

The Chatham Daily Planet.

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CHATHAM ONT., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1904

NO 278

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Dress Goods
Sale

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Dress Goods
Sale

Thos. Stone & Son

To-morrow (Saturday) is the fourth and last day of our sale of Black Dress Goods. We have accomplished our object.

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CONFERENCE OF CONSERVATIVES

Mr. Whitney Reveals Coalition
Bait Within Three Weeks.

Mr. Gamay Challenges Hon. A. G. MacKay to Debate—Liberal Conservatives Called to Confer With Leader of the Party Evince Unbounded Enthusiasm and Springing Prophecy of Success—Many Spirited Speeches Made.

Toronto, Nov. 25.—The Conservative conference in Association Hall yesterday was a gathering of which the party had every right to be proud, and which did abundant honor to Mr. Whitney. In point of numbers it was not equal to the Liberal convention, but there must have been not less than 2,000 in attendance, and when it is remembered that these were all voluntary visitors, not paid, as it was stated was the case in the Liberal organization, the weight and influence was of far greater moral import than mere point of numbers would indicate. The enthusiasm and cordiality were spontaneous and overflowing. The satisfaction of success and the anticipation of victory swelled in all hearts.

The address of Mr. Whitney was full of points, delivered with great force and vivacity, and stirred the deepest interest. He spoke an hour and a half, and his statement on the temperance question was well received. His declaration that a third offer of coalition had been made within three weeks startled the conference.

Lockie Wilson and Dr. Welford made favorable impressions by their independent observations. Mr. Gamay's challenge to Hon. A. G. MacKay was a feature of the evening session. Although the conference has been a much greater success than was expected, it will consolidate the Conservative party forces.

At 2.25 when the Conservative leader entered, the hall was crowded, every available space being occupied. The appearance of Mr. Whitney was the signal for tremendous cheering. This was taken up by various delegations and renewed repeatedly.

Mr. Foy Presides.
J. J. Foy, K.C., M.P.P., as president of the association, had been asked to preside, and shouts of "Carried" from the audience evinced approval.

He esteemed it the highest honor to preside over the convention. The chairman, continuing, said it was an open meeting, not only of those who opposed the Ross Government, but of all who were in sympathy with honest politics.

There had been a degradation going on of the political life in the province. On the one side were the forces of evil, corruption and fraud. On the other were arrayed those of light, purity, love and patriotism. If evil now triumphed in the province it would gain a firm footing and foundation for many years to come. The wicked would take courage, feeling there was none to stay their wicked designs. The question arose, would the electors, by their votes in the coming election, give these people license to pursue their nefarious ways, or at one blow kill the monster that had held up the province to obloquy? Twice the verdict had been against the enemy of the country, the nominally in their favor, and it must now be settled definitely. Denunciations of impurity had been heard from these people, but they must be judged by their acts, and not by their words. There was no repentance in them. They were only sorry to be found out, and promised not to do it again. But true repentance involved restitution. Had they restored their stolen goods, or retained possession of them? They denounced the corruption at the Soo and the infamies of the Minnie M. The man who countenanced these things was to-day one of their honored leaders. Why did not the attorney-general prosecute those men or assist those who would? He had no doubt of what the result of the election should be, and very little of what it will be. They would aside the motto of the needy and the greedy, and replace it with their own: "Hew to the line, and let the chips fall where they may."

Ovation to Mr. Whitney.
Mr. Whitney was called on and the ovation at his entrance was redoubled, while an enormous bouquet of blue roses was presented to him amid the singing of the multitude: "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Whitney, in the course of his great speech, emphasized these points, some of them at considerable length and with luminous detail: The situation created by the Ross Government was intolerable. Policy of the Opposition had been stolen and was being stolen. The conference was to save the province from the shame that had fallen on it. Advocated reform of legal procedure, especially in appeal cases. New Ontario should have representation in the Cabinet. Agricultural colleges should be scattered throughout the province. Advocated consultative court of teachers to give advice to Minister of Education. Similar aid should be given for establishing sewerage as for good roads.

