

THE FIRST GUNS FIRED IN THE PROVINCIAL CAMPAIGN

Big Liberal Mass Meeting in the Separate School Hall Addressed by Premier and Attorney General.

AUDIENCE WARMLY WELCOMES MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Premier Reviews the Record of the Administration and Hon. Mr. Cross Speaks of Work of His Department.

There Has Been No Criticism of the Liberal Government so There Is None to Answer—Little Heard Now of the Issues of 1905—Railway Policy Pleases All Parts of the Province—People Asked to Endorse Legislation of the Past Three and a Half Years.

The Liberal campaign in Alberta was opened last night by a mass meeting in the Separate School hall, at which the speakers were the Premier, Hon. Dr. Rutherford, and the Liberal candidates in Edmonton, Hon. C. W. Cross and Ex-Mayor John A. McDougall. Despite the other attractions, including the Edmonton-Winnipeg hockey match, the splendid auditorium of the school was filled to the doors by an audience whose hearts were in unison for the cause of Liberalism, and whose one endeavor was to show their appreciation of the magnificent record of administration of the Rutherford government.

Before the speakers appeared on the platform and between the speeches a twelve piece orchestra and a number of soloists entertained the audience. A feature of the meeting was the spirited singing of the rousing old English choruses and the adaptation of "We're all Pals together" to the local situation.

The chair was occupied by George B. McLeod, vice-president of the local Liberal association, who gave a few brief but happy introductory remarks. He regretted the absence of Hon. Mr. Cushing and Hon. Mr. Finlay, who had been unavoidably detained in the south of the province. "We have with us," he said, "the premier, Hon. Dr. Rutherford, our candidates, Hon. Mr. Cross and Mr. McDougall will be here later. The Premier will defend his administration; for there are no attacks upon it, but to tell of the best work done by the government in the past and the greater things to be done in the future."

Premier Enthusiastically Received. Hon. Dr. Rutherford upon his entrance was greeted with continued applause and the hearty singing of the chorus, "We're all Pals together." The Premier, in opening, thanked the audience for their magnificent reception. It was fitting, he said, that he should open the campaign in a fair city of Edmonton. It was not his policy to denounce the opposition, in fact from the beginning it would hardly be known that there was an opposition. There was practically no opposition in the country to his government. "We're all Pals together."

The Conservatives had held a convention at Red Deer and their plans were a criticism of the government. There were no criticisms to answer for none had been offered of the administration. There were now 1,200 teachers in the province and there was a larger number of first and second class teachers than in any other province in the Dominion. Thus the welfare of the children was being well looked after. Among the foreign population, the people had responded handsomely along educational lines and many of the schools had been organized.

To supply the great demand for new teachers the Provincial Normal school had been established in Calgary, which would take a large part of the training teachers for the provincial schools. Many teachers were now coming from England and Scotland and only a few days ago he had called in reply to an inquiry that about 100 new teachers would be needed from the home land after the summer holidays.

A large amount was being expended in connection with the department of agriculture and this year about \$300,000 would be expended; but \$250,000 of this would subsequently be refunded in butter manufactured by the provincial government creameries.

A member of the opposition in the local legislature had said the government administration was good. The government was appealing on its record and also on the railway policy. (Cheers) Edmonton was pleased, Calgary was pleased, Lethbridge was pleased, and all parts of the province were satisfied. No newspaper nor any politician had found fault with the policy, but all had unanimously endorsed it.

pay towards the administration of the province. Other items of revenue were from liquor licenses, registry offices, At- torney General's department, etc. In all, the year's revenue would amount to something over \$3,000,000, and a surplus of about \$12,000 was expected.

No Money Had Been Borrowed. Instead of paying interest to the banks since the government came to office, it had received almost \$100,000 from the banks by way of interest.

The Premier gave a statement of the proposed receipts and expenditure for the year, showing how the money to be collected this year was being placed.

The provincial treasurer of Manitoba had taken credit recently for the banks since the government came to office, it had received almost \$100,000 from the banks by way of interest.

A little over two years ago the government adopted a telephone policy. Now the government owned all the telephone in the province except the systems in Edmonton and Red Deer. The telephone business was kept all together apart from the other business of the government. The two million dollars of four per cent. debentures issued to pay for the work sold at considerably over par.

That money seven thousand dollars had been expended and with this year's profits there would be to the good between three and four hundred thousand dollars. Alberta telephone rates were lower than Saskatchewan or Manitoba for a similar service.

After the speaker quoted the items that were to be expended this year by the public works department. Of this amount \$710,000 was chargeable to income and \$800,000 chargeable to capital account. The latter amount would include a number of public works and bridges which it was much better to build quickly than to stretch over some years time.

That the government would complete the \$500,000 worth of bridges in two years from now. The government felt that this should be the best building in the province and for this a liberal amount was set aside to which no objection had been taken.

