

Sir Richard's Nomination

The Liberal Champion Again to
Stand for South Oxford.

A Powerful Speech by the Minister of Trade and Commerce—His Vindication of Liberal Principles and the Government's Policy—Enthusiastic and Unanimous Meeting.

Norwich, Aug. 30.—It was a memorable incident this afternoon, when, at the close of his speech thanking his supporters for having renewed their expressions of confidence in him, Sir Richard Cartwright, with faltering voice, referred to the fact that they had probably sent him out to his last battle. But the spirit was strong, and in the next breath he defied his antagonists and declared his intention of making up for the inactivity which waits upon declining years by giving to the party the fullest advantage of the ripe experience of age. Many of the stalwart farmers of South Oxford recalled the battles in which the doughty knight delighted to revel when in the fire and enthusiasm of manhood's prime he was wont to fall upon the enemy and with torrent of invective and withering sarcasm sweep everything before him. With enthusiasm they cheered him again and again as he showed the old fire in denouncing and exposing the inconsistencies of the opposition, and laid before his admiring constituents the splendid record of the government of which he was justly proud.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Stephen Pratt, president of the South Oxford Reform Association, and Mr. J. Hare, of Tilsonburg, secretary of the association, was at his post.

THE NOMINATIONS.
As soon as the president called for nominations, ex-Warden W. Watterworth said he had much pleasure in presenting to the consideration of the large and representative convention the name of their esteemed representative, Sir Richard Cartwright. (Cheers.) It was quite unnecessary and out of place to say anything as to the character of Sir Richard or his qualifications to represent them. He was not only well known to the audience but throughout the Dominion, and his fame, both as an orator and a statesman, was not confined to the Dominion of Canada, but had gone beyond its confines. Any country should be extremely proud indeed to have such an able representative as Sir Richard Cartwright. (Applause.) He was sure that Sir Richard's name would be received with enthusiasm and his election would be certain if he received the nomination, which he had no doubt he would when the ballot was taken. The nomination was received with cheers.

The nomination was seconded by Mr. V. S. Schell.
The following were also nominated: Mr. Thos. Maybury, Mr. J. B. Jackson, Col. J. C. Hegler, M. S. Schell, Stephen Noxon, Dr. McKay, M. P. P., Justice Miller (Ingersoll), Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., Valentine Fitch, Donald Guthrie, Wm. Watterworth, G. H. Cook, Thomas Brown, John Shehan, William Schell.

Messrs. Schell, Shehan, Brown, Cook, Watterworth, Guthrie and Fitch announced their retirement.
Brief speeches were made by Mr. Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., Mayor Miller, of Ingersoll; Dr. McKay, M. P. P., S. Noxon, M. S. Schell, Col. Hegler, J. B. Jackson and T. C. Maybury.

All the other candidates having retired in favor of Sir Richard Cartwright, the president cast a ballot, and rousing cheers greeted the announcement that the minister of trade and commerce was the unanimous nominee of the convention.

SIR RICHARD'S SPEECH.

On Sir Richard coming forward three cheers were called for and given with tremendous vigor. The cheers were renewed before the minister of trade and commerce had time to commence his speech. When the cheering had subsided Sir Richard spoke as follows: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: You have done me a very great honor, and I hope and trust that before many months have elapsed I shall be able to prove to you that you have also done some slight service to the Liberal cause throughout the Province of Ontario, and possibly throughout this Dominion. Do not suppose for one moment that because you have upon four several occasions bestowed this distinguished honor upon me, who came among you a stranger, hardly known to you, except by reputation, that I have in the slightest degree lost the appreciation which I then formed of the electorate who did me so great a favor and so great an honor. (Hear, hear.) When I first had the honor of being selected as the representative of this banner constituency of Western Ontario, the fortunes of the Liberals were perhaps as extremely low a plight as they had been for forty years. You did not select me then because you had any reason or just expectation that within any reasonable period of time, or within a short period of time, the Liberal party would succeed in returning to power. You selected me knowing well that by selecting me you placed yourselves in a position of direct antagonism to the powers that be. Few and far between, in those days, were the services which your representative could render to the constituency of South Oxford, and I do not say too much in saying, as I do say, that you were for many years proscribed and marked by our opponents by reason of your devotion to the Liberal cause. If, therefore, I am in any degree able now to see that fair play is rendered to you and justice is done to you, it is only a very small compensation for the devotion that you have manifested during all this period toward Liberal principles. But I know well that it is not by reason of any paltry, petty favors that we can render to you at Ottawa