Public Utilities.
Remove every obstacle to the acquirement of public utilities by the people. Believed in wholesale restriction of licenses and honestly enforced license laws. Election frauds form horrible crimes of past six years should be abolished. As to Mr. Gamay, take him by the neck and continue on 8th page.

MAGNIFICENT OPERA PRODUCTION BY MAPLE CITY CHILDREN

Delightful Production of Pinafore Charms and Enthuses
a Splendid Audience at the Grand—Excellent Work
by the Young Folks a Tribute to Director
Telgmann—Success to be Repeated To-Night.

There was a big crowd of surprised people at the Grand last evening—surprised because they saw in the amateur production of H. M. S. Pinafore something which excelled in grandeur and merit their fondest expectations of the event. It was an admirable performance and was, without the shadow of a doubt, the event of the present musical season at the Grand.

It has been known for some time that Pinafore would be a success, from the enthusiastic manner in which the people purchased tickets. The Maple City lovers of music always give amateur opera loyal and grand support, and Pinafore was doubly attractive, being put on by the bright young children of the city. Long before the curtain was rung up on the first act the house was well filled with interested and expectant patrons, and when the performance finally started at half-past eight o'clock the house was packed with people, and the children from the stage looked out on a vast sea of faces which gave undoubted evidence of Chatham's loyalty to her young and coming musicians and performers. The applause started as soon as the curtain went up and continued at frequent intervals throughout the whole performance.

The story and music of Pinafore is well known to Chatham's musically inclined. This is not the first time that Pinafore has been put on by Maple city amateurs. It was put on some years ago and, being Gilbert & Sullivan's masterpiece, it was then a great success. If it were possible, however, the present production is even more popular than the former—at any rate it would be hard to present anything which is more popular or more keenly enjoyed than was Pinafore at the Grand last evening. The fact must be said of the hundred and fifty children who took part in the production. If space would permit, it would be necessary to mention each one individually and say a commendatory word of praise about every one. It was amazing to note the intelligence displayed by such young performers. They acted like old stagers, in fact it was generally remarked, "My! if the older amateurs could only learn as quickly as the children!" It must be remembered that the children have only been three weeks in the preparation of the whole opera; learning lines, cues, music and stage business in this remarkably short time. They are indeed to be complimented, every one of them.

Possibly the feature of the performance was the excellent manner in which every child on the stage entered into the spirit of the occasion. They were in it all the time, never missing a cue, and singing the choruses with all the energy and spirit of their young natures. It was an inspiring sight and it will not be forgotten for some time by those who were fortunate enough to see it.

The cast was an excellent one and could not have been better chosen. Every one in it performed excellently, reciting the lines perfectly and without a single hitch, and singing the solo parts in a manner which brought down the house each time. There is no danger of amateur opera dying out in Chatham. When the present older favorites are ready to retire from the amateur stage there are many of the younger and growing generation who will by that time be ready to take their places and ably sustain the proud reputation of Chatham's musicians in opera.

The Right Honorable Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B., was remarkably well portrayed by Fred Robinson, the bright young son of ex-Ald. Henry Robinson. Fred was a star and, true to the part, was the essence of stateliness and importance all the time he was on the stage. He was not off his dignity for one minute and he sang his part perfectly. He displayed wonderful dramatic ability for a child so young. In fact the dramatic talent exhibited by all of the members of the cast was a surprise to everyone. All of the principals recited their lines clearly and effectively and there were no hitches and no delays.

Captain Corcoran, the part acted and sung by Willie Hoig, was a difficult one, but Willie was quite equal to it. Willie has a reputation as a boy soprano and more was expected from him. He appeared perfectly at home before the large audience and sang in a manner which could not fail to delight the audience.

Ralph Rackstraw, the ardent and faithful lover, who is placed under adverse circumstances in his love affairs at first, but for whom troubles finally end in the happy solution of the opera, was manfully taken by James Douglas. James makes an ideal lover. He looked the perfect image of the part and his singing and acting sustained his looks.

