

A TORY DISASTER

Rousing Liberal Rally at Semple's Hall, Victoria West, Last Evening.

Intrepid Mr. Cassidy Was Afforded An Opportunity to be Sat Upon.

The Emptiness of His Glistening Generalities Exposed by Mr. D. G. Macdonnell.

Who Delivers a Powerful and Very Eloquent Address Upon Important Issues.

Excellent Speeches by the Candidates and Mr. A. H. Scaife-Lively Meeting.

The electors of Victoria West have won a reputation in past years for the rousing receptions which they accorded opposition speakers. This reputation was more than sustained last evening, when the intelligent electors of this progressive suburb filled Semple's comfortable hall and liberally applauded the addresses of Mr. Templeman and Dr. Milne, Mr. D. G. Macdonnell, ex-M.P. for North Lanark, and Mr. A. H. Scaife.

tools purchased by the mechanics, laborers and farmers were taxed from 40 to 50 per cent. Again, the cheaper classes of goods were taxed so much a pound and so much per cent. A man who is compelled to wear a cheap heavy overcoat is taxed by the Dominion about 70 per cent, while the man who can afford to wear a costly mackintosh escaped with a nominal duty of about 30 per cent, and so on through the list. The tariff does certainly discriminate against the poor man and was framed in the interests of the rich. (Hear, hear.) Their opponents endeavored to make out that Mr. Templeman and himself were after the manufacturers and objected to a free list, but the fact was that they believed in remodelling the free list and taxing at present. They believed that one way of assisting the manufacturers was by giving them the raw material free. (Hear, hear.) Their opponents, continued the doctor, also endeavored to make political capital out of the British government were in favor of building the road, and that they gave forethought of what they were prepared to do by granting a subsidy for twenty-five miles of a transcontinental route. A wonderful appropriation, isn't it? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) It is only about a year ago since both Col. Prior and Mr. Earle opposed the resolution introduced in a Board of Trade meeting that had for its object the asking of the Dominion government for aid in the construction of the British Pacific railway. Col. Prior then said that they would do injury by going to the government with a cock and bull story of a charter and a company in London. The charter is the same to-day. (Hear, hear.) About a year ago President Van Horne stated that the Dominion government were not seriously thinking of subsidizing any such railway, as the government did not intend to grant any more railway subsidies. Van Horne ought to know, as he practically controls the government. (Hear, hear.) But in a general election they can promise anything. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Milne pointed to the charges made by the Toronto Globe in reference to those promises. He would oppose the employment of Chinese on the construction of the British Pacific, and believed that the government should give a larger cash subsidy and not, as Col. Prior states, a larger land grant. Such assistance would be more in consonance with the policy of the Liberal party, who believe that the land is for the settler, and not for the speculator. (Loud applause.)

Mr. A. H. Scaife was well received. He humorously pointed out that he was in the same position as some claimed in Manitoba. He had a grievance and it was against no less a person than his good friend, Dr. Milne, who had read the Globe's open letter, on which he had intended to speak. Mr. Scaife wished to impress upon the people that it was only once in every five years they had an opportunity of recording their approval or disapproval of the government of the country. It was only at such times they could say to the power that "depart from me ye workers of iniquity," or "well done, good and faithful servants." The trade question was no doubt the most important in the contest, but there are other issues which should not be left signified in the protection-coercionist government had made a reputation for themselves, but what a reputation! A voice—Boodling.

Mr. Scaife—Yes, some people claim that the Liberals were as bad when in power as the records did not show. If the Liberals were going to suck the life blood of the country as the Conservatives had done then Mr. Scaife would say "God help Canada," but he did not believe it. He believed that there were sufficient means of integrity in Canada to govern it free from the scandals which have brought shame and reproach on the fair name of Canada. (Hear, hear.) In place of going to the old country for their example in politics, the present Dominion government have gone across the border to copy the worst features of American politics. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Scaife read the opinions of the English press on the rotten condition of affairs in Canada, and the majority of those opinions were written two years ago, but if such a condition of affairs existed then, it did doubly so at the present time. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Scaife then referred to the following open letter to the Globe:

"May it please Your Excellency—The candidates and agents of the Tupper government are hawking about the country an order-in-council granting over twelve millions of dollars to fifty or sixty railway projects. Is this a genuine document? Have you signed this order-in-council? Parliament is dissolved, and the country has a right to ask you that the treasury shall not be looted by the campaign of the Tupper political party. Are you protecting the treasury, or are you allowing the public credit to be pledged to the service of a league of desperate political gamblers? Do you intend to allow the Tupper government to continue to exist, and the natural guardian of the rights and interests of the Canadian people, and they want to know if this order-in-council bears your signature, and if this method of despoiling the treasury has your approval. An answer is respectfully requested."

