PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

# NOMINATION DAY.

## Great Liberal Demonstration.

The proceedings in Lunenburg on Nomination proved a Grand Liberal Demonstration. At an early hour in the morning electors began to arrive from the country, and between nine and ten o'clock a procession of carriages containing Liberal electors of Bridgewater and other parts of New Dublin Township filed into the town. Over one hundred horses were counted in this Liberal procession.

From about eleven o'clock till nearly one

F. B. Wade, Esq.,

of Bridgewater, addressed the electors from the steps of King's Hotel, an impropted gathering numbering several hundreds of voters, having assembled the moment it was hinted that Mr. Wade would address them. As there are few electors in this county who have not already heard Mr. Wade's forcible and captivating addresses on political questions, we need say nothing to convince our readers of its character and effect. We have heard of more than one elector who has paid Mr. Wade's speeches in this contest the highest of all compliments, that they had previously intended to vote for the Tory candidates, but after listening to him they could not do it.

About half past eleven o'clock, the Sheriff's Court for Local Nominations having opened in the Court House at 11, the Liberal candidates and a few friends proceeded to the Court House, where

Charles Edward Church,

of Chester, Gentleman, was proposed as a candidate for the General Assembly of Nova Scotia, both orally and in writing, by James Eisenhaur, of Lunenburg, Merchant, and E. D. Davison, Sr., of Bridgewater, Lumberman. His agent for the payment of election expenses, Mr. James E. Whitford, of Chester, Farmer, was duly appointed by writing signed by the candidate pursuant to law.

George Angus Ross,

of Lunenburg, Barrister, was proposed as a candidate for the General Assembly of Nova Scotia, both orally and in writing, by Robert Hunter, of Bridgewater, Iron Founder, and James E. Whitford, of Chester, Farmer. His agent, Mr. Samuel A. Chesley, of Lunenburg, Barrister, was duly appointed by writing signed by the candidate. Both candidates voluntarily took the qualification oath and paid their deposit of fifty dollars, receiving the Sheriff's receipt therefor, their proposers demanded a poll, and their nomination was complete.

At twelve the Sheriff, who is Returning Officer for the Dominion as well as the Local Elections, declared the Court open for Dominion nominations, and promptly

Thomas T. Keefler,

of Bridgewater, Merchant, was nominated as a candidate for the House of Commons, by a written paper signed by twenty-seven gentlemen :

The signatures were witnessed by Mr. Robert A. Logan, of Bridgewater, Merchant, who duly attested the same before the Sheriff. Mr. Keefler's financial agent, Mr. Robert A. Logan, was duly appointed by writing signed by the candidate, the deposit of two hundred dollars paid, a receipt taken, the candidate voluntarily made oath before the Sheriff that he was a natural born British subject, and his nomination was complete.

Soon after this performance was over Hon. W. H. Owen, Q. C., the legal adviser of the Tory candidates, appeared upon the scene, examined the nomination papers of the Liberal candidates, which had been prepared by Mr. Chesley, of Lunenburg, took notes from them, apparently as a guide for preparing the Tory nomination papers, and in the course of an hour the nomination papers of the two Tory candidates for the House of Assembly, Charles Arnold Smith, of Chester, Blacksmith, and William Robert Calder, of Bridgewater, Lumberman, was handed in.

We may remark here that, so far as we can learn, no financial agents were appointed by the Tory Local candidates, and consequently, as any one can see by looking at the Act of 1875, passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1875, for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections, no election bills incurred on behalf of the Tory Local candidates, (except their private expenses, hotel bills, &c.,) can be legally paid at any time. Tory committees and canvassers will please make a note of this.

Later the nomination papers of Charles Edwin Kaulbach, of Lunenburg, Gentleman, were handed in, and at 2 o'clock the Sheriff announced the names of the two Dominion and the four Local candidates, and declared his Court closed.