that South Oxford has maintained the devotion which it has shown to the Liberal party. (Cheers.) I know that with you it has been a matter of principle. (Renewed cheers.) I know that you have sought, as I believe on the whole the leaders of the Liberal party have sought, simply and solely to promote the good government of the Dominion of Canada, and to give effect to those principles which you believe best calculated to carry it out. For the last four years your efforts and those of your friends throughout the Dominion have been reasonably successful, and it is for you and for the electors of Canada to say whether the Liberal party, or, what is more, the people of Canada, have any reason to be ashamed of the record of the last four years of the manner in which the Liberal government have conducted your affairs.

VAPORINGS OF SIR CHARLES.
I do not take any very great amount of stock in the vaporings of my ancient friend, Sir Charles Tupper. I notice that that worthy gentleman at this present moment, is roaming about the country, declaring, as he has many a time done before, that the issue is a foregone conclusion, that when the people see Sir Charles Tupper they will return to their ancient love, and the Conservative regime shall once more flourish in the land. (Laughter.) Well, gentlemen, those of us who know Sir Charles Tupper, those of us who remember Sir Charles Tupper's declarations in olden time, know very well what amount of value is to be attached to Sir Charles' utterances. I remember perfectly well in 1896 that Sir Charles declared in equally stentorian tones that his election by an overwhelming majority was a certain thing, that he would lead the Liberal party through the Dominion. I remember well in 1897, when Sir Charles descended upon the Province of Nova Scotia and declared that the annihilation of the Liberal Government in that province was a foregone conclusion, particularly since they had been deprived of the services of my esteemed friend, Mr. Fielding, as premier; and I remember very well how, when the day of reckoning came, the Conservative party, out of 38 Local members, returned 2. (Cheers and laughter.) I remember in the same year, or a few months later, that Sir Charles, backed this time by that notable prophet, Mr. George Balfour, declared that the Conservatives were about to descend in their might upon the Province of New Brunswick, and sweep the dastard, mongrel cabinet, as he called it, into utter perdition; and I remember well that a few weeks later, out of 46 representatives in New Brunswick the Conservatives succeeded in returning 4. (Cheers and laughter.)

RESULT IN QUEBEC.
I remember very well how a little later they were going to sweep Quebec, and unless I am very greatly deceived, my friend, Mr. Marchand, was returned by a considerably larger majority than heretofore. I remember also how there was going to be an end, not merely of Mr. Pattullo, Dr. McKay, and Mr. Hardy, but of the whole Liberal administration of the Province of Ontario, and I believe that these gentlemen are today stronger than when the ballots were cast in 1898. There is the result of five Conservative predictions. True it is, Sir Charles and his friends have succeeded in winning a skirmish in Manitoba, although I believe, if the truth was known, that my friend Mr. Greenway, had a majority of the votes that were cast, even if he was in a minority in the constituency.

LIBERAL RESPONSIBILITY.
Now, I just want to call your attention to one fact: In days gone by the Conservative party were in the habit of holding the Liberal party strictly responsible for every misfortune, for every calamity—regardless whether or not it was one that could be foreseen or by any possibility be averted—which overtook the people of Canada. We were held responsible, as you all know, for the disaster that occurred from 1872 to 1873, no matter how clearly we might prove and show that it did not occur through any acts of the Liberal Government, but was due to the acts of our predecessors rather than our own. Now, I propose to apply the same excellent rules to the Conservative Government in Manitoba. According to their rules, the Government of the country, mind you, is responsible for every disaster, misfortune or calamity that may happen. Well, the Conservatives have won in Manitoba, and what is the consequence? For years they have not had a shorter crop in Manitoba than they have had this season. (Cheers and laughter.)

