented which gave me greater satisfaction. It shows that the Knights of Labor have been giving close attention to public affairs, that they have been reading and thinking. I appreciate it all the more that it is not only an address from the Reformers, but the whole body, including those who have not belonged to the Reform party. (Hear, hear.) I am glad that we have had the opportunity of rendering these services to that part of the population to which the address specially refers. I have always taken a special interest in that part of our population. They have a smaller proportion of the comforts and advantages of life than the rest of the community—that is one reason I have for taking a special interest in them. (Applause.) Then there is our common manhood which binds us all together. In a Christian country one cannot help remembering that the great Saviour of the world, when he came into the world, lived and worked with mechanics, with humble toilers, and it was for the poor as well as the rich that he laid down his life. In a right state of society there ought to be no antagonism between the various classes of which the community is composed. I am glad to believe that there is little antagonism between the different classes in this glorious Province, but if there is antagonism my sympathy and that of my colleagues is with the masses rather than the classes. I thank you for this address—it has been a delight to me to receive it, and I can assure you it will serve to give increased encouragement to our efforts in the direction of improving the condition of this and all other sections of our community." (Loud applause.)

HON. A. S. HARDY FOR SOUTH BRANT.

BRANTFORD, May 12.—The Liberal Convention for South Brant held Saturday in Wickliffe Hall, was a great success. The downpour of rain failed to prevent 200 delegates from attending, representing every part of the riding. Great enthusiasm was manifest throughout the proceedings. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Woodyatt, retiring secretary, and a hearty vote of confidence in the Government and in the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands was unanimously carried. Another motion expressing satisfaction with the course pursued by Mr. Wm. Paterson, M.P., and confidence in the policy of the Opposition led by Hon. Mr. Laurier, was carried. Hon. A. S. Hardy was then nominated and was unanimously and enthusiastically made the choice of the convention. Hon. A. S. Hardy, after thanking the meeting for its action in selecting him for the sixth time, took up the questions of the hour and delivered a masterly address.

HON. A. S. HARDY'S OPPONENT.

The South Brant Conservative Convention has secured a man willing to be sacrificed for his party. His name is Thomas Lloyd Jones, of Burford, the same gentleman who was left over 500 behind at the last election.

NORTH YORK REFORMERS.

NEWMARKET, May 12.—The Liberals of North York re-nominated Mr. E. J. Davis, M.P.P., as their representative in the Local Legislature. The convention was held at the Town Hall, and so comprehensive are the Liberals of that riding that they held it with open doors. All friends of the Mowat Government, irrespective of party, were invited, and several old-time Conservatives declared themselves to such by their presence. Mr. E. Jackson, who some years ago ran in opposition to Dr. Widdifield, the late Liberal member, took the platform and declared his determination to support the Mowat Ministry and Mr. E. J. Davis.

SOUTH ONTARIO TORIES.

WHITBY, May 12. — A Conservative meeting was held here Saturday, when Robert Miller, of Pickering, received the nomination for the Local House.

CONSERVATIVES.

PARRY SOUND, May 12.—A Conservative Convention for the district of Parry Sound, to select a candidate for the approaching election, was held on Thursday last at Magnatewan. The contest between the two nominees, E. O. Taylor, of Burk's Falls, and Geo. M. McCormick, of Dunchurch, was exceedingly close, the choice ultimately falling on the latter by the casting vote of the chairman.

OTTAWA CONSERVATIVES.

OTTAWA, May 12.—The Conservative Workingmen's Association, by which title a small coterie of Government hangers-on and politicians is known, met on Saturday evening and nominated Ald. Hill as their candidate for the Local Legislature. It is not known whether the Conservatives will accept this nomination or not. The requisition to Mr. Bronson is being signed by all classes of people, including Mr. J. R. Booth, ex-president of the Conservative Association of the city, and also a number of prominent supporters of Mr. Hay, the Equal Rights candidate in the late election for the Commons.

NORTH LANARK LIBERALS.

At the Liberal Convention Saturday W. C. Colwell was chosen as the candidate for the Local Legislature in the Reform interest.

EAST KENT.