Then ensued an amusing scene. There were some fifty people inside the Court House, mostly Tories, and Mr. Kaulbach got up and proposed that Dr. DeWitt, of Chester, be Chairman, to preside at the public meeting to be held outside. The motion was put and Dr. DeWitt elected Chairman. Mr. Kaulbach then proceeded to claim that the two Dominion candidates should have each an hour and a half to discuss Dominion questions, and that the four Local candidates should divide whatever time might be left when the Dominion candidates were through, which would of course be after 5 o'clock. Mr. Church and Mr. Ross protested against this, Mr. Smith grumbled, and finally it was arranged that the Dominion candidates should each have three quarters of an hour, and the Local candidates each half an hour.

Meantime there were seven or eight hundred electors outside, including representative men from all parts of the County, and the Liberals, determined that a few Tories inside the Court House should not dictate to the hundreds of independent electors outside, proceeded to test the matter by appealing to those electors. Mr. Robert Hunter moved from the Court House steps, that

James Eisenhaur

be Chairman, and the motion being seconded and put was carried by an overwhelming majority. When the candidates and others came out from the interior of the Court House upon the steps, the Tories protested that Dr. DeWitt, having been elected Chairman inside, should preside. This did not satisfy the independent electors outside, who resented being dictated to by a little clique who had ensconced themselves in the jury boxes inside, and on the question being again put to vote, Mr. Eisenhaur's election as chairman was sustained, and the Tories had to submit. This was victory number one for the Liberals.

Mr. Kaulbach

then proceeded to address the electors, with his hat on. (The Liberal candidates all paid the electors the tribute of respect of speaking with heads uncovered. They do not set up to be aristocrats.) Mr. Kaulbach said it was unfair and ungentlemanly, after Dr. DeWitt had been chosen chairman inside, that the proceedings inside the Court House should be disarranged by the people outside. He then proceeded to state that it would be his greatest delight to represent the people of this County, and to promote their interests, which were identical with his own. He said the men to occupy this post should be men with deliberation, to place themselves in a position creditably to discharge the duties of a representative of this County. They should be men possessed with emotions of interest, not exercised by party feeling and emotions at all. The issue before the people was whether we should have one-sided free trade or protection. This statement he repeated at intervals, with variations, throughout his speech. He said the Liberal leaders were afraid to go upon the platform and face the intelligent people (he blushed a little here) but went into back corners of the country and told the people they had to pay a duty on flour. He admitted the right-hand pledge of 1878, and said there was no additional tax on flour ; the duty of 50 cents did not increase the price, but on the other hand we made $629,000 a year out of the people of the upper provinces, because they had to pay that amount to the Government at Ottawa for duty on American coal. He said superior extra flour was $7.25 a barrel in 1877, and $5.84 in 1881, and that baker's flour was $6.70 in 1877, and the same price in 1881, a ridiculous statement on the face of it. Why should superior extra be higher than baker's flour in 1877, and lower in 1881 ? He made some extravagant large statements about deficits under the Mackenzie Government, and extravagantly small statements about surpluses under the present Government. Where the Tory newspapers and Sir. S. L. Tilley claim a surplus for 1882, of $7,500,000 ; he put it at $4,450,000 ; He attempted a defense of the Pacific Railway contract, forgetting that before he voted for that contract in 1881 he condemned it in a speech printed in the Lunenburg "Progress." He said he had been prevented from travelling over the County to canvass because he had been served with subpœnas to attend two cases in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Keefler,

who was received with cheers from upwards of two thirds of the audience, spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman, and Electors of the County of Lunenburg,

I thank you for your kind reception. I stand before you as the candidate of the great Liberal party to represent you in the Parliament of Canada, and to enunciate there in your behalf the principles of that great party. One of those principles is freedom of trade, a principle adopted in Britain thirty years ago, when the labors of Cobden and Bright had caused a reaction against the protective principles which had come down from the dark ages. Before that principle was adopted in England the people were in a state of destitution. What was the result of the change ? In 1840 the foreign trade of Great Britain amounted to £172,000,000 ; in 1879 it amounted to $611,000,000, a gain of £440,000,000 in round figures, or over 250 per cent under free trade. And yet we are told that this free trade is going to do us so much injury. Look at the condition of the people of Great Britain. In 1840 no less than 201,000 paupers received aid ; in 1881 only 111,000 received aid, a reduction of 90,000, while the population had increased in the meantime by ten millions. My friend Mr. Kaulbach's picture of the terrible depression in free trade England has no existence in fact ; it exists only in his lively imagination. (Hear, hear.)