THE GROWTH OF TRADE.

Turning from fiction to fact, turning from Sir Charles Tupper to the public records, I want to lay before you two or three brief statements. I am not going to inflict a column of figures upon you; I am going to lay before you two or three brief statements, which go to show how the affairs of Canada have suffered from the substitution of Liberal for Conservative rule during the past four years. As one of our friends rightly said, the department of trade and commerce, over which I have the honor to preside, is one which is specially conversant with the details of your trade and commerce. Well, sir, 33 years ago, in 1867, the total trade and commerce of Canada amounted to, I think, \$130,000,000. Four years ago, in 1896, the total trade and commerce of Canada amounted to, I think, \$239,000,000. In the period from 1867 to 1896 it had grown from a trifle over \$130,000,000. From 1896 to the present year of grace, 1900, the commerce of Canada has grown from \$239,000,000 to \$372,000,000, being an increase of \$133,000,000 in four years in the total volume of our trade and ex-

ports, as against an increase of \$108,000,000 in eight and twenty years which preceded the return of the Liberal party to power in the Dominion. (Loud cheers.) Now, sir, this is a fact. Account for it and make any explanation you please, but that is exactly what has happened in the last four years, as against the eight and twenty preceding years.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Then there is another point to which our friends on the opposition side have drawn a great deal of attention, and that is this: They have contended, and contended rightly that we in times past deprecated the enormous rate at which the public debt was increasing, and they have condemned us in the most unmeasured language. Why? "Because, forsooth, after you had declaimed against the increase of the public debt on every public platform in Canada, you yourselves in period of four years or three years have added \$7,000,000 to the public indebtedness." Well, gentlemen, that is true; or rather it is one-half the truth, which is about the nearest the Conservative speakers can get. When the Conservatives went out of office they left undischarged obligations for the construction of canals and for public works very considerably exceeding \$10,000,000. We have added, they say, \$7,000,000. Now, gentlemen, though I may tell you this, We have so administered the affairs of Canada during the last year that although we have had to build enormous public works and we have had great expenditures to make, we have given \$2,000,000 to the service of the empire, equipping and sending out our contingents on the 30th of June, or our debt had not increased one copper during the last year. (Loud cheers.) More than that: In the four years which terminated the period I speak of, the total increase of the debt was a little over \$7,000,000, and of that \$7,000,000 \$1,500,000 was simply discount on a 2½ per cent loan, put there by my friend Mr. Fielding, which by no possible circumstances ought to be reckoned as an injury to us.

REDUCTION OF INTEREST.

On the contrary, by effecting that loan at 2½ per cent, he has laid the foundation for a very considerable reduction, a permanent reduction, in the charges for interest, and it is in no way justly charged against us. There was besides \$2,000,000, which was given, as I believe, with the full consent of the people of Canada, at a special gift of \$100,000,000, which we took of the five we assumed liabilities of \$10,000,000; and for Sir Charles Tupper's information I will add that in the four years preceding the Conservative government had contingents to add to the \$10,000,000 the total capital indebtedness of Canada. (Cheers.)

CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED.

More than that, I once in past time condemned, and justly condemned, the recklessness with which the expenditure was being piled up, but mainly on this ground, because I saw that day by day and year by year our opponents were adding to what may be called the fixed capital charges of the country, so that a very small amount was left for the expenditure for the empire, and you may not wonder that when we found in 1896 that the total fixed charges of Canada that could not well be controlled or reduced—charges for collection of revenue, payment of interest on the public debt, and railway subsidies—amounted to something like \$27,000,000, and that the whole sum available for the discharge of the various duties of government was barely \$10,000,000, or \$7,000,000, we did condemn, and justly condemn, the government of the day for indulging in any expenditure that could possibly be avoided. (Cheers.) I now stands the case? In the year 1897 the revenue, as I have said, was about \$6,000,000, after deducting the fixed charges. How stands the case today? After deducting all these same fixed charges it would amount to \$13,000,000. That is, \$7,000,000, being to all practical intents and purposes three or four times as much income available for ordinary purposes of government as we possessed in the year 1897. These are facts which neither Mr. Foster nor Sir Charles Tupper can deny. They cannot alter them, and cannot prevent us from proving them, however much they may endeavor to prevent the credit of themselves (why I cannot imagine) for having brought about such a state of things.