In Edmonton in 1905 there were 24 schools, with 24 teachers; now there were 50 schools, with 50 teachers. Nothing shows the growth of Edmonton and the province better than this. There were now 1,200 teachers in the province and there was a larger number of first and second class teachers than in any other province in the Dominion.

John A. McDougall was the next speaker, he introduced him the chairman referred to his magnificent record as mayor of Edmonton last year. It was due to him for the citizens to return him with an immense majority in view of what he had done for the city.

that had done great things for Alberta. The progress of the last few years was nothing to what it would be in the next five years. There was no real opposition to the government as the people realized it would be a calamity if the government were displaced. The railway policy was one of the greatest strokes of statesmanship that the government had shown. It would build up all parts of the country and the northern lines alone would make Edmonton the greatest city in western Canada.

The administration of the schools was another of the great works of the government but they were equal to the task and were not afraid to grapple with the last.

Hon. Mr. Cross was the last speaker. Upon rising he was given a great reception. It had been a great honor and a great privilege, he said, to have been associated with his honored leader, Hon. Dr. Rutherford. In Ontario the speaker had been brought up under the Liberalism of Sir Oliver Mowat and in Hon. Dr. Rutherford he saw many of the traits of that great Liberal leader of Ontario. And he had no doubt that the present leader could remain as Premier as long as Sir Oliver Mowat had in Ontario over a quarter of a century.

Mr. Cross then took up a number of the acts of administration during the past three years. He first dealt with the telephone situation, explaining the building of the first line from Banff to Calgary and the subsequent purchase of the Bell system. He asked the people to support the government if they believed in the public administration of the telephone department.

Public ownership of public utilities was not looked upon with favor by the big corporations and the big power companies. It was now in progress, they were not in sympathy with the Rutherford government. Mr. Cross next dealt with the taxation of C.P.R. lands. He showed how settlement in the Edmonton district and in the Saskatchewan Valley had been retarded by the fact that the C.P.R. held much land upon which no money could be obtained. He told the audience that had been entered to collect the taxes of school lands and explained the new action taken by the government which will be carried to the Privy Council. The election on the 22nd had been held upon which no money could be obtained. He told the audience that had been entered to collect the taxes of school lands and explained the new action taken by the government which will be carried to the Privy Council.

The taxation of C.P.R. land. The branch lines was full of complaints that last year \$100,000 was paid by the C.P.R. During the last three years over \$200,000 had been paid as taxes by the railway companies. Mr. Cross then took up the Workmen's Compensation Act. The act was not passed to improve a capitalist or labor or any industry. It was passed only because it was fair to every one. He explained the principles of the act and was based and showed that before its enactment the family of the workman in a mine, factory, or on a farm was to be deprived at any moment of the entire means of livelihood without any protection in the form of insurance. The new act changed this state of affairs and the dependents of a workman were assured of a livelihood.

Mr. Cross closed with an eloquent plea for the return of the Rutherford government and the Edmonton Liberal candidates if the legislation he made these three years was satisfactory to the people.

After the speaker the candidates for the meeting were introduced by Mr. B. J. B. by singing of the National Anthem.

MINER'S ESCAPE AGAIN DEBATED

(Continued from Page One.)

the administration of the criminal law. No Need for Investigation. Sir Wilfrid Ivimey pointed out that Mr. Taylor had neglected the custom of the House in not intending the department to be the example when this matter. Consequently the suffrages of the House would not be so complete as it otherwise would have been. The Premier said they would have been so complete as it otherwise would have been. The Premier said they would have been so complete as it otherwise would have been.

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WALKER AND DUNCAN MARSHALL NOMINATED

Liberal Candidates for Victoria and Olds Go Into Fight Under Most Favorable Auspices—Wilfrid Gariepy, L. Boudreau and Omar St. Germaine Are Possible Liberal Candidates in St. Albert—Meeting at Morinville.

Bulletin Special. Olds, March 3.—At the Liberal convention for the new constituency of Olds, held here today, Duncan Marshall received the majority vote over the other two nominees, Mr. Marshall, together with the other two aspirants, addressed a monster

political meeting tonight, called by the local Liberal organization. According to the strong expression of opinion on every side, Olds is a sure Liberal seat.

Walker in Victoria. Lunenburg, March 3.—At a large and very enthusiastic Liberal convention held here this afternoon Mr. F. A. Walker, ex-M.P.P., was unanimously chosen to contest the Victoria constituency at the forthcoming provincial elections. The convention was a large one, nearly every delegate elected at the primaries being present. The absence of proxies was a noticeable feature.

The convention was called to order at 3 o'clock by Mr. W. A. D. Lees, the president of the district Liberal association. An organizing committee composed of J. A. Joslin, J. McLellan, J. Montgomerie and R. Fletcher was appointed and this committee recommended the following as the new executive of the district Liberal association: President, W. A. D. Lees; vice-president, Geo. Woolley; secretary, E. D. Cuthbert; treasurer, J. Kruse; Dr. A. E. Archer, E. A. Holmes, D. Simmonds and T. Nofsky. The convention accepted the committee's report in toto and the foregoing were declared duly elected.