The principles of the party we oppose to-day are the same as they always were ; the same as when they called themselves Confederates. Nearly twenty years ago they were Confederates, and they disregarded the rights and liberties of this people as they do now. They have changed their name from Conservative to Liberal-Conservative, apparently because they are ashamed of the name Conservative. Would Johnstone, who led the Conservative party in this Province thirty years ago have sat along side of Sir John Macdonald in the Dominion Parliament after Sir John had been convicted of taking a bribe, in the Pacific Scandal affair, of $362,000 taken out of the pockets of one individual ? Would the Conservatives of this Province of 40 years ago have sat with these men, who call themselves Liberal Conservatives, men with two faces, Janus faced, looking two ways at once ? Now they are protectionists ; in 1878 they were readjusters, when they got into power they told you a different story. When they got beyond your reach they put a duty on the poor man's woollens and cottons of 40, 50, and even 100 per cent., on the rich man's fine cloth of 20 and 23 per cent. They said they must protect the interests of the manufacturers. Are we to be burdened to enrich a few millionaires? That is the question. (Hear, hear.)

It is all very well for Tory candidates to tell us we pay no duty on Canadian flour and manufactured goods. They have flour in Canada to get rid of, and they want to force it upon us ; they want to force their manufactures upon us. Mr. Kaulbach talks about factories here. What factories ? There are more cotton factories in the Dominion now than are required. We have the best kind of factories here, one fisheries, which give more employment to the people of this County than half a dozen cotton factories could, because the cotton factories could not get a sale for the goods they made. These people are like the Republicans in the United States, who put as high duties on the people as they can bear, until now the people are trying to turn them out. There the people are trying to lower the tariff ; here one party is trying to raise it.

(Mr. Keefler here read a quotation from a leading American authority, shewing that the iron industry which had long enjoyed a protection of 160 per cent. was beset with strikers, because the laborers could not get a living at their present wages.

That is the state of things in the United States. That is the state of things these protectionists want to bring on in this country. The United States have railroads all over the country, and yet the country is depressed, notwithstanding the people have free trade between thirty odd large states and fifty millions of people, while here we can have no such advantage, with our small population.

We are told we must be taxed because Upper Canada produces more flour than we do. You might as well expect water to run up hill as expect Nova Scotians to trade with the Canadians. (Hear, hear.) How many tons of coal do you suppose were shipped from Nova Scotia to Upper Canada last year ? Perhaps Mr. Kaulbach can answer (Mr. Keefler paused, but Mr. Kaulbach did not answer.) Four hundred tons ! (Cheers and laughter.) Yet they tell you this tax on coal is a benefit to you. I get this from it, that I pay a duty of 50 cents a ton on all the hard coal I burn in my house.

Now you are told there is no duty on flour. Well, that is the most laughable assertion any man has had the effrontery to stand up and make before intelligent people. When Mr. Kaulbach held up his right arm and said he would sooner have it cut off than vote for a duty on flour (cheers,) he did not say Canadian flour. (A voice : He said the poor man's bread.) (Cheers.) Last year 472,000 were paid in duty on breadstuffs by the people of the maritime Provinces. (Mr. Keefler here quoted from a speech of Sir John Macdonald the statement made before an Ontario audience, when some one complained of the coal duty, that the duty of 50 cents a barrel on flour enabled the farmers and millers of Ontario to take out of the people of Nova Scotia twenty, aye, forty times the amount of the coal duty.)

There gentlemen you have it out of the mouth of their own leader that there is a duty on Canadian flour. (Hear, hear.) That is the leader of this Confederate, Conservative, Liberal-Conservative, Protectionist party. (Laughter and cheers.

