

The St. John Standard

VOL. XI, NO. 190.

TWELVE PAGES.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 7, 1919

FAIR AND COOL

THREE CENTS

GREATEST OPPOSITION CONVENTION ON RECORD RE-ELECTS MURRAY AS LEADER AND ADOPTS FOUNDATION OF PARTY'S FUTURE PLATFORM

HON. JAMES A. MURRAY RE-ELECTED LEADER AMID HEARTIEST OF ENTHUSIASM

His Election by a Practically Unanimous Vote Was the Signal for a Tremendous Demonstration in His Honor.

CONVENTION SHOWS FAITH IN LEADER

The Outburst of Enthusiasm and Confidence Augurs Return of Trusted Leader to Power at First Opportunity Given.

With only a few dissenting voices from the St. John district Hon. J. A. Murray was re-elected leader of the Opposition at the big convention here yesterday, amid scenes of enthusiasm, the like of which has not been witnessed in a political gathering in St. John for many years. His election by a practically unanimous vote was



HON. J. B. M. BAXTER
Prominent Member of Convention Whose Name Was Enthusiastically Received When Proposed for Leader of Party.

the signal for a tremendous demonstration in his honor; an outburst of enthusiasm and confidence which augurs the return of the trusted leader to power as soon as the government takes its fate in its hands and gives the people a chance to pass judgment upon its acts.

In addition to testifying its faith and confidence in its leader, the convention laid the foundation of a broad platform, which is well designed to build up the fortunes of the party, and the progress and prosperity of the Province. It also laid the foundation of a Province-wide organization, and ordered the appointment of organizers to assist in carrying on the work of the party, and rallying its forces for the conflict whenever it comes.

The Convention was a success in every way. In spite of the great storm, which prevented the coming of many who had planned to be present, there was a large and representative attendance of delegates from all sections of the Province, and all were full of confidence and enthusiasm, convinced from their knowledge of the constituencies that public opinion is setting strongly against the government, and determined to give the Opposition a leader and a platform which would enlist the support of the electors, and enable it, when it is swept into power on the flood-tide of indignation at the incompetence and deception of the present regime, to give the Province a government able and commissioned to resist the development of its resources and promote the welfare of its people. Keen attention was given to the work of formulating a platform; new planks, notably those dealing with the development of our water powers (Continued on page two.)

New Planks In Platform Adopted By Provincial Opposition Party

- 1.—The Opposition Party, when returned to power, pledges itself to the appointment of a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture.
- 2.—In the opinion of this Convention it is neither necessary nor desirable that the Government of the Province should be entrusted to any single class of the population, but we recognize that in the past the important agricultural interest of the Province has not been adequately represented either in the House or Government, and we therefore recommend the Convention's of the party for the selection of candidates in each rural community to choose as representatives as large a number as possible of practical farmers.
- 3.—This convention recommends that the Opposition Party when returned to power, secure information scientifically collected, as to the water-powers of the Province, which are suitable for development with a view to encourage their utilization and to discouraging their retention by speculators.
- 4.—That in the opinion of this Convention, school books should be supplied free by the Government to all public school pupils.
- 5.—This Convention recommends that Labor shall be represented on Opposition tickets wherever possible, and that if this party is returned to power, it will establish a department of labor, with a minister in charge, without increasing the present number of ministers.
- 6.—That all general and bye-elections be held on Mondays to allow commercial travelers and fishermen opportunity to exercise their franchise without unduly interfering with their business.
- 7.—That upon a vacancy occurring in the Legislative Assembly, the bye-election to fill such vacancy shall be held within sixty days thereafter.
- 8.—That the Opposition Party if returned to power, pledges itself to give preference in appointments to men who have served overseas in the theatre of war.
- 9.—That the local Opposition Party when returned to power, pledges itself to establish schools of technical education, and to introduce technical education in all public schools, so far as possible.
- 10.—That as certain speeches have been pronounced by some people, having a tendency to wish to suppress the free use of the French language in this Province, and as those speeches are detrimental to the good relations which must exist between the citizens of the same Province—Be it resolved that this Convention affirms that the policy of the Opposition Party in this Province lies in freedom of speech, freedom of language, and mutual respect, and that it therefore expresses its disapprobation of all speeches or writings which have a tendency to create discord between the two great races of this Province.
- 11.—That this Convention approves of a road policy by which the bye-roads will be put in condition and maintained in proportion to the trunk road system.
- 12.—That the local Opposition Party when returned to power pledges itself to revise our mining laws with a view to securing needed and much greater development of the mineral resources of this Province.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT EMBODIED MAIN CLAUSES OF IMPORTANCE TO PROVINCE

