

Broad and National

Spirit Pervading the South Middlesex Liberal Gathering

Held on Friday in the Delaware Town Hall.

J. P. Grigg Elected President for the Ensuing Year.

Interesting Facts About the Dominion Government's Financial Standing.

An Era of Surpluses Has Succeeded an Era of Deficits.

Messrs. Malcolm McGugan, M. P., Thomas H. Purdom, J. M. McEvoy, John Macpherson and Others Tell What the Liberals Have Done and Are Doing at Ottawa—Confidence in Reform Administration.

The annual meeting of the South Middlesex Reform Association, held in the town hall, at Delaware, yesterday afternoon was in some respects remarkable and largely significant of the new spirit of the times. There was noticeable in the list of the speakers a new note—a new national pride—a tendency towards views broad and national rather than local, and a hopeful expectancy, almost amounting to certainty, that the country has begun an era of unprecedented prosperity and development.

In spite of disagreeable weather, the bad state of the roads, and the absence of any special spur to interest, the meeting was largely attended by the representative men of South Middlesex. Several of the outside speakers expected were unable to be present, but there was no lack of interest.

Among those present were Retiring President George D. Glennie, Delaware; Secretary C. H. Lockwood, Caradoc; Malcolm McGugan, M. P., Strathroy; C. M. Simmonds, Ivan; J. M. McEvoy, Delaware; John Macpherson, Poplar Hill; J. M. Kaiser, Delaware; Warden Henry Hardy, Strathroy; County Councilor J. P. Grigg, Mount Brydges; John N. Clark, Muncy; W. C. Roerison, Mount Brydges; Asa Luce, Caradoc; J. C. Elliott, Westminister; Thomas Faulds, Caradoc; Hiram Harris, Fernhill; Cornelius Logan and John Henry, Delaware; John Brodie, Caradoc; J. M. Cornell, Melbourne; Jerry Merrill, Delaware; Duncan Brodie, Caradoc; J. C. Elliott, Westminister; George Bond, Caradoc; J. H. Adair, Mount Brydges; John Lewis, Delaware; George M. Faulds, Caradoc; John Ferguson, Lobo; Chas. Zavitz, Fernhill; John Clark, Burwell road; Archibald McGugan, Lobo; Councilor W. M. Faulds, Caradoc; Peter Graham, Lobo; W. G. Harris, clerk of Delaware township; Neil Graham, Lobo; James Quire, Delaware; P. McGregor, Caradoc; John Oliver, Mount Brydges; J. C. McDougall, Westminister; Thomas H. Purdom, Q. C., J. M. McEvoy and John Macpherson, of London.

G. D. Glennie's remarks.

Mr. G. D. Glennie, the retiring president of the association, furnished ample matter for discussion in his opening address. A large portion of the revenue derived from the sale of timber lands had been cut off. Was the government justified in making good the deficit by increased taxation, or was it bound to meet the reduction by reduced expenditure? He referred to the abolition of the franchise act, which deprived the Indians, many of whom live in this riding—of votes. He raised the question of subsidies for a fast Atlantic steamship line, and the Georgian Bay Canal and railway projects. He deprecated the attempt to recruit men in Canada for the British army. Paying his respects to the senate, he said the proper way to reform it was to abolish it altogether.

Mr. Glennie's remarks were of the kind best calculated to promote discussion. They were a challenge to the defenders of the government's policy, and champions were anxious to take up the gauntlet. At this point the annual reports were read, followed by the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Officers for 1899.

Mr. J. P. Grigg, of Caradoc, was proposed for president by Mr. Neil Graham, seconded by Mr. Thomas Faulds, and unanimously elected. Mr. C. H. Lockwood, of Delaware, was re-elected secretary without opposition.

Mr. H. C. Johnson, of Delaware, was returned in the same way as the treasurer.

Messrs. John Macpherson, South London, and Peter Graham, Lobo, were re-elected auditors.

Mr. J. C. McDougall, of Westminister, was chosen first vice-president also by acclamation.

For second vice-president there were

two nominees, Mr. Neil Graham, Lobo, and Mr. Hiram Harris, Lobo. Mr. Graham was elected.

Township conveners were chosen as follows: Delaware—Joseph Howlett, Caradoc—Henry Hardy. Lobo—Hiram Harris. Westminister—J. K. Little. South London—J. M. McEvoy.

Mr. Glennie vacated the chair, and President-elect Grigg assumed the duties of presiding officer—duties which he very ably performed.