THE EXODUS STOPPED.

More than that, as you know also, one reason why the Liberal party deprecated any unnecessary and extravagant expenditure was this: During that long period, as you well know, our people were flying from the country to the United States by tens of thousands, by hundreds of thousands; flying, I might as well say, to the United States, to the United States, to the United States by thousands every month, we see that large numbers of our compatriots and their children are making their way from the United States to Canada, and I am speaking from recollection, but I know I am not more than a few entries astray, if at all, when I say that in the single item of homestead entries alone, the homestead entries have been made in the Northwest alone, apart from the sales by railroad companies, which in itself is a very good indication, and by private persons and companies, have in the last four years, in 1896 they amounted to, I think, nearly 1,600 all told; in the last year, 1899, or the early part of this year for which we have the records, they amounted to, not 1,600 alone, but to 6,400 homestead entries, every one representing a family, and every family making a large addition to the producing and purchasing capacity of Canada.

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Sacrifice Sale of Ladies' Blouse Waists today—White and Colored Blouses all reduced.
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Two White Quilt Specials.
No. 1, 75c—5 dozen Honeycomb Quilts, heavy quality, neat patterns, regular \$1 25 quality, size 72x82. Our clearing price only..... 75c
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480 yards Paris Flannel, black and royal, black and violet, crimson and black and black and white, in stripes, checks and floral designs. Special per yard..... 12½c
640 yards Paris Flannel, fawn and pink, fawn and turquoise, gray and sky, gray and mauve and gray and reseda, in Dresden effects. Special per yard..... 10c

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Special line in plain colors and stripes, per yard..... 6½c
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Special line in plain colors and stripes, per yard..... 10c
Special line in neat checks, assorted shades, suitable for men's shirts, per yard..... 12½c
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120 yards Unbleached Linen Table Damask, extra weight, four different designs, regular 40c quality. Special, per yard..... 30c
118 yards Unbleached Table Damask; one line very heavy, two others not so heavy, but very fine; regular 65c quality. Our special price, per yard..... 60c

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54-inch Homespun Suitings, heavy diagonal twill, all wool, in brown, grey and green. Very stylish for skirt and jacket. Per yard \$1 00
52-inch Bannockburn Suitings, camel's hair effects, heavy, all wool. Very stylish line in shades of brown, castor and greys. Special, per yard..... \$1 00
54-inch Homespun Suitings, heavy, all wool, with camel's hair finish. Special for odd skirts or suits. Per yard..... \$1 00
52-inch Cheviot Suitings, all wool, with good heavy, rough finish, in navy, black, garnet and brown. Special per yard..... \$1 00

56-inch Homespun Suitings, heavy Cheviot effect, with rough hair finished surface, in new tints of green, blue and brown. Per yard..... \$1 35
56-inch Cheviot Suitings, with frizz finish, heavy, for unlined skirts, in castor, brown, green, Oxford greys and black. For stylish fall suit. Per yard..... \$1 25
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(Cheers.) That is a very great difference.

METHODS OF RELIEVING BURDENS.

Now upon the question of taxation. There are two ways in which the government of the country may relieve the burdens of the people, and they are these: either by practising a strict economy or by developing the resources of the country and the increase of population that the number of those who contribute to the revenue shall be largely increased. These gentlemen talk of the recklessness and of the extent of which we have added to the public debt, but they desire wholly and entirely to keep from the view of the people of Canada the fact that during the four years of Liberal rule there is every reason to believe that the population of Canada has increased by from 400,000 to 500,000, and that in consequence the actual charge per capita is largely less today than it was in 1896, the year to which they are so fond of referring. (Cheers.)