Dick Deadeye was one of the most difficult roles and it received full justice from Stewart McKeough, the clever son of Mayor and Mrs. McKeough. Stewart was well made up for the part and sang and acted this difficult role like an old stager. More than the ordinary amount of ability, however, was expected from Stewart, knowing that he is descended from a family to whom music and art form a second nature.

Edwin McDonald as the boatswain was a popular boy with the audience. Edwin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McDonald, and his singing was a feature of the evening. He has a sweet, mellow and pleasing soprano voice and the songs were right in his range. His acting was perfect.

Ross Duncan as the boatswain's mate had a part without which, while it was not so heavy as some of the others, the opera would not be complete, and he always came in at the right time and contributed his share towards the success of the evening.

The girls in the cast were, without the least exaggeration, perfect in their different roles, and it may well be said that no amateurs could have acted them better. Miss Gladys Peace as Josephine, the captain's daughter, was the star. She was intensely dramatic and the way she acted her difficult role was one of the big surprises of the evening; no one expected to find such talent in a little girl of her tender years. She had her lines and solos perfectly learned and she went through them in a manner which simply sent the audience into round after round of applause. She is a pretty girl under ordinary circumstances, but on the stage she was doubly so. She completely won the hearts of her audience and was repeatedly applauded and encored. Her every movement was the perfection of grace and dramatic effect. She was a sweetheart to her youthful lover. Hebe, Sir Joseph's first cousin, was also a popular part as portrayed by Miss Rena Knott. Miss Knott has a good soprano voice and looked the part which she so ably sang and acted.

Buttercup was a favorite. This role was taken by Miss Lena Harper, and a happier choice for the part it would be hard to imagine. Lena is a born actress and was enthusiastically applauded for her excellent work.

Phyllis McKishnie as the wee flower girl and Bonnie Holmes as the midshipman were not overlooked in the applause and they deserved all of the amount of appreciation bestowed upon them.

It is useless to attempt to further eulogize the performance. It was a splendid production and, taking everything into consideration, it is worthy of all of the praise that can be contributed to it. The man who stands out prominently in this work and to whom the major amount of credit is due is Mr. H. B. Telgmann, who in the short space of three weeks prepared the production, training the choruses, teaching the stage business and arranging the scene and dramatic effects. Mr. Telgmann has indeed proved himself a genius in his work with children and is to be highly commended on the excellence of the production. This is the eighteenth city in which he has put on Pinafore in two years and each time it has been an unbounded success. He was assisted last evening by Miss Gertrude Carnovsky, accompanist, and the Opera House orchestra augmented.

The opera was put on under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society, and the ladies who worked so faithfully towards making the entertainment a success must indeed feel gratified at the excellent reception tendered to Pinafore last evening.

At the conclusion of the production and just before the last fall of the curtain beautiful bouquets of flowers were distributed to Gladys Peace, Rena Knott, Lena Harper, Phyllis McKishnie, Grace Young and Shirley Arthur. Shirley Arthur is the bright little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Arthur, and throughout the production she was the leader of Sir Joseph Porter's little sisters and cousins. In the chorus parts she was singing with all the spirit of her little nature, from the beginning to the end.

The following is a list of the little children in the chorus: Sisters, Cousins and Aunts—Shirley Arthur, Lillie Johnson, Martha Hoig, Mildred, Olga, Kimo, Bernice Shaw, Ruby McNicol, Violet Keech, Gladys Barr, Vera Sheffield, Lulu Chrysler, Margaret Goodland, Gertrude McGregor, Jessie Andrew, Florence Baird, Gay Shannon, Emily Moore, Ethel Baikie, Irene Sauerbrenn, Hazel Bedford, May Milner, May McCubbin, Janie McNicol, Hilda Bennett, Helene London, Eunice Paxton, Jean Duncan, Reta Burgess, Nellie Green, Nora Daniels, Marion Gregory, Grace

Continued on 8th Page.

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