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\$16.50 a Ton

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HAVE YOUR EYES EXAMINED.

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DUNCAN ROSS AGAIN CHOICE AT STRATHROY

Lyceum Theatre Packed by Middlesex Supporters of Liberalism.

NOMINATION UNANIMOUS

Electorate Accept Candidate's Explanation of Stand On M. S. A. Issue.

BY WILLIAM SHARMAN.

STRATHROY, Nov. 1.—Liberalism predominated in Strathroy Tuesday afternoon when Duncan C. Ross was chosen again to lead the Liberal forces in the west riding of Middlesex at the approaching federal contest.

The Lyceum Theatre, the place of convention, was totally inadequate to seat all the followers of the Hon. Wm. Lyon Mackenzie King who journeyed into town from every section of the constituency to participate in the selection of a candidate to oppose the present administration at Ottawa. Many of the gathering were content to stand throughout the afternoon.

The name of Duncan Ross was the only one submitted to the convention. Directly nominations were closed, the nominee delivered one of his characteristic, fiery addresses, reviewing his stewardship as a member of the recent House, and detailing his military service and the attention of the people of Canada.

Unanimity Prevails. Supporting a candidate on the platform and also featuring the afternoon with powerful and stirring addresses were J. C. Elliott of London, ex-M. L. A. of West Middlesex; Thomas H. Purdon, K.C., of London, and Chas. MacFie of Appin. Complete unanimity characterized the entire proceedings of the afternoon.

"It is indeed a great honor you have conferred upon me today," Duncan Ross declared, upon accepting the nomination. "It comes at a time when Liberalism, in the sense of broad Canadianism, is needed in Canada as perhaps it was never required before. In accepting I want to explain that it is my purpose to carry on in that same spirit, thinking of the people as a whole, and not as any one individual or group."

Sees Unrest Prevalent. "It is on that policy that I appeal for your suffrage. We have just emerged from a terrible conflict. It is not necessary for me to dwell long on the big issues. Our trade is languishing, unrest is prevalent as well as unemployment, and it is the duty of everyone to put their shoulder to the wheel, despite party or other affiliations."

"I have no apology to make for anything that I have done in the past. (Applause.) You proffered me the banner in 1917, and your action today convinces me that you think that I have come out fairly well. I have been through the riding quite recently, and I can find only one criticism from my friends, and that is my course during the passage of the military service act. "Some have said that I was not true to my promises and to my leader. I leave you to judge. Prior to the last election I spoke from many platforms. I told the electors that I was in favor of the M. S. A. to the extent of 100,000 men, and would not approve of further numbers without consulting the people. This being a democratic country, I felt that they held the right to judge. On nomination day I stated such was my policy and said furthermore that I would support Sir Wilfrid Laurier, my late chief."

Approved of Stand. "The latter approved of my stand, and I was returned at the polls on the same. I went back to the House with the mandate from my people. The measure came up again. What happened? The Government, with its majority, of course, was able to pass an order-in-council cancelling exemptions all over the country. What was my position? I said that some of my friends entertain a mistaken idea of that order-in-council. It did not increase the number for reinforcement. It was passed within the terms of the statute, and I was not voting for more than 100,000 men."

"What did the Liberal party say? They felt the necessity of aiding the men overseas as well as the Conservatives. Their interests were one. They were just as patriotic. But they said to the Government: 'You said not long ago that men were needed on the farm, and you promised them exemption.' And, then, I am ashamed to say they had an emissary in London who sent out word that they would get exemptions, in order that they might dishonestly secure votes."

Replies to Criticisms. "Some have said that I was untrue and unfaithful. I voted that farmers' exemptions should not be cancelled. I felt that as they had been promised so they should not be disregarded. But, as you know, we lost. Some have said that I deserted my leader in a time of need. I want to say that I never kept a promise more faithfully than at that time. I say further that I did so with the entire approval and concurrence of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier and after a consultation with him."

At this point Mr. Ross explained that he had heard that some declared that Sir Wilfrid had actually advised him and read a communication that he had received from him, a sentence of which was: "Duncan Ross is a very true friend of mine, and if I have any advice to offer to the electors of West Middlesex it is to give him their support."