Each Clause Given a Thorough Discussion and Adopted or Rejected as Great Delegation Deemed Best—The Importance of the Rural Sections Recognized and Their Welfare Provided for—Water Power Privileges Receive Thorough Consideration and Debate—Dept. of Labor An Essential Plank.

J. L. Stewart, chairman, presented at the afternoon session the report of the committee on resolutions, each clause being adopted or amended when read. The various resolutions embodied in this report were as shown elsewhere in this paper, and form the new or revised planks in the party platform.

On the cause advocating the selection of farmers as candidates, B. F. Smith spoke briefly on the growth of the Farmers' movement, as evidenced by the results in Ontario. Farmers as a class may have in the past entertained an opinion that in administrative affairs they are not enjoying the representation their importance warrants. We have had too much class legislation in the past, but if the farmers, as we know them today, will broaden their platform, I am sure we will welcome their advent. Labor is seeking higher wages and shorter hours—farmers want better prices. The claims of both may be unreasonable, but, if so, there must surely be a middle ground on which we can agree. I admit that we need legal men in our legislature to look after our legal affairs, but I would like to see more of our farmers there. For too many years this province has been controlled by a group, and I believe that the influence of lumbermen exerted in former years should give place to that of wider interests.

Hubert M. Rive submitted in amendment a more extended resolution on the same lines.

Mr. Agar saw no real reason for either this resolution or amendment. The farmer voters of New Brunswick now have the authority and power to

KING REQUESTS ABSENCE OF ARMISTICE DAY

Urges That All Activities Cease for Two Minutes on Tuesday, Nov. 11th, in Recognition of 1st Anniversary of Cessation of Hostilities.

MESSAGE RECEIVED BY GOV. GENERAL

Expected That All Loyal Subjects of King Will Observe This Request Insofar as Possible to Do So.

Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 6.—A complete suspension of all normal activities for a period of two minutes on Tuesday, November 11, the first anniversary of Armistice Day is the desire of His Majesty, King George, as expressed in a cable from Lord Milner, secretary of state for the colonies, to His Excellency the Governor General. The message which was read in the House of Commons tonight by Sir George Foster, acting Prime Minister, follows:

"London, November 4, 1919. I am commanded by His Majesty the King to send you for immediate publication the following message which is addressed to all the peoples of the Empire: 'To All My People, Tuesday next, November 11, is the first anniversary of the Armistice which stayed the world-wide carnage of the four preceding years, and marked the victory of right and freedom. I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of that great deliverance and of those who laid down their lives to achieve it.'"

"To afford an opportunity for the universal expression of this feeling it is my desire and hope that the hour when the armistice came into force, the 11th hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities. During that time except in the rare cases when work suspended by the armistice is of such a nature as to be impracticable, all work and all sound and all locomotion should cease so that in perfect stillness the thoughts of every one may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

No elaborate organization appears to be necessary. At a given signal which can easily be arranged to suit the circumstances of each locality, I believe that we shall all gladly interrupt our business and pleasure whatever it may be, and unite in this simple service of silence and remembrance.

"GEORGE R. I." "This will be published in the press here tomorrow morning. Arrangements are being made for the general observance of the two minutes' silence at eleven o'clock on Tuesday. Trains will be stopped on the railways, traffic on the streets, ships as far as possible at sea and every effort will be made to get work suspended everywhere, in schools, shops, mines, and factories and to ensure complete silence.

