

A Lively Meeting of the Electors at the Junction

Mr. McEvoy Breaks Down Mr. Elson's Several Arguments.

Deals With the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Tariff.

How the Latter Has Been a Boon to the Farmer—Government Railway Ownership Opposed.

If the electors of the riding of East Middlesex had known what was going to happen in the election at the Junction, after the nominations had closed yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, the meeting would have had to be held in a much larger building to accommodate the crowds which would have gathered. As it was, however, the shrewd electors who know how to read the signs of the times made their way to the hall about 2 o'clock and filled nearly every seat. It was the first time that the candidates, Messrs. McEvoy and Elson, had met on the platform, and this added to the interest of the meeting. It was arranged that Mr. Elson should speak for an hour and a half, and Mr. McEvoy should follow for the same time. The Conservative nominee gave the address that he has been delivering at his meetings throughout the riding, and it provided Mr. McEvoy an excellent opportunity to refute some of the statements made—and the criticism was so severe and telling that some of Mr. Elson's friends made frequent interruptions in their endeavor to rattle the speaker. Falling in this a coterie of the Elson supporters left the hall.

A Lively Meeting.

The meeting was one of the liveliest ever held in the East Riding. Mr. Elson, in opening his address, said that he knew of no better way of determining the relative merits of the two parties than by comparing their respective records. The speaker then drew "hard times" from the days of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The Sir John A. Macdonald administration, he claimed, had brought huge prosperity to the country. Towns, villages and lots of other things, sprang up all over the country. Mr. Elson, under the magic wand of Sir John Macdonald, the Liberal party, however, had brought "hard times" to the country, and he said that the \$28,000,000 which the Conservative Government was spending on the Grand Trunk Pacific was a waste of money. He said that the \$28,000,000 added annually to the public debt by the Conservative Administration, was considered exorbitant by Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others. The Reform party had promised to remedy this state of affairs, and the people put them into power, but, said the speaker, the Liberal Government had raised the expenditure to \$70,000,000 per year. With regard to the tariff, Mr. Elson said the Liberals had only changed it slightly. The speaker then proceeded to read from a book of statistics to show that the American tariff on agricultural products was higher than the Canadian tariff on the same. Mr. Elson claimed that this was not fair. He then turned to the tariff on horses of 20 per cent, was too small, and allowed a low class of horses to be brought in, and to the tariff on the noble animals of Canada. The speaker said it was a pity that the Canadian farmers were not protected enough from the competition of the American products. Mr. Elson then criticised the fact that the Laurier Government had removed the 12 per cent duty from binder twine, and allowed it to come in free. The object had doubtless been to give the Canadian farmer a cheaper. But, according to Mr. Elson, the Yankee manufacturers had made an agreement with the Government whereby the latter only turned out one-quarter of the twine needed, and the Americans thus kept up the price. He also touched upon the Dundonald affair, and advocated government ownership of the Transcontinental railway.

Discussed Two Big Questions.

Mr. McEvoy, who was warmly applauded, confined himself to the Grand Trunk Pacific and the tariff inaugurated by the present government. "A great many Conservatives," he said, "seeing the splendid success of the present tariff, are inclined to say that the Laurier tariff is just about the same as the old National Policy. Now, Sir Charles Tupper ought to have said that he was not in the Laurier cabinet, and here is what he said in 1896. Mr. McEvoy read from Hansard an extract from speeches made by Sir Charles, and it was turned out of power, in which Sir Charles said, in most emphatic terms, that the 'new tariff' which was the eve of coming into force, was going to ruin Canada. 'Sir Charles, at least, considered that the Laurier tariff was something very, very different from the National Policy.' Speaking further of some people said that it had only been reduced 1 per cent, but it had, going by the statistics, been reduced fully 10 per cent. all round. What nonsense it was to say that the new tariff did not bring revenue. The speaker said that Mr. Elson's own statement was against him. The Government was now taking in \$70,000,000 in revenue, in place of the old Conservative revenue of \$28,000,000. This was just what Mr. Elson had said, only that he had labelled these sums 'taxation' taken from the people's pockets. The big Liberal revenue was certainly levied upon commerce, but it was obtained by lessened duties. The truth was that commerce had increased so enormously that the revenue had largely increased, despite the reduction of duties.

INTERNAL TROUBLE

Serious Riots Reported in Province of Vilna, Russia.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 27.—Serious riots are reported to have occurred in the Province of Vilna, General Radzky, the new head of the police department, has hurriedly proceeded thither.

BIG JEWELRY FAILURE

New York House Closes Up With Liabilities of \$123,000.

