

## "Let Us Have a Provincial House=Cleaning!"

Never before in the history of Chatham has such a thoroughly representative and spontaneously enthusiastic political meeting been held here, as the magnificent Whitney meeting in the Grand Opera House last evening.

Chatham turned out en masse to greet Ontario's rightful Premier, who is so soon to take his proper place in the management of the affairs of this Province, and to also, show their esteem for, and loyalty to, James Clancy, the popular People's candidate in West Kent, and Philip H. Bowyer, the man who is steadily gaining ground in East Kent as an upholder of good, clean and progressive government and of whom so much is expected on January 25.

The people who attended the meeting were in no way disappointed. They went there intending to show their enthusiasm, and they went away still more enthused, if such a thing were possible. In Mr. Whitney they beheld the coming man in Ontario politics and they heard from his lips the best most straightforward, honest and clear cut address ever delivered by a politician to a Kent audience. The people were inspired and Mr. Whitney could not help but feel that it was worth while working when the people are so unanimously with him. It was the best reception that Mr. Whitney has received during his present tour and, judging from the feeling displayed, East and West Kent will send to Toronto, two men who will be of unlimited assistance to Mr. Whitney when that gentleman comes to form the government which will manage the affairs of this Province after the 25th of January.

To say that the Opera House was packed to the doors seems to be a very mild way to describe the attendance at the meeting. At a quarter to eight o'clock every seat in the house was taken and the standing room was going fast, and at ten minutes to eight people were turned away unable to gain admittance. A quarter of eight o'clock every seat in the house was taken and the standing room was going fast, and at ten minutes to eight people were turned away unable to gain admittance. A quarter of eight o'clock every seat in the house was taken and the standing room was going fast, and at ten minutes to eight people were turned away unable to gain admittance.

Mr. Whitney was driven from the Grand Opera House to the place of meeting in an open cab and he was followed by a cheering crowd of people, headed by the 24th Regiment Band. When he appeared at the entrance of the Opera House he was cheered to the echo, and when he finally walked on the platform, accompanied by Matthew Wilson, K. C., James Clancy and P. H. Bowyer, the crowd went wild with applause, and it was some minutes before Chairman Wilson could restore order and commence the meeting. The air was rent with cheers for Whitney, Clancy and Bowyer, the people rising in their seats and waving their hats. The balcony was reserved for ladies and their escorts, and it was well filled with members of the gentler sex who did not hesitate to show their interest and enthusiasm. Possibly some idea of the amount of enthusiasm which prevailed could be gained from the fact that even the ladies in the balcony were seen to rise in their seats and cheer for the popular trio—a feat which is seldom characteristic of political meetings in Chatham.

The interior of the Opera House was fittingly decorated for the memorable occasion. Flags, small and large, were everywhere seen and a large streamer bearing the motto, "Whitney, Ontario's Rightful Premier," was stretched across the stage just above the speakers. Two large Union Jacks were draped from the centre of the stage to either side and large photos of Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir John Thompson were hung on either side of the stage and surrounded by flags and the national colors. The decorations were the work of the Young Men's Liberal-Conservative Club. This Club has a well-earned reputation for doing things up thoroughly and they lived up to their reputation last evening. The meeting reminded one of the old-time rousers, and many a veteran of well fought political battles in this riding was heard to remark that never since the times that John A. Macdonald used to visit Chatham have they ever seen such a grand reception given to any political leader.

Seated in the chair was Matthew Wilson, K. C., who presided over the meeting and upon his left were the speakers of the evening, Mr. Whitney, Mr. Clancy and Mr. Bowyer. Others who were seated on the platform were: Dr. Mitchell, of Wallaceburg; R. B. Hunter, Secretary of the East Kent Liberal-Conservative Association; N. Massey, S. B. Arnold, J. L. Wilson, J. Northwood, Geo. Meynard, Ald. James King, Noah Pritchard, Geo. K. Atkinson, John Sissons, Ed. Massey, John Rice, Chas. Denover, W. Garwell, H. Robt. McCosh, A. J. Wilson, W. M. Drader,