Malcolm McGugan, M. P.

The first speaker was the member for the riding, Mr. Malcolm McGugan. He was given a hearty reception. Mr. McGugan congratulated the association upon the selection of officers for the coming year. He regretted that the programme for the meeting could not be carried out as announced. Mr. C. S. Hyman, ex-M. P., was unable to be present, a telegram having been received from him stating that he had to go to Montreal. Ald. E. Parnell was also unable to attend. The speaker then referred to the two years which had passed since his election, and in a clear, concise address, reviewed the work of the government, and gave much interesting information concerning its financial standing. During the years 1894-5-6 the Conservative Government's deficit was \$2,500,000. At the end of the first year of Reform rule there was a surplus of \$1,722,712 33—the first surplus for the government in five years. The country was \$2,855,000 better off in December last than it was a year previous. The era of deficits had passed and an

ERA OF SURPLUSES had come. (Applause.) Although there had been a reduction in the tariff, the revenue had increased, so that last year, for the first time in the history of the country, it reached the four million mark. The increase in revenue was \$2,000,000, and though there was an increase in expenditure, it was in much smaller proportion. The successful government of the Yukon territory had been responsible in a large measure for this increased expenditure.

Of the postal department, Mr. McGugan said the usual deficit in this department under the Conservative Government had been about \$800,000. Last year the deficit was only \$47,000, with increases in mail service.

The speaker then dealt with the tariff. In the last year of the late government, there were 36 per cent of imports on the free list; under Reform rule the percentage is 43.

INDICATIONS OF PROSPERITY.

There were several indications of Canada's prosperity. The credit of the country was now better than ever before. The last loan, \$10,000,000, Mr. Fielding had effected at 2 1/2 per cent, costing 2 3/8 per cent, while the best loan ever secured by the Conservatives was at 3 per cent, which cost 3 1/4 per cent. Both the imports and exports of the country had increased; last year the former totaled \$120,000,000, and the latter \$137,000,000. The deposits in the banks had increased materially during the past year. In the Dominion Bank they had increased from \$47,000,000 to \$50,000,000, and in the chartered banks there was \$21,000,000 more than ever before.

MR. FISHER, THE FARMERS' FRIEND.

Mr. McGugan warmly praised the minister of agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, for doing more for the farmer of the country than all his predecessors in office had done. Mr. Fisher's negotiations with the United States Government had brought about the relaxation of quarantine regulations, and was furnished a market for stockers. The result was that last year over one million young cattle had been shipped to the United States at remunerative prices. Mr. Fisher had also paid a great deal of attention to the cold storage system—a matter of great importance. Without cold storage, butter, eggs, poultry, fruit, etc., could not be shipped to Great Britain in good condition; but, thanks to Mr. Fisher's efforts, cold storage cars now passed along the main lines of the railways every day. Formerly Canadian butter brought 4 1/2 cents a pound less than continental butter. Now it sold for only 1 cent less, and the price would be still better when the product became known.

Conservatives accused the government of not keeping its promises. The speaker held that the promises had been kept. The Manitoba school question had been settled in three months, after the Conservatives had been years and years trying to settle it. The franchise act, which entailed a cost of \$250,000 for a revision, had been repealed. The superannuation act had been superseded by the retirement act. Postal rates had been reduced. The speaker had consistently supported the Liberal Government, and it had been a pleasure to do so. (Prolonged applause.)

Warden Hardy.

Mr. Henry Hardy, warden of Middlesex, was then called upon, and gave a vigorous address. He had always stood firm with the party, he said, under the past regime, things had been going from bad to worse. But a reform had begun to take place. After some complimentary remarks about Mr. McGugan, Mr. Hardy called attention to the provincial bye-elections. By the great gains the Liberal Government had made, these elections had proven that it was the government for Ontario.

Mr. Thomas H. Purdom.