Opposed Cancellations. "I did my best," declared Mr. Ross, and from the audience came the remark: "What more could a man do?" "When this matter first came up I took a strong stand," he continued, "against the cancellation of boys under 21 years of age. I made every effort to prevent the cancellations of these youngsters. I did all I could in the initial stages of the bill, but as I say, one man cannot out-vote a government. I realize the sadness and heartaches that came to the homes of many, but I could not lose sight of the fact that although a member for the west riding of Middlesex, it was my urgent duty to act always for the best interests of the whole. I assure you moreover that such is to be my attitude always."

"I want to ask my farmer friends what measure in the House in the farmers' interests that I have failed to vote for?" The first measure that I interested myself in was the reciprocity bill of 1911, and in passing I wish to say that both of my opponents who profess to be farmers were both fighting against it at that time. The leopard does not change its spots, and with their sudden conversion they can-

not seriously advocate anything else today."

Criticized Banks. "In the next instance I thought the banking institutions enjoyed too many privileges without paying for them. I argued in the House for a system of rural credits. In 1913 Meighen was at my back in this, but nothing has emanated from him since in that respect. How have I been about tariffs? Like a Liberal I have always fought for the farmers. I have frequently voted to lift the customs duties off all agriculture implements, lumber, oil, cement, and to reduce materially on clothing and shoes. I am not and have never been a free trader. Under present circumstances could anyone be an out and out free trader?"

The speaker described further the progress of the country, including the western provinces under the late Laurier regime, and pointed out that the latter administration went to its political death endeavoring to give to the farmer the greatest boon that a prime minister of any country could offer. He asked that these same men, with the exception of the late great chief, be given the opportunity to usher in again another "golden era of prosperity."

In his opening remarks J. C. Elliott, ex-M. L. A. for the riding, felt that the meeting recalled to him the old days of overcrowding at political gatherings. It spoke well, he said, for the renewed interest taken by the staunch old Liberals of West Middlesex. He emphasized the necessity for everyone who had the interest of the country at heart to consider the situation closely.

Meighen Is "Adroit." "I have taken much interest," he declared. "Quite recently I read the manifesto of that 'adroit' politician Premier Meighen. I read his previous statement also, and had to read it over a second time before I could make much out of it. The outstanding feature of the first address was his statement that he intended to go to the country before the end of the year because the 'Grits and Farmers' had so suggested. He came back in February. 'There are few men that can reason like that. Then there was his manifesto. It has both its advantages and disadvantages. I read it with interest, and I must confess that I commenced to wonder whether we were in for a serious time or not. I wonder if this 'dire calamity' would fall upon this fair country as predicted."

Old Cry of "Ruin." "Consider the Conservative manifestos of the past. You will find almost the exact words 'issue sharply defined' and 'disastrous industrial chaos ahead.' The words are almost identical. It's the old cry of 'blue ruin' if the Liberal party is returned."

The speaker reviewed the condition of Canada prior to the induction of the Laurier Government in 1896, and what progress followed until 1911. Discussing briefly the M. S. A., he explained that Duncan Ross's statement pleased him, and condemned in no uncertain fashion the action of the Borden administration at that time. "It seems to me to be like carrying coals to Newcastle," declared the next speaker, T. H. Purdon of London, "to speak after hearing these splendid addresses. I remember well Duncan Ross's father, and fond memory brings the light of other days. The late Sir George Ross was one of Canada's foremost statesmen, and when I heard his son today, I said 'It's no wonder if Middlesex, after having a Ross for 48 years, will decide to make it the half century, as you will do if you elect him again. I further say that after 48 such years of service the electors

of West Middlesex will not turn their backs on the Rosses."

Bridges 50 Years.

Looking back a few years over the trials and tribulations and successes of the Liberal party, he showed that the history of the world had been a struggle by the oppressed for freedom. He pointed out that while the Rosses had bridged a period of years, Mackenzie King and his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie, had bridged a hundred years, and had secured for Ontario responsible government.