Unanimous Nomination. Mr. Lees thanked the convention on behalf of himself and the rest of the newly chosen executive for the honor which had been done them, and then amid designating cheers a motion was made that Mr. Walker be made the unanimous choice of the convention for the honor to which he had been chosen to contest the constituency of Victoria.

Mr. J. B. Holden, ex-M.P.P., Vermonter, who was present, paid a well deserved tribute to the good hard work Mr. Walker had done for his constituents in the past three sessions of the legislature.

Candidates in St. Albert. From present indications there will be a great contest in the St. Albert constituency. Three aspirants of the government have already appeared on the horizon, offering themselves for the suffrages of the electors. They are Alderman Wilfrid Gariepy, of Edmonton; Mayor L. Boudreau, of St. Albert; and Omar St. Germaine, of Morinville.

In the Parish Hall at Morinville, Monday evening, Alderman Gariepy was presented with a requisition signed by over 500 of the electors of the constituency, asking him to be a candidate in St. Albert. He accepted, and in view of the fact that the petition represents two-thirds of the electors in the constituency he will not go before a convention, claiming that formality unnecessary. The hall where the meeting was held was crowded, over 400 being present. Paul Avey, president, Angus McDougall, Biviere Qui Barre, George Timmer, John Guelph and P. Arosst, St. Albert; J. Cote and J. Provost, Lethbridge, and Mr. Savio, St. Pierre, declared the support of their districts.

Mr. Gariepy, in accepting the nomination, spoke for two hours and a half, enunciating his platform, and declaring that he is a straight supporter of the Rutherford administration. He said in view of the expression of feeling toward his candidacy he does not intend to submit to a convention and will run whether or not he is nominated by the convention.

L. Boudreau, of St. Albert, who was present at the meeting, stated he intends to be a candidate if he is duly nominated by a regularly called convention of the Liberals of the constituency of St. Albert.

Omar St. Germaine, of Morinville, also announced that he will probably be a candidate.

POE INSPIRED CONAN DOYLE

In the Writing of His Sherlock Holmes Stories. London, March 2.—There was a brilliant company last night at the Author's Club banquet to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle presided and was supported by Ambassador Reid and Mrs. Humphrey Ward and many leading British authors and a large number of American residents. Among the guests were Captain Poe, the oldest member of the Poe family.

The speeches, which were delivered by Ambassador Reid, Sir Conan Doyle, Captain Poe, Charles Garfield, the novelist, and Francis Henri Gribble, the critic, were interspersed with recitations of Poe's poems. Sir Conan Doyle, after referring to the tragedy of Poe's life paid a glowing tribute to Poe's work, saying: "It is the irony of fate that he, as he said he should do, died in poverty, for if every man who wrote a story which was indirectly inspired by Poe were to pay a little toward a monument it would be such as would dwarf the pyramids."

The speaker credited the inspiration for his own detective stories to Poe.

The Queen Is Better. London, March 3.—Queen Alexandra is better today and expects to attend court this afternoon.

HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE AUCTION SALE

Messrs WALKER & FRASER will sell for Mr. Geo. W. Davies, AGRICOLA, one of the first settlers in the district at S. W. 1/4 16-54-22 W. 4th, 3 miles south of Fort Saskatchewan, Tuesday, March 2nd 1909 at 10 a. m. sharp, (Free Lunch at noon) one of the finest lists of Farm Stock and Implements ever offered by Auction in the district.

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DETACHMENT OF AUSTRIAN TROOPS KILLED NEAR LAFRANZ

Innesbruck, Austria, March 2.—An avalanche near Lafranz today caused the death of six officers and a detachment of thirty men of the Imperial Austrian army. The railroad tracks and telegraph wires were carried away. Troops were sent to the scene to clear the debris.

IN THE PATH OF AVALANCHE.

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FOUR LIBERALS ARE NOMINATED

(Continued from Page One.) city on behalf of the Liberals. Donald McNab, the late labor member, has not yet signified what his intentions are, but it is possible that he may be a candidate in Rocky mountain where most of the constituents are miners.

Liberal from every part of the Lethbridge constituency met here today in convention and nominated Dr. J. H. Avey, mayor of Raymond, as candidate for the provincial seat of Lethbridge district. The nomination was contested by W. W. Douglas, mayor of Lethbridge, who made a good run. He finally made the nomination unanimous. Great enthusiasm and good feeling prevailed. Organization was effected in the following officers: W. W. Douglas, president; D. J. Briggs, Grass Lake, first vice-president; W. G. Hitchcock, Bowville, second vice-president.

Mr. Avey, in accepting the nomination, spoke for two hours and a half, enunciating his platform, and declaring that he is a straight supporter of the Rutherford administration. He said in view of the expression of feeling toward his candidacy he does not intend to submit to a convention and will run whether or not he is nominated by the convention.

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