Mr. Thos. H. Purdom, after a flattering reference to Mr. McGugan, M. P., spoke enthusiastically of the wonderful possibilities that had suddenly dawned on the Canadian people. He said in part: We occupy a vastly different position today to that of a few years ago. Today we regard ourselves as a nation. We are proud of the name of Canadians. Not towards the United States, but towards Canada are turned the faces of the teeming peoples of Europe, eager to make homes for themselves in a new land. The United States have been an incalculable blessing to mankind. But now they have closed the door, while that of Canada has been thrown wide open. The tide is turning slowly but surely in this direction. The Spanish-American war had an effect in hastening the change. The advertising of the country through the

gold discoveries in the Yukon district has contributed its share. Already the first wave of that great incoming tide of immigration that shall carry Canada to the first rank among the nations is beginning to break on our shores. This is not time for a stingy, parsimonious policy. If we would keep our young men in Canada, develop the vast mineral and agricultural resources of our own Province of Ontario, and of the country at large, confident that courage and vigorous, broad-minded statesmanship are required. With increasing population we will become a manufacturing as well as an agricultural and mining people. Our vigorous, vitalizing northern climate shall breed a strong, sturdy, resourceful, progressive race, and Canada shall become rich and powerful among the nations. But we must have railways, canals, steamship lines and all the means for exploiting our great country. We must foster the

SPRIT OF "CANADA FIRST."

The leadership of the country has been entrusted to a strong, large-minded, self-reliant patriot and statesman—man as able in diplomacy as policy. It is strong in his adhesion to principle, or as he is great in daring to expect grander things for his country than any of his predecessors ever dreamed of. The "sunny ways" of Sir Wilfrid Laurier have become proverbial. One result of these "sunny ways" may be pointed out in the fact that at no time have relations so friendly existed between this country and the United States, and I believe a satisfactory adjustment of all differences between the two countries will be arrived at. The conditions of life in this country are better than anywhere else. Ontario itself is capable of supporting many millions of people. The northern portion of the country is wholly unsettled, its natural advantages are unsurpassed. The administration of justice is as nearly perfect as possible, the administration of public charities has scarcely a peer anywhere—in fact, every public department is administered with the greatest ability.

The period of confidence and progress has begun for the whole country, and the growth will be phenomenal. Manufacturers believe in it, and are backing their belief with their money. (Applause.)

Mr. John Macpherson.

Mr. John Macpherson was greeted with applause. He complimented Mr. McGugan upon the character of his address. It was information the members of the association wanted. Mr. McGugan had given it. It was a business government at Ottawa, and should be viewed in a business way. The members of the government, judges, and the success of their efforts were capable set of men. The Manitoba school question, which bid fair to admit of a very ugly solution, had been settled in a short time. Emigration had been encouraged; more energy had been put into the work of the late government—a fact that was largely due to the confidence which the government inspired. The unbusinesslike superannuation act had been repealed. The English Government had been rebuffed in such a way as to bring about the abolition of the Belgian treaties and the establishment of a preferential tariff. The revenue had been increased.

With regard to the revenue, Mr. Macpherson said that while the income tax had been increased, the taxes paid were less than in preceding years. The customs revenues for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1898, was \$12,357,354, and for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1897, \$10,671,231. The total revenue for the year was \$123,000,000, and the expenditure over four millions. The expenditure had increased \$123,000, owing almost entirely to the Klondike, and it was good business to increase the expenditure if increased revenue resulted. The knife had to be used pretty freely in the postoffice department. No doubt the lines were to be finely drawn, until the deficit was wiped out, when the salaries would be increased. Mr. Macpherson defended the Provincial Government's timber policy. (Applause.)

MR. C. M. SIMMONS.

Mr. C. M. Simmons made an excellent speech. He was greatly pleased with Mr. McGugan's address, but took issue with Mr. Glennie. There would be no harm in the government subsidizing a line of steamships especially fast freight steamers. He had lost \$2 in reaching England. Speaking of a visit some time ago to Ottawa on the occasion of the late convention, Mr. Simmons noticed that the four figures of the gathering were Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Oliver Mowat, Mr. Fielding, and S. Hymans. Everyone had great expectations of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and they have been fully realized. It is a pleasure to be a supporter of that great leader.

Mr. W. G. Harris was called upon for a speech, but declined owing to ill-health.

MR. J. M. McEVROY.

was the next speaker. He said in part: "The meeting here today is strictly a party meeting. It leads one to consider how far party is justifiable. At this time there is a considerable effort being put forth to shake party allegiance, and to impress upon people that party prejudices and party organizations are the enemy of the community. But when one comes to apply the no-party doctrine to the government of a country with parliamentary or democratic institutions, one finds that the price of liberty in such a community is party organization. If you would look for a moment at the condition of affairs in this country for five or six years at least before the fall of the Conservative Government at Ottawa, you will see there a government condemned by all thoughtful persons for incapacity, disunion, corruption and self-seeking, and to maintain its position for a long period after these characteristics were well known to the public. Without a strong party organization it would have been impossible to dislodge them.