New York, Oct. 27.—The firm of J. Walter Labaree & Co. has closed its offices at 42 Broadway, this city. Labaree & Co. advertised as a stock commission house with numerous out of town offices. Stephen Callaghan, attorney for Labaree, said today that his clients' assets were probably between \$60,000 and \$80,000, with liabilities of \$123,000. He said that Labaree & Co. had 70 branch offices extending all the way from Toronto, Ont., to New Orleans. The cause of the firm's suspension, according to Mr. Callaghan, was that they were short of a long line of stocks.

Roosevelt's Birthday.

Washington, Oct. 27.—This is the anniversary of President Roosevelt's birthday. He is 46 years old. Throughout the day he has been receiving messages of congratulation from hundreds in all parts of the country. He also received a message from the British monarch congratulating him upon the anniversary.

Had Aided Exports.

Looking at the matter in another light, Mr. McEvoy showed the tremendous increase in agricultural exports during Liberal rule. Exports of eggs and butter had increased from thousands to millions of pounds in seven years. "What does it matter what the American duties are?" said Mr. McEvoy. "We only import a mere bagful of these products from the States, anyway. The fact is that we are now selling, not buying. Do you want to go back to the old tariff because the Yan-

kees have a few more cents duty on cheese than we have?" Mr. McEvoy then said that in 1903 our hay export was 100 times more than in 1896. (Great applause.)

The speaker went on to show that a tariff on agricultural products did not regulate their prices, anyway. Canadian farmers were exporting, not buying, and the prices of these products were determined in the foreign markets. So ridiculous did Mr. Elson's talk about protecting the farmers appear in this light, that Mr. McEvoy's audience burst into laughter and applause. Mr. McEvoy admitted that there were exceptions to the above, that, for instance, a few market garden products and such like could be protected, and there was a certain amount of duty on American farm products. For instance, there was a \$2 duty on hay, and, considering the huge increase in the export of this product from Canada during the last seven years, the speaker said that if a farmer could not raise hay and sell it right in Canada, at a profit, it was his own fault.

Mr. McEvoy gave statistics to prove that the rate of increase in the export of agricultural products under the Laurier Government had been tremendously greater than during the eighteen years of Conservative rule. Did the farmers in front of him, he asked, wish to go back to the old Tory tariff which had been such a hindrance? (Cries of No, No.)

Taxation Was Reduced.

Mr. McEvoy proceeded to show that the rate of taxation per head of population was lower now than under Conservative rule, and that the wealth per head was more than doubled since 1886. He also showed how the different departments at Ottawa had been managed by the Laurier Government with success, and deficits wiped out.

At this juncture one of Mr. Elson's supporters got up to leave the room, and in doing so he made considerable noise. "I am going to get out," he said.

Discussing the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Discussing the Grand Trunk Pacific, the need of which was admitted by the opposition, Mr. McEvoy said that the road would open up a great country, and mean that people and business would stay in Canada instead of flowing into the States.

"Mr. Elson has told you about railways successfully operated by governments in various countries. But these countries are not democratic countries, such as ours, and their despotic rulers kept the railways in their hands, and not care how the employees vote. Why did not Mr. Elson speak about government owned railways in the States?" Mr. Elson said (Laughter). Mr. Borden is the first man to my knowledge to seriously contemplate such a big scheme. The Government kept its agreement, that the country was to be a democratic country. Supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier had put forward a scheme of this kind, the opposition would have raised a terrible outcry that he was preparing to buy the vote of 30,000 men, by employing them, or connecting them with a huge government railway."

Mr. McEvoy reiterated his statement that political parties in democratic countries were not yet high enough to allow of such a scheme. He said, the hottest adherents of the government ownership scheme could not object to allowing the G. T. P. to try and run the road first, and then if the company failed, the Government would have a good railroad very cheap. (Applause.) If the G. T. P. kept its agreement, that the country was to be a democratic country, the year would have to pay was \$2,000,000 a year interest for seven years, making \$14,000,000. "This will cost you and I each about 50 cents," said Mr. McEvoy. (Laughter and applause.)

Is a Farmer's Son.

In closing, Mr. McEvoy referred to Mr. Elson's statement that he should be elected because he was a farmer. (Laughter.) Mr. McEvoy thought this was a very good reason for being elected. He said that he was a farmer's son, born and bred on a farm. Mr. McEvoy said: "Would you farmers like to think that because you were a farmer, you would be barred in future from representing your riding in parliament?" Mr. Elson said that he did not live in the riding he represented." (Renewed applause.)

A GREAT BURST OF APPLAUSE AROSE AS MR. McEVoy resumed his seat. Then the crowd started to move out, despite the fact that Mr. R. H. Bartlett, a "lawyer from London," and one of Mr. Elson's right hand men, was to speak. "I don't want anyone to stay who doesn't want to hear me," Mr. Bartlett told the meeting. Most of the audience acted on the hint.

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Weather Has Cleared Up—Japs Capture Number of Positions From the Russians.

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