In outlining Liberalism, the speaker asserted that it stood for progressive legislation and a government of the people with the trust of the people. Liberalism, he contended, is opposed to class legislation, holding that all men are born equal, with every right in their pursuit of happiness. A hundred years ago, he said, few men had a vote as compared with the present, when both men and women enjoy the franchise. All this had been brought about by the Liberal party, he pointed out, which had widened the franchise from time to time.

"Spirit of Liberalism."

At this point the speaker traced the fortunes of William Lyon Mackenzie in his struggles for responsible government during the early twenties. Reading one of the last communications that had been penned by that old leader, Mr. Purdon termed it as "breathing the true spirit of Liberalism." He explained that had he wished Mackenzie might have shared the spoils of the Family Compact, but chose to sacrifice all this in a life-long fight for the common people.

The speaker traced the origin of the so-called national policy, recalling the days of Alexander Mackenzie and Sir Charles Tupper, and related how the former, being somewhat obtuse, refused to ratify the tariff 2½ per cent. Out of this grew, he said, protection and free trade. "Why should we take any platform by any leader and not use our own judgment? Why should we follow blindly? One of the difficulties of a protectionist policy, however, is that if once we adopt it, it is hard to eliminate. My idea is not the tariff, but which man can submit the best tariff."

"And I believe that the man is Fielding. We can't abolish the tariff. We must raise a sufficient revenue to pay the interest upon our enormous war debt. Let King as the chief and leader go in with Fielding as his right-hand man, William Lyon Mackenzie King is one of the ablest statesmen that Canada has ever had. To him has descended all the same principles of his grandfather. Canada today needs educated statesmen. There has been too much party politics in the past. Leaders should be criticized and be told when they are not doing right."

Commends Leader.

"In Mackenzie King you have the man. Let him stand with Fielding. Leave the tariff in their hands and it will be safe. Moreover, you have splendid material in the Liberal ranks for a new House. In Fred Parlee, W. C. Kennedy and Duncan Ross you have splendid cabinet timber. There will be no difficulty in forming the best cabinet that Canada has ever had."

"This magnificent showing today," declared Chas. MacFie of Appin, who nominated Duncan Ross, "indicates that the cause is certainly worthy of support. It is a big cheer to the candidate."

"Like me, forsooth I am proud to be a Liberal. I feel sure that the people are turning to Liberalism. Crerar himself has said recently that he is liberal. I heard the 'mouthpiece' of the 'old line parties' would have to suck the U. P. O. quite recently say that

eggs. I hardly know what he means, but I know that he is wrong."

"Does he think that any party that can point to such leaders as the Liberal party has had in the past and have now, is not responsible?"

In conclusion the speaker denied the statement that 40 Toronto capitalists had defeated reciprocity. "It was defeated," he said, "because the farmers had allowed side issues to complicate the situation."

Election Unanimous.

The following officers were elected unanimously for the West Middlesex Liberal Association: President, John Morgan, Alisa Craig; first vice-president, Robert Campbell, Mosa; second vice-president, Edgar Bogue, Adelaide; secretary-treasurer, Quinn Adamson of Strathroy.

Officers for towns and townships: McGilvary, John O'Hara, president; J. J. Lewis, secretary. East Williams, Jas. McGregor, president, John McCubbin, secretary. West Williams, John A. Mackay, president; Fred Barrett, secretary. Caradoc, Silas Hyatt, president; J. C. West, secretary. Adelaide, E. Bogue, president. Ekfrid, D. A. Campbell, president; Chas. MacFie, secretary. Mosa, W. Pycroft, president; W. McIntyre, secretary. Lobo, Walter Campbell, president; Dr. Graham, secretary. Metcalfe, Dan Patterson, president; C. Munroe, secretary. Delaware, Norman Bodkin, president; J. Owen, secretary. Strathroy, J. V. MacDonald, Alisa Craig, W. Leitch, Dr. Anderson, Parkhill, J. Mitchell, Mrs. Dawson, Glenoe, Wm. Moss, C. Lumley, Wardsville, Wm. Blott, W. J. Walton. Newbury, Hugh McLaughlin, Executive, Mrs. (Dr.) Thompson, Mrs. Rose Stewart, Mrs. Wm. Dawson.

BARN AND CROPS BURNED.

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NO EARLY OPENING OF POLLS IN SARNIA

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GRATEFUL WOMEN

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