If such a condition of things existed it was simply appalling, and it was even the greatest possible reflection on the government of the country that there should be any cause for the appearance of such a letter in the leading newspaper of the Dominion. Mr. Scaife pointed out that the B. C. representatives were probably as good as any we have had in the past, and that wasn't saying much—but how had they conducted themselves? Did they ever stand up for the right in preference to party? (Cries of No.) Col. Prior had stated at Cedar Hill that Mr. Templeman would amount to a hill of beans at Ottawa, and in answer to the question, "What would Col. Prior amount to?" he answered that he would not make a duffer of himself by voting for anything his leader or party did not state. Just so, Col. Prior "always" voted at his party's call and never thought of thinking for himself at all. (Hear, hear and laughter.) But Mr. Templeman was built of sterner stuff. He distinctly stated that he would not vote for Mr. Laurier or any government that would attempt to coerce Manitoba. (Loud applause.) That was the kind of independence Victoria wanted in its members. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Scaife then pointed out that we

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(Laughter.) Mr. Cassidy had said the people were prosperous, and while Mr. Cassidy was speaking Mr. Macdonnell thought he was prosperous, but he asked the people to put their hands in their pockets to find out if they were prosperous. Mr. Cassidy may be prosperous, for it was said, and not disparagingly, that lawyers fatten in hard times. Well might Sir Charles Tupper, who had preyed and grown rich on money filched from the people of this country, say that the country was prosperous, but the people themselves knew whether they were prosperous or not, and would vote accordingly. Mr. Macdonnell also took Mr. Cassidy to task for charging the Liberals with changing their policy when in 1891 the Conservatives advocated reciprocity and in 1896 are advocating preferential trade. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Cassidy, continued Mr. Macdonnell, was also in error in his remarks on the school question. The privy council never stated that the minority had a grievance. A grievance was admitted for the sake of argument, and the privy council took the ground that the Dominion government was not compelled to act. Lord Watson's opinion was quoted to prove this. He held Mr. Cassidy or anyone else to bring up any legal evidence to show that the minority had a grievance. He cannot do it. (Hear, hear.) They base this contention on a bill of rights which disappeared and which has been pronounced a forgery. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Dickie, minister of justice, had stated that the Dominion parliament could act or not as they saw fit. Mr. Macdonnell then reviewed what the Conservative government had done since the bishops of Quebec. No Britisher would submit to being coerced, and the Conservative government will find this out on June 23. (Loud applause.) Mr. Greenway's offer was a fair one, an offer that commended itself to the majority of the people, an offer that probably Messrs. Prior and Earle were willing to accept, but the government telegraphed to Archbishop Langevin. Archbishop Langevin would not have it, and then of course Messrs. Prior and Earle, like all other slavish supporters of the government, found that the offer was objectionable. (Hear, hear.) A word as to Hugh John Macdonald's position. Mr. Cassidy stated that Hugh John changed his mind because he got new information, and everyone but a fool could change his mind. Mr. Macdonnell emphatically stated that Hugh John had all the facts he now has when he used those noble words in the house of commons in defence of Manitoba, and any man who would change his price in sight is not a fool but a knave. (Loud applause.) Mr. Cassidy, excitedly—Do you dare say Hugh John is a knave? Mr. Macdonnell—When you tramp on those gentlemen's corns they howl. When you touch them on a sore spot they squeal. I say if that cap fits me can wear it. (Loud applause.) Does Mr. Cassidy, like Hugh John, try to drag the great Conservative party through the mire in an attempt to follow Tupper? The electors of Victoria should never be disgraced by being even asked to support the Conservative government in such an outrageous course. (Loud applause.) Are Dalton McCarthy, who might now be leader of the party, Mr. McNeill, Dr. Spruille and others not stauncher and truer Conservatives than such as Mr. Cassidy and Hugh John Macdonald, who love their party better than their country, and will follow Sir Charles Tupper wherever he leads them? (Loud applause.)