DRESDEN, May 11.—Mr. Reycraft having resigned, a convention was called at Highgate, and Mr. E. E. Parrott chosen as the Third party candidate for East Kent.

FOR HON. G. W. ROSS.

Good Crowd at Wardsville in the Interest of West Middlesex Reformers.

WARDSVILLE, May 12.—A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Wardsville, on Friday evening in the interest of the Hon. G. W. Ross. Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather the hall was comfortably filled. A number of ladies graced the meeting by their attendance. Mr. E. T. Dufton was called to the chair. The two speakers were Messrs. Geo. C. Gibbons and E. R. Cameron, of London.

Mr. Cameron opened by referring in a general way to the importance of the questions agitating the public in this election. The two subjects about which the most ado was being made were the French schools and the separate schools, and to these alone he devoted his attention. He gave a short historical account of the policy adopted in the treatment of French schools from 1851, when the question for the first time was brought prominently defore the Council of Public Instruction in this Province, down to the present time, and showed clearly that during the regime of Dr. Ryerson the council positively refused to interfere in any way with the wishes of the French people either in the matter of French teachers or French text-books, not even when the latter taught in the most open way dogmas peculiar to the Romish Church, that since 1883 a new departure has been made, and now owing to the energetic action of the Government English is taught in every public school in the Province. He further pointed out that the two political parties were agreed with regard to the object to be kept in view, namely, the unification of the people; but they differed widely as to the means to be adopted to obtain that end. While Mr. Meredith and his party were advocates of coercion and violence the Government policy was to treat the French as fellow citizens, not as aliens; they preferred to convince them by gentle and patient treatment, and this course had been in the highest degree successful. The speaker also traced up the separate school question, pointing out the provisions in the Imperial Act which gave a constitutional status to the separate schools; that personally, he thought, a great mistake had in this regard been made by the framers of the constitution; that Mr. Meredith had never yet publicly committed himself as in favor of an agitation to obtain the repeal of those sections of the British North America Act. He also dealt with the various amendments to the Separate School Act, and in conclusion compared the Tory tactics in 1883 with those of 1890. They had during eighteen years tried to obtain possession of the treasury benches by various devices. In 1883 it was the Catholic cry, now it was the Protestant cry. If any other cry would appear to insure success, it would surely be adopted, but he believed the good sound common sense of the people of the Province would, as in days past, lead them to indorse the best Government this or any other county had seen.

Mr. Gibbons addressed the meeting in his usual energetic and spirited way. He first dealt with the financial administration of the Mowat Government and said they had great claims upon the people of this county for their "thrifty, judicious and clean record," as the Toronto Mail had expressed it. He said this was in marked contrast to the Government at Ottawa and Quebec, that not a single act savoring of dishonesty had been charged against any member of the Government. Timber limits were not given away to political favorites; the strongest supporter of the Government had no better chance than the rankest Tory when our timber limits were offered for sale at public auction. He dealt next with the separate school question and said that it was Mr. Mowat, Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Brown who most strongly opposed the passing of the Separate School Act; the latter gentleman was thrown out of political life by his attitude upon this question, while Sir John Macdonald was its chief promoter, and finally carried the bill through in 1863. He said that all the separate school legislation passed by the Ontario House had received the approval and vote of Mr. Meredith and his party, and in the face of this record it was cheek of the most unblushing and surpassing kind for them to charge the Liberal party with pandering and truckling to the Catholic vote. Mr. Mowat, he declared, was good enough a Protestant for him, and he felt convinced the people of this country had confidence the Protestant religion would be perfectly safe while Mr. Mowat controlled the destinies of the Province.

After a votes of thanks to the speakers moved by Col. O'Malley the meeting dispersed.

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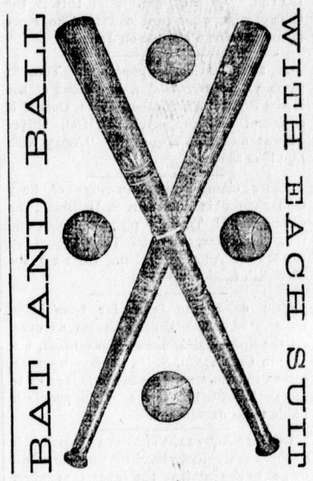

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