I have been in trade ever since I was a boy, forty-five years ago, and I always understood that a restricted market increased prices. Suppose there were only one shop in Lunenburg. Would not the shop-keeper make you pay high prices ? Suppose there were a dozen. Would not competition result and prices go down ? Just so with this flour trade ; they compel us to go to Ontario for our flour. (Hear, hear.)

But there is more than flour you have to pay a duty on. I will take the duty on woollen goods. I find they have taken a most extraordinary way ; they put on a specific duty by weight. Now know the commoner the article used by the poor man, the heavier it is ; the rich man's fine goods are lighter. The consequence is the rich man pays from 20 to 23 per cent. on his goods, while the poor man pays 60 and even 100 per cent. on his woollen garments and blankets. (Hear, hear.) To show you that these duties are unnecessarily high, I will just give you an example. One cotton factory made 27 per cent. profit in 1878, under the old tariff ; last year it made 53 per cent. That is the effect of this tariff. Who pays these large profits ? The consumer, of course. Those profits were made at your expense.

Now I happen to have here an election card circulated for Mr. Kaulbach last election. Here it is. What does it say ? "Vote for Kaulbach ! He knows your County.

"He (Kaulbach) do a great desire to represent you on account of the money he is to receive for it—He wishes to benefit the people."

"His party's policy will revive our trade, enliven our Home Industries, promote our Shipping and Fishing and benefit all classes of laboring men, by giving them Employment, by lightening their Taxes, and placing the burden on the RICH MAN'S SHOULDERS."

"His platform is NO DUTY ON FLOUR, MEAL, and SALT, and a Reduction of Duty on TEA, SUGAR, MOLASSES, RICE and COMMON TOBACCO—and a higher Duty on Silks and Satins, and the Rich Man's Luxuries and Fineries."

They told lots of us they were going to revive our fisheries. Did they mean that the people on the banks would catch more fish ? That is the kind of story they used when they thought they would not be found out.

How does protection give employment in this town or county ? There is no man walking about your streets with nothing to do. You dont need cotton factories and woollen factories to give you employment. We have here employment for all hands in the natural industries of the country. Mr. Kaulbach said in his card in 1878 he would lighten the taxes of the poor man and place the burden on the rich, and that his platform was, no duty on flour. How has he carried that out ? Sugar now is just a cent a pound nearer than when the Kaulbach led us into Confederation. (Hear, hear.) The duty on molasses is just the same to-day, 15 per cent., as it was in 1855. Mr. Kaulbach cannot say he stood up for his native Province in the Dominion Parliament. He was a mere machine, worked by the Government wires. He forgot his country when he got to Ottawa ; he forgot us poor folks down here, when he got among the big folks up there, the Princess Louise, Sir John Macdonald and the rest of the knights.

When a good Liberal member from Antigonish moved that the claim of Nova Scotia to a share of the Fishery Award be considered, a Conservative moved that the matter be put aside and not considered, and Mr. Kaulbach voted for that motion. (Hear, hear.) He forgot his country then. That inshore fishery, for which the Award was given, belonged to us just as much as a man's door yard. Return us to power, and we will get a share of it. (A voice : You will, will you ?) Yes, I will. The three miles out from the coast belonged to this Province just as much as three miles from salt-water inland, and the Dominion Government is now in possession of the rent received from the Americans for twelve years use of it. The Conservative members from Nova Scotia forgot their duty to their own province when they voted against that act of justice to us. Mr. Kaulbach by his vote on that question stands convicted of being an enemy of his country. (Cries of yes, yes ; no, no. The records of the House shew it.

If the protectionists carried out their principles to their legitimate conclusion they would put up a Chinese wall around the country. Look at Ireland, a country oppressed by a few wealthy people who own the country. This Government will made a second Ireland of Manitoba by their railroad monopolies. When the Manitoba Legislature chartered a new railway to run south, the Dominion Government threw it out. (Hear, hear.)

I must confess I listened with astonishment to some of the assertions Mr. Kaulbach made. He talked about one-sided free trade. Free trade enables us to buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest markets. Protection forces us to buy in the dearest market, under protection we are simply serfs, bound at the feet of the Upper Provinces. It is one-sided protection.