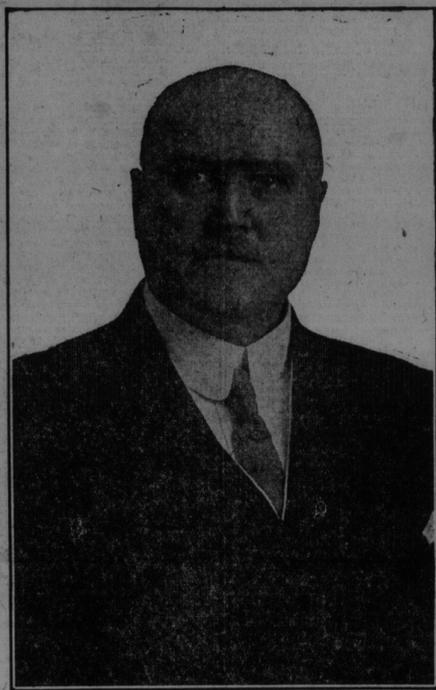
FORTY-EIGHT HOUR WEEK ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE

Canadian Labor Representative and Gompers Only Two Voting Against Its Adoption.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The forty-eight hour week was finally adopted by the International Labor Conference here today after a five-hour fight for the passage of the resolution. The vote was 55 to 2. The two recorded votes against the motion for adoption were Mr. Draper, Canadian workers' delegate, and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. The working week, however, is to be governed by the exigencies of the different plants and industries, and agreements for longer working hours may be made where employees and operators find it necessary and employees willingly enter into such agreement.

FOSTER-VENIOT GOVERNMENT SCATHINGLY ARRAIGNED BY THE HON. JAMES A. MURRAY

HON. J. A. MURRAY



Again chosen by Opposition to direct the destinies of their party.

ADDITIONAL GRATUITIES FOR RETURNED MEN AGAIN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF PARLIAMENT

Clear Cut Intimation That Unionist Gov't Will Not "Carry on" Should the House Impose Upon it the Burden of Providing Additional Gratuities Came from Hon. J. A. Calder.

Ottawa, Nov. 6.—Another clear-cut intimation that the Unionist government will not carry on should the House impose upon it the burden of providing additional gratuities for returned men, came from Hon. J. A. Calder, chairman of the special soldiers' committee, in parliament tonight.

The minister, after remarking that it was only fair and proper that the government should state to the House its policy, and to take a definite stand on questions involving large expenditures, said that the members should vote as they saw fit. But, he added, the point was that if the members signified their disapproval of the government's stand by voting down its policy, "then another government would have to carry on."

The majority of the members heard from today appear to favor Major Andrews' amendment to the motion for the adoption of the report of the committee. This would substitute the G. W. V. A. plan for the committee's proposals. They did not all indicate how they would vote, however, the number of government members who have expressed themselves, combined with uncertainty as to what the attitude of the opposition members will be, was clearly causing anxiety around the corridors of parliament tonight.

Mr. Levi Thompson, Liberal-Democrat, who spoke during the afternoon, disagreed with Mr. Calder's view that the government should resign in the event of an adverse vote. He said if it did so it would be contrary to the wishes of its supporters. He thought there had been too many threats of this kind, including the one made in connection with the question of knight-hoods.

Members who criticized the report and thought the returned men should receive more favorable treatment, included J. H. Burnham, W. P. MacLean, W. K. Babin, W. F. Coakley, O. Turgeon, Major Power and Thomas Foster (East York).

Appeals to the Opposition to Organize for the Future Along Lines That Will Command Respect of the Province.

ADDRESS BRISTLED WITH EFFECTIVENESS

With Vigor and Eloquence He Assailed the Maladministration of the Gov't, and Carried the Convention by Storm.