The ideal right in practical politics cannot be attained by a man who can bring the mass of his fellow-countrymen up to the point nearest the ideal position. The Liberal party appealed to the country upon three distinct grounds. One ground was that they could materially reduce the cost of public service. Mr. John Charlton put the reduction at \$5,000,000. Hon. David Mills, the most powerful leader of Liberalism in Western Ontario, put it at \$4,000,000. Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself put it at \$3,000,000. The claim that there has been no reduction is based largely upon the fact that the expenditure for the last year of Conservative rule was reduced to \$37,000,000. In order to keep the expenditure within that limit for the purpose of meeting the people at election, no militia drill was held during the year, and a number of public works were not done. In 1895 the expenditure was over \$38,000,000, and Mr. Foster's estimate for 1897 was \$38,250,000, as against Mr. Fielding's demand at the last sitting of the house for \$39,125,000, an increase in expenditure of the conservative leaders are full to point out of three-quarters of a

million. But you will find in Mr. Fielding's estimates an item of \$210,000 for the rent of the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal; one of \$296,000 for services to the Yukon district, and one of \$560,000 for the running expenses of the Intercolonial Railway. Montreal, making in all \$1,162,000. It ought to be remembered that this money was invested in a business way by businessmen; that it is expected they will all be profitable investments for the government. There is an increase of some \$1,400,000 per annum in the department of the administration, due to the opening of new territory, requiring the appointment of additional judges, which is a charge over which the Dominion Government has no control. In the management of penitentiaries there is a saving of \$54,000 per annum. In the matter of legislation there is a saving of \$50,000 a year. Another ground of the Liberal appeal was the reduction of the tariff. It has been said that the reduction in the tariff is three-one-hundredths of one per cent. It was estimated at the time of the last speech that \$21,000,000 would be collected in customs duties this year, as against a former average of less than \$20,000,000. One hears a great deal about the number of items, e. g., 481 taxed items on the old list and 447 on the new; 155 free items on the old list and 297 on the new. But you must know more than this. You must know the scope of the duty, the amount imported, and probably the place from which it comes."

Mr. McEvoy then compared in detail the new with the old free lists, showing that the interests of the farmers, and of the people at large, had been consulted in every change.

Resolutions.

It was moved by Mr. John McDougall, seconded by Mr. Charles Simmons: "That this meeting of the Liberals of South Middlesex reaffirms its confidence in the Reform Administration at Ottawa and Toronto, and its belief that the interests of the farmers, the complete confidence of the people who are under them enjoying a period of prosperity; also its confidence in their member, Mr. M. McGugan, M. P., and expresses its pleasure at the course taken by him in the House of Commons as their member. The resolution was enthusiastically adopted. Votes of thanks were tendered Retiring President Glennie, the other retiring officers, and the speakers, and the gathering broke up about 5 p.m.

WESTERN ONTARIO

A Fingal Man Falls On a Stove While in a Fit.

And Is Badly Burned—Burford Man Sent to Jail for Threatening to Shoot Himself.

J. A. Waterworth, a native of Mosca, was recently elected city alderman in Duluth.

St. Thomas city hall is to have a clock valued at \$615, put in. It will be a swell affair.

The Merchants' Bank have leased an office in the Cude Block, Alvinston, for a term of years.

Edward Mills has sold out his general store in Florence to Calderwood & Sons, of Bothwell.

Mr. Harmon Miller, Yarmouth township, has an orange tree growing, bearing at present some 30 oranges.

An Alvinston man has seen the first robin of the season. A man had to see almost anything after imbibing a few Alvinston "Hot Scotches."

A courtier preacher calls out the names of young men who loaf about the church doors Sunday evenings.

Colin Bryce, of Wyoming, died in West Superior, Wis., on Feb. 11. The body was brought home for interment.

At the services in the Methodist Church, Petrolia, on Sunday night, \$3,000 was subscribed to build the new church.

The Chatham Athletic Association, limited, has been formed and will take over the local baseball franchise in the Canadian league.

Chief Crawford, of Ingersoll, has recovered the horse and rig stolen at Thamesford on Monday night, and is now after the thieves.

It has been decided to build the new Presbyterian manse for the Cullen and Scotch-loyal congregations in the village of Verschoyle.

Mr. Harvie Wilkinson and Miss Maggie Stansel, both of Courtland, were married on Wednesday at Grace Church parsonage, by Rev. H. Irvine.

John Bain, of the Imperial Bank staff, Woodstock, has received orders from headquarters to report at Toronto, where he will probably be given a position in one of the Toronto banks.