W. N. Morley, Geo. B. Merritt, Sr., S. Stephens, Fred Goodland, Wendell Wilson, J. M. Park, Henry Dagneau, John Turner, Sherman Langford, G. S. Heyward, John Cooper, Stanley Ball, Ald. W. S. Marshall, Hugh Leeson, Wm. Ball, Rufus Barker, F. Bedford, W. K. Merrifield, Robert Day, W. G. Richards, Henry Dennis, John McCorvie, Dr. Hall, G. O. Scott, Ald. C. Austin, J. M. Pike, W. C. McArthur, Sam. Moore, W. J. Kenny, Ald. O'Keefe, Rev. R. L. Holden, R. L. Knight, Tom Walters, W. G. Coupland, Ald. Potter, Mr. Mahler, John Stewart, and John Poile, of this city; Geo. Chalmers, of Tilbury; Mr. Featherston, of Romney; J. McLean, of Dover; Mr. Doyle, of Raleigh; R. R. McNaughton, of Harwich; O. Hayward, of Chatham Township; Neil Watson, of Mull; Reeve Corey Purser, of Chatham; B. W. Wilson, of Ridgeway; W. Abraham, of Chatham Township; Mr. Vane, of Tupperville; Sandy McLean, of Dover; Dr. Storey, Thos. McCullum and Mr. Gibson, of Blenheim; and many others.

**MR. WILSON SPEAKS.**  
When the enthusiasm and cheers upon the entrance of the speakers, before described, had subsided sufficiently Mr. Wilson opened the meeting with a few well chosen and forcibly delivered remarks.  
"I deem it a high privilege," said he, "to have the honor of presiding over such a great meeting. It is a great tribute to our guest this evening to see this great hall—one of the largest in Western Ontario, filled from floor to garret, all the seats gone, the window sills a mass of humanity, and the aisles full of people."  
"I accept the honor, which is purely a matter of form, because we know that among the Liberals and Conservatives of this country all are absolutely fair in dealing with political speakers, so that there is no duty of importance for the chairman. This is particularly the case when, as in this contest, both parties are agreed that someone has lowered the standard of public morality in the Province and all are anxious to know for sure who the person is, that we may get rid of him."

"The Liberal government has been in power for a long time. According to the constitution any government must come back to the people at least every four years, when they are placed on trial before the electors. If the electors approve of their policies they return them to power by their votes, but if they disapprove of the government they send them down to defeat."  
"On the present occasion the man who comes before the electors is G. W. Ross, who is now on trial. You are the great jury and you have got to give your decision on the actions of the government. If they have followed a good course it is your right to return them to power. If they have done what you cannot sanction you must show that you do not approve of them by sending them down to defeat. They are defeated if the Lieutenant-Governor will call upon someone to form a government and then that new government will in their time have to come to the people to give an account of their stewardship and in their turn go on trial. If the Conservative government comes back to you after doing things of which you disapprove it is your right to send them into the cold shades of opposition. If I judge the signs of the times aright I think the people of Ontario have made up their minds that they shall not suffer as they have in the past. The Liberal government has been dragging in the mire the standard of purity which cannot be upheld by anyone who has any self-respect. Ours is not a policy of slander. It is slander to say to the people that corporations shall not have property given to them without due compensation. I or to say that the chief Reform organizer, Preston, conducted a disreputable contest in West Elgin when the candidate elected acknowledged the vilest corruption. It is slander to call it improper for the government to award a position to such a man. It is slander to find fault with the government for harboring a man like Jackson. It is not slander, if anyone has slandered the Liberal party it is Ross himself—Cheers."

**A VOICE—Right you are!**  
Mr. Wilson—By announcing that he should not be held responsible for the insinuations that the rank and file are guilty, I say that is not the case. The people should not be held responsible for the actions of Ross and his associates. Did you get Jackson the position he now holds? Did you grant Cap. Sullivan timber limits? Did you promote Preston to a position in England? Did you call Parliament to prevent by-elections or dissolve the House to prevent the exposure of a Crown Minister?  
The fault lies with the men of the Ross Government at Toronto and you are justified in taking them from them the power they have held so long."

As Mr. Wilson closed his masterly address he was greeted with round upon round of applause. It was a popular speech with the audience and all through it they showed their approval of his expressed sentiments by interrupting him with applause.

