

The Annual Meeting of the County of Durham Liberal was held at Orono, Friday, February 14th, 1919. There was a large and enthusiastic representation from all parts of the riding, including those who are now entitled to vote under the Women's Franchise Act.

Mr. W. T. R. Preston, of Port Hope, was unanimously elected President of the Association. Upon being called on for a speech he said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is with no ordinary emotions that I express a deep sense of appreciation of your good-will in the honor and confidence you are showing in electing me your President. To return to my old county, the scene of my earliest political aspirations and struggles, and to find this unexpected expression of kindness is ample compensation for the varied experiences which fall to public men, of which I have had my share during a somewhat stormy life. (Laughter.)

IN PRISON FOR THE FAITH.

My more recent experiences include arrest and detention in the military prison at Witley, because I insisted upon my rights as Liberal scrutineer when Lieut.-Col. H. P. Malone was stuffing the ballot box with fraudulent votes. Previous to that incident an official application was made by Gen. Sir Richard Turner's office to the Imperial Secretary of State for War for my arrest as "a dangerous person to be at large." The last contact with the authorities was an application for my arrest by Major or Hector McInnes to the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police of London on the charge that I was corresponding with Canadian soldiers. But when I got through with the detective from Scotland Yard who called on me, he said, "Mr. Preston, consider Scotland Yard out of it." (Applause.) When I wanted to come to Canada it was hoped to prevent me getting a passport on the plea that I was "a dangerous person to go abroad." (Laughter.) It is possible that in this particular certain Canadians in London were right. (Applause and laughter.)

THE TRAGEDIES OF WAR.

We are gathered together at a period, the most momentous and critical in the history of this country. The Empire has passed through a most tragic period. We have taken part loyally in its tragedies and played an important part in its victories. The best manhood of our Dominion has been creating for Canada imperishable glory on the battle-fields of Europe, and the dust and ashes of 60,000 of our sons will mingle for the centuries to come with all that is mortal of millions of other races and religions, through the part we decided to take in this struggle for the liberty of the world.

FALSE TO ITS TRUST.

It is painful to realize that for the last four or five years, while Canada has won glory abroad, we have been governed at Ottawa by men whose administration of public affairs has brought neither honor nor credit to the reputation of this country. The first Borden Government, 1911-17, became a by-word of reproach; the second, called a Union Government, 1917-18, only provokes a sneer from the Atlantic to the Pacific. So clearly is this the fact that the Cabinet will not allow, contrary to the law, the issue of writs for the long time vacancies in Glengarry, North Ontario and Assinaboia. (Cheers.)

OVERSEAS ELECTION FRAUDS.

I propose occupying your time in a brief resumé of the means adopted by the Union Government to carry the recent elections (Hear, hear), for