Almost immediately after the opening of the second session of the local Opposition Convention yesterday afternoon, Hon. J. A. Murray was heard in one of the most effective addresses which he has yet made. It was a scathing criticism of the methods of the Foster-Veniot Government and an appeal to the members of the Opposition Party to organize for the future along lines of policy which will command the respect of the entire Province. His address, brief in point of time, fairly bristled with effective points against the present incompetent administration, and the vigor and eloquence with which he spoke literally carried the Convention off its feet. Mr. Murray was given a tremendous ovation. On the conclusion of his address the convention settled down to consideration of the Committee reports which were the next order of business.

Dr. O. B. Price moved, that in view of the fact that leadership of the party has been a matter of discussion for some time, the present leader be given opportunity to present to this convention and message to the assembly. This was seconded and heartily adopted.

Hon. Mr. Murray was given a very enthusiastic reception, and when the applause which greeted his appearance had subsided, broke at once into a telling review of the record of the Foster government and a summary of the situation as it exists today from the viewpoint of the Opposition. The question of leadership he would deal with before concluding his address. Mr. Murray pointed out first of all that the present government poses as the original pure, honest, promise-keeping administration, but the record of that party proves conclusively that pre-election pledges have been ignored and that honest methods have been relegated to the background. Last December this government gave to us an official authorized statement of provincial finances which showed a surplus of more than thirty thousand dollars on the year's operations. That document was false for when our party press challenged that statement, when a hurry call was sent for help, when auditors applied to the accounts methods similar to those applied to our accounts, that alleged surplus was turned into a deficit of one hundred and forty thousand. And then this alleged financial statement was amended in a manifold manner, by the addition of a supplement, which in numerous instances, contradicted the statements originally made, and further confounded the issue. Had the methods adopted by this government been applied to our affairs, their criticism of our work would have fallen to the ground. But their hypocrisy, their dishonesty and their scheming to throw discredit on us would not permit fair play. Their accounts are doctored, to accounts receivable are added the values of stock on hand, but we were not given the benefit of any such treatment. We were accused of over-expenditure and extravagance. In the public works department the over-expenditure was more than four hundred thousand, charged to capital account. And we have nothing to show for it. The Foster party held up their hands in holy horror at the thought of direct taxation but under the guise of patriotism this same party has imposed direct taxation in its worst form. Instead of assessing the people of this province for four hundred thousand dollars for the Patriotic Fund, as requested, they added to this amount one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars for their own purposes. And they have collected this money unjustly and dishonestly, and expended it not for patriotic and war purposes, but in road material, in wages, and in other ways. Then this same crowd who so deprecated direct taxation passed an act whereby everyone who buys a ticket to a theatre or picture house must pay to the provincial treasury. This has been allowed to

On the other hand Dr. Edwards, E. Nesbitt, Colonel Cooper, Colonel Arthur and H. H. Morphy, all members of the special committee, favored its findings.

Captain R. J. Manion made the suggestion that the amount for relief of returned men should be increased from fifty to one hundred millions. He was opposed, however, to the Andrews amendment. He observed that should it be adopted, and a general election result, nothing whatever could be done for the returned men for a period of six months.

H. B. Morphy, the last speaker of the evening, strongly supported the committee's report and described Major Andrews' amendment as being "futile."

W. S. Middleboro moved the adjournment of the debate.

Charlotte "Liberals" In Convention

Special to The Standard
St. Stephen, N. B., Nov. 6.—A County Convention of the Liberal party was held here this afternoon in the town council chamber, about forty or fifty delegates being in attendance, though weather conditions were not conducive to large attendance.

H. M. Ballagh of Milltown occupied the chair. Reports were heard from the delegates to the recent national convention at Ottawa and a number of resolutions adopted. Premier Foster was present and addressed the gathering at some length. A new county organization was effected with H. M. Ballagh, president, and P. Elmer McLaughlin, secretary. The chairmen and secretaries of the various town and parish organizations to be members of the executive.

(Continued on page two.)