I was astounded when Mr. Kaulbach told us that it was the Opposition in the House of Commons that induced the Government to cut short the life of Parliament by one year. Those poor Pilgarlicks of Liberals, in a minority of about 70, what harm could they do ? And yet the life of the late Parliament was cut short one year on their account. Was not the absurdity of that manifest ? (Voices, Yes.) The true reason is there are American capitalists anxious to pick up some of the crumbs the mills of Canada are extracting from the people, and they have gone to the Government, and to try to ensure a five years lease, these capitalists are willing to help on the protectionist cause this year. The question now is, whether you are going to be robbed by a few millionaires for another five years or not.

Now we had most extraordinary assertions made to us on Saturday last in contrasting the state of the country in 1878 and now. In 1878 the whole world was depressed, Great Britain, the United States, the continent of Europe, and this country with the rest. Gentlemen, we are told the N. P. has made these brisk times in Nova Scotia. I can hardly understand how any man, pretending to a knowledge of public affairs, can stand up before a public audience and make such an assertion as that. The times are just as bad for the shipping and freight interest now as in 1878. In 1873 times were good for shipping ; $12 per M. was obtained from Bridgewater to the West Indies. Was that the N. P. ? They told us our vessels going to the West Indies would bring return cargoes of sugar to the Halifax and Montreal refineries. I watched that pretty closely, and the first vessel that took a load of sugar to the Halifax refinery was a Norwegian barque. That was N. P. for us in Lunenburg County. (Cheers.)

Now, gentlemen, I would like to say a few words about the Fishery Bounty. I undertake to say, and I defy any man to contradict me, that a more foolish attempt to deceive the people of these maritime Provinces was never perpetrated by any Government under the sun. $150,000 to be divided among 60,000 fishermen ! $2.50 per man ! That is a bounty, isn't it ? (Laughter.) In a family of five it will be 50 cents apiece. It will pay the duty on five barrels of American flour. A merchant of this town has been saying outside, "go in for Kaulbach, and you will get $5 a ton on fishing vessels." The fishing vessels of the Dominion aggregate 42,000 tons. That will hardly allow $5 a ton out of $150,000. $2 a ton will come to $84,000, and a dollar apiece will be left for the shore fishermen. Is not that a bounty for a paternal Government to give the fishermen of Nova Scotia ? They rob us of the Fishery Award and give us a dollar apiece for the fishermen. (Hear, hear.)

Now, what we Liberal candidates go in for is, first the special benefit of our own County. Charity begins at home. (Hear, hear.) Then, gentlemen, we will look after the interests of our Province, our own country. Then we will look out for the maritime Provinces, for we are all rowing in the same boat. (Hear, hear.) Then we will give the balance of our attention to the rest of the Dominion. I will not say I will cut my right hand off before voting for a duty on flour. The party to which I belong will take off that duty when we get into power. Mr. Blake has pledged himself to that and he is an honorable man. I will vote for a settlement of the Fishery Award, so that it shall not be kept dangling before us year after year.

I thank you for the attention with which you have listened to this my first attempt to address an open air meeting, and promise that if you send me to Ottawa, I will do the best I can to represent you.

Mr. Keefler retired amidst a storm of cheers from upwards of two-thirds of the audience.

Mr. Calder,

who received a faint cheer to encourage him, said the same things he said in the Drill Shed at Bridgewater, on Saturday last, that he had been a Liberal, but now supported the present Tory Government and approved of every thing that Government had done. He said this was his adopted county, but he wished there were more Pictou voters in it. He had tried to start a Woollen Mill in the County himself, but the affair had broken down. He said the words of Sir John A. McDonald, that the people of Ontario took twenty, aye forty times as much out of the people of Nova Scotia by the flour tax as they had to pay in the shape of coal tax, must be a misprint.

Mr. Ross,

in coming forward, was received with hearty cheers. He spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, Electors of the County of Lunenburg ;

I hope you will pardon me if I correct a few misstatements made by Mr. Kaulbach. He says that he was locked up in Court and prevented from visiting the country. I am in a position to con-

NOVA SCOTIA.

OF NOVA SCOTIA