

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO REFORM ASSOCIATION

(HELD IN TORONTO, NOVEMBER 24th, 1916.)

THE President, A. J. Young, opened the Twelfth Annual Meeting with cordial greetings to the largest and most representative attendance of members of the General Reform Association for Ontario in its twelve years of activity.

The Minutes of the last annual meeting were confirmed.

The President then delivered a most illuminating and instructive address.

Letters of regret of their inability to be present were read from the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Ottawa, and John B. MacKay, Fenelon Falls.

The following Resolutions were Unanimously Adopted.

Proposed by Sir Allen Aylesworth, seconded by Thomas H. Shipway, Toronto, that:—

"The General Reform Association for Ontario cordially extends to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier hearty congratulations upon his having attained his seventy-fifth birthday in fullness of health and vigor and with bodily and mental strength unimpaired.

"During forty-five years he has been continually eminent in Legislature and Parliament and for nearly thirty years he has been the leader of the loyal Liberal Party of Canada.

"He has wrought unceasingly and faithfully for the welfare of Canada, for union and harmony among its people and for the advancement and the best interests of the British Empire.

"In him the Country recognizes its foremost statesman, and the Reformers of Ontario enthusiastically give to him their fullest confidence and their unanimous support in the course which he has taken in Parliament and in the public affairs of the Dominion.

"It is a cause for unfeigned regret that during the critical time through which this Country and the Empire is at present passing Canada and Great Britain should not have had, especially during the last two years, the inestimable advantage of his great ability and attainments, his long experience and wisdom, of his patriotism, his inflexible honesty, and his firmness of character, as Canada's Prime Minister, and it has been a distinct loss to this Country and to the Empire that the present Dominion Government should have thought fit not to ask even his advice in the matter which is of the supremest importance to us all, and to loyal men everywhere—the successful prosecution of the War in which we are engaged."

Proposed by James McEwing, Draton, and seconded by Thomas Urquhart, Toronto:—

"WHEREAS under the leadership of Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., and his colleagues, the public interests of the Province have been most carefully guarded and advanced by the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, and

"WHEREAS several of the progressive policies which they have advocated have been so fully in accord with public opinion in the Province that the Government in conjunction with the Opposition have put them into effect by legislation, and

"WHEREAS Mr. Rowell and his colleagues have performed such signal service in aiding the cause of recruiting and patriotic endeavors of all kinds in connection with the War;

"WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Reform Association of Ontario, in annual meeting assembled, place on record their full confidence in the capable and public-spirited leadership of Mr. N. W.

Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., their appreciation of the loyal whole-hearted and effective support given by his fellow members of the Legislature and of the great services they together have rendered to the people of Ontario, and pledge to Mr. Rowell and his colleagues unswerving support in their efforts on behalf of good government and public service."

Proposed by W. G. Charlton, Aylmer, and seconded by R. R. Hall, Peterboro:—

"WHEREAS the Conservative Party under Sir Robert Borden deliberately allied itself with the Nationalist Party in Quebec under Henri Bourassa upon their avowed policy of non-participation in the wars of the Empire to endeavour to procure the defeat of the Liberal administration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and

"WHEREAS following the success of this unholy alliance Sir Robert Borden publicly recognized and included in his Cabinet men selected by Henri Bourassa, Armand Lavergne, and their associates, and

"WHEREAS, this alliance helps to explain the weak and vacillating policy of the Government in connection with the War, and

"WHEREAS, Sir Robert Borden still retains in his Cabinet two intense Nationalists, Blondin, the most rabid of them all, and Patenaude, a former Nationalist organizer;

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the Liberals of Ontario, in our annual meeting assembled, desire most emphatically to condemn the continuance in this trying time of war, of this unholy Conservative-Nationalist Alliance, as unfair to Canada and inimical to the best interests of the Empire."

Proposed by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., and seconded by C. O'Reilly, Norwood:—

"That on behalf of the Liberals of the Province of Ontario, this Association extends to Canada's fighting forces beyond the seas an expression of profound admiration of their conspicuous bravery and distinguished services; and the assurance that as a political party, the Liberals of this Province in common with Liberals everywhere in Canada are unanimous in the determination to give undivided support to the heroic efforts of Canada's Army in co-operation with the other British and Allied forces to prosecute the present War to a successful issue.

Other resolutions unanimously adopted were:—

"That the General Reform Association for Ontario should make a special effort to forward the ideals of Canadian Liberalism and British citizenship amongst the people of foreign origin resident in Ontario, so that they may be enabled to qualify for, and obtain citizenship in our great Empire."

"That his meeting of representative Liberals desires to place on record our approval of that spirit of independence, actuated by honest and patriotic motives, which enables electors to exercise their franchise free from all party ties or restraint."

The election of Officers then took place, after which addresses were delivered by Hon. George P. Graham, M.P., N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., E. M. McDonald, M.P. (Pictou, Nova Scotia), Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., E. W. Nesbit, M.P., Hartley Dewart, K.C., M.P.P., George S. Gibbons, London, R. B. White, Niagara Falls, F. D. Kerr, Peterboro, J. B. McColl, Cobourg, H. J. Pettypiece, Forest, D. J. McEachren, Alvinston, Louis Gurofsky, Toronto, and C. O'Reilly, Norwood.