A STRIKING CONTRAST.

And now I do not want to detain you, but I want you to contrast for one moment the contentions which the Conservative party are putting forward with the manner in which they have comforted themselves under similar circumstances in the case of my late lamented and esteemed friend, Mr. Alexander Mackenzie. It is known that when he assumed office in 1873 he inherited enormous obligations, which he could not honorably refuse to discharge for which they had made no provision whatever. It is known also that after he assumed those obligations this country in common with other countries was severely affected by a depression which was world-wide in its effects. The United States in its whole history never experienced a more severe depression than that which existed during the period between 1873 and 1878. The same is true with respect to Great Britain and the nations of Europe generally. There was a large reduction in the value of all products and of most articles of general commerce, and there was in consequence a considerable fall in revenue. (Hear, hear.) I am with intelligent man in Canada, whether he be Conservative or Reformer, whether under these circumstances the Conservative party did not, one and all, hold Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues to the very strictest account for every disaster that overtook Canada during their period of office. (Hear, hear.) They held them up to the people as men utterly incapable of efficiently administering public affairs. Misfortunes came which no foresight could have prevented, and also because of the actions of our predecessors; it was extremely difficult for us to submit to these without great loss of revenue. I will take these gentlemen now on their own ground. I am perfectly willing today for them to take that position with regard to the government of Canada, and to put the whole responsibility for every misfortune, for every calamity while we are in power upon us; but I ask also if we are to be held responsible for every misfortune, if it please Providence to smile upon the country, to give us good harvests and increase our population, whether by parity of reasoning we are not undoubtedly entitled to take the credit for the prosperity that is given under our administration? (Cheers and laughter.) It is

a poor rule that will not work both ways. If the Conservatives blame Mr. Mackenzie for everything that occurred during his term of office, they should not withdraw from the government the credit for what occurred under their administration and claim it for themselves. (Cheers.)

DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Now, I have a word to say to you with respect to the prosperity of Canada at the present time. The desire of the government is this: We desire, first and foremost, to render equal justice to all classes of persons and to all portions of Canada; we desire as far as in us lies to make this Canada of ours a united Canada; we do not want only that there should be no distinction between Roman Catholics and Protestants, Frenchmen or Englishmen, or the man who speaks one language or the man who speaks another language, or between the man who professes one religion and the man who professes another; but we want to see every man in Canada proud to be a Canadian, and working together, shoulder to shoulder, for the benefit of this country each day. Acting upon that view of the matter, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, took his political life in his hands in 1896, and in opposition to every prejudice which might be supposed to weigh with him, and in opposition, apparently, to every instinct of his own people, he took the position that every province should have the right to manage its own affairs as it deemed best. (Hear, hear.) It was a noble, a daring thing for him to do. (Cheers.) The triumph of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in settling the school question was the greatest achievement of any administration in the last fifty years. (Cheers.)

SIR WILFRID AND THE CONTINGENT.

The same spirit which actuated him then actuated him in dealing with the question of the contingent. It was no part of his duty to rush uncalled for into the fray. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had in his hands in 1896, and in opposition to every prejudice which might be supposed to weigh with him, and in opposition, apparently, to every instinct of his own people, he took the position that every province should have the right to manage its own affairs as it deemed best. (Hear, hear.) It was a noble, a daring thing for him to do. (Cheers.) The triumph of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in settling the school question was the greatest achievement of any administration in the last fifty years. (Cheers.)

has been sealed and signed in the strongest possible way by the blood of our fellow-countrymen spilled in the interest of the whole empire on the fields of South Africa, and by liberal contributions on our part. That has been acknowledged, that has been felt, that has been made, as it deserves to be made, a subject of the warmest commendation on the part of those who are best able to judge, and who look at these things impartially and from distant points.

ATTEMPTS TO STIR UP STRIFE.

What, on the other hand, has been the policy adopted by our opponents under these circumstances? Sir, in 1896 we found Sir Charles Tupper doing his level best to stir up strife between the two great divisions into

(Continued on Page 9.)

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