Mrs. Eliza Arner, South Gosfield, has taken out a writ against Dr. S. A. King, of Kingsville, and Darius Wigle, of South Gosfield, whom she accuses of having diverted a watercourse to the injury of her lands.

A Fingal correspondent writes: Mr. Maurice McDougall was the victim of an unfortunate accident yesterday. While alone in the house he was seized with a fit, and fell on the stove and lay there long enough to burn his face and head very badly.

A Burford man named Peter Cameron, formerly of Ganarone, was on Tuesday afternoon by J. P. Cox and Rutherford, of that village, to a fine of \$16 20 or thirty days, for flourishing a revolver and threatening to kill himself. Cameron took the thirty days.

Joseph Bouffard was sent to jail for two months at Windsor Wednesday for neglecting to support his wife. When taken to the cells Bouffard insisted that his wife had been married to two other men, and that he had seen her certificate of marriage to one Wager, but she had torn it up to prevent him from getting possession of it.

Walter Stevens was sentenced at Chatham Wednesday to six months in the Central Prison for attempted arson. Stevens made two attempts to set the Rutley Hotel on fire, and was caught in the act. James Decoursey stole a caddy of tobacco from the party destroyed stock of Wm. Bennett the day of the Royal Exchange block fire, at the same place. Decoursey was arrested by an officer and placed on trial. He was sentenced to three months in the Central Prison.

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MANUFACTURERS OPPOSED TO IT

Strong Effort Making to Prevent the Passage of Crawford's Workmen's Compensation Act.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—If Mr. Thomas Crawford, M. P., succeeds in getting his bill to amend the workmen's compensation act through the House of Commons, it will not be without opposition from manufacturers in Toronto and manufacturers outside of Toronto. Yesterday afternoon a meeting was held of the manufacturers' section of the Board of Trade, at which there was a large attendance of manufacturers who are not members of the association, but who were invited to be present and state their views in respect to the proposed measure.

The meeting was a private one, representatives of the newspapers not being present, but at the conclusion an official statement was given out. The following committee was appointed: A. E. Kemp, chairman; Edward Gurney, William Christie, E. H. Keating, J. W. Leonard, Thomas West, John Wright, P. Nicholls, W. H. Pearson, John R. Shaw and Henry Martin. This committee has power to act in the matter as it considers necessary, and interview the government and promoter of the bill. It was further given out that at the meeting the English compensation act was considered, and a good deal of evidence was adduced proving that the English act, on which the bill was founded, had been found to work to the disadvantage of both the employer and the employee. The objection had been urged by The London Illustrated News and The London Times that it had resulted in more litigation than in the case of any preceding act. In reference to the special clauses of the bill it was urged that the notice clause requiring the employer to give notice of an accident of which he might not know, under a penalty, was bad, and it was also regarded as bad legislation that certain classes of employees should be assumed to be guilty of negligence in any case, whereas the common law applying to negligence does not assume negligence, but compels the plaintiff to establish it. The six-months' notice clause was objected to on the ground that a notice of action given six months after an accident would be almost impossible for the defendant to protect himself.

From some of the gentlemen who were present at the meeting it was learned that some of the manufacturers were frankly hostile to the bill and that an effort be made to kill it entirely. The bill was read clause by clause by the secretary and commented upon by the meeting. A couple of gentlemen representing insurance companies, who did not desire the bill killed, but only modified, to this a manufacturer retorted that the bill was in the interest of accident insurance companies, as in the event of its passing all manufacturers would be compelled to protect themselves by taking out accident policies. It was stated, also, that the English act had not received a fair trial, and it would be better to hold Mr. Crawford's bill over till it was seen how the English legislation would work out. One immediate effect of the English act was, it was claimed, that manufacturers are now refusing to engage men over 45 years of age, or men who in any way labored under a disability. The committee appointed at yesterday's meeting are to interview the parties, talk the matter over, and endeavor to have Mr. Crawford hold his bill over for a year. If this is refused, then a strong lobby will be established against the bill. In whatever action it takes the manufacturers' section of the Board of Trade is acting independently of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. This latter body holds a meeting of its own on March 3 to discuss the bill.

Veterinary Surgeon.

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LICENSES ISSUED BY THOS. GILLEAN, Jeweler, 412 Richmond street.

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED BY W. H. LAMONT, 90 Dundas street.

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED AT Johnston's Shoe Store, 198 Dundas street. No witnesses required. Residence 394 Dundas.

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