**MESSAGES OF GREETING.**  
Mr. Wilson then called upon S. B. Arnold, the secretary of the West Kent Liberal-Conservative Association,

## Kent's Magnificent and Memorable Tribute to Ontario's Honored Statesmanlike Son

All Records Obliterated in the Mammoth and Enthusiastic Gathering which Greeted J. P. Whitney-- Demonstrations to James Clancy and Philip H. Bowyer

Grand Opera House Packed from Pit to Gallery Before Eight O'Clock

Hundreds Turned Away Disappointed—Splendid Addresses by Matthew Wilson, K. C., and the Standard Bearers—Mr. Whitney's Earnest and Eloquent Appeal for Higher Ideals in Public Life—Some Planks of a Progressive Policy—Exposure of an Administration that has Disgraced the Province—Prevaricator Craham Called to Account—Notes of a Unique Gathering Long to be Remembered

tion, to read a couple of letters he had received.  
The first was a telegram from Dr. A. W. Thornton, president of the Liberal-Conservative Association, who is at present in Toronto delivering a series of lectures at the Toronto Dental College. The message was as follows:  
"Best wishes for a successful meeting. Conservatives condemn the Government. Liberals apologize for it. All are ashamed of it. Clancy and Bowyer for the two Kents."  
This message was received with open approval by the meeting and at the mention of Dr. Thornton's name the audience responded with a burst of enthusiasm, showing the reality of that gentleman as an earnest worker in the Liberal-Conservative ranks.

The other message was from C. R. Atkinson, K. C., one of the oldest men in the Liberal-Conservative ranks in the city. He regretted his inability to be present but expressed good wishes for Mr. Clancy and a good rousing meeting. He had been pressing for a meeting like this for some time and he was glad to see the fulfillment of his wish.

**MR. WILSON'S TRIBUTES.**  
Chairman Wilson then arose and introduced the first speaker. He said:  
We have got with us to-night Ontario's foremost son and the choice of the Ontario electorate by over 7,000 votes. Geo. W. Ross and his associates may prevent him from ruling in the House, but they cannot prevent him from ruling in the hearts of the majority of the people—Cheers.

Then we have got our own James Clancy—Cheers. There is no man in public life to-day for whom I would deem it a greater honor to preside at a meeting where he is the representative. Mr. Clancy has been honored by your support many years in the Ontario House. He was wanted in the Dominion House and he accepted the will of the people. Not seeing a Conservative seat that he wished to take he walked over to Bothwell and took that constituency from one of the most prominent Liberals of the time. Knowing Mr. Clancy as Ross knows him, I know he is a man who will look after the electors' interests and he possesses just the qualifications to prevent him from being wanted by Ross. If there is a man coming forth that the Liberals in Toronto want to defeat it is Mr. Clancy. When you see the size of this meeting and the response which comes from it you cannot help but see that their work will be in vain—Applause.

"We have also got a man from the adjoining constituency. I hardly know how to describe Mr. Bowyer. He is an enemy of none. When I look over the reports of his campaign meetings and hear of the number of Liberals who attend his meetings and who are right with him in this campaign I am almost led to believe

that he would be out of place at a Conservative meeting. It seems to me that I think the Chairmen for the Liberal-Conservative Association, who is at present in Toronto delivering a series of lectures at the Toronto Dental College. The message was as follows:  
"Best wishes for a successful meeting. Conservatives condemn the Government. Liberals apologize for it. All are ashamed of it. Clancy and Bowyer for the two Kents."

**MR. BOWYER CHEERED.**  
As Mr. Bowyer arose to his feet and walked to the front of the platform he was given a royal reception. The house went wild with applause for the popular candidate from East Kent. It was some time before he was able to proceed with his speech. Mr. Bowyer is a very fluent speaker and he gave a capital address. "It is a pleasure for me to be present at this meeting," he said, "and also for the grand reception you have been kind enough to give me. I thank the Chairmen for his kind remarks regarding me and my earnest hope is that I shall deserve the support of the Liberals, Conservatives and Independents of East Kent on the 25th of January. It is a pleasure for me to be present at this meeting to meet Mr. Whitney, who has been designated twice by the will of the people to be the Premier of the Province. You are all here to hear him and I shall only say to you as well as just to myself to tell you why I seek the support of the people in this present campaign."  
"Four weeks ago Monday I was elected the unanimous choice of a very unique convention. Although this convention was called by Conservatives the doors were thrown wide open to everyone, and not only were there Conservatives present, but there were many Liberals, Patrons and Independents present, all wanting a change in the Government, and willing to unite for me."

**A VOICE—And we will!**  
Another voice—He's a winner!  
Mr. Bowyer—The enthusiasm of that convention has extended into every polling sub-division of the riding in East Kent—yes, it has extended to every side line and concession and the signs all point towards sending a supporter of Mr. Whitney to his Parliament—Cheers.

**HIS LONG PLEDGE.**  
"I gave one pledge to that convention. It was that if elected I shall go to Toronto to turn out the Ross Government, and knowing their record I think that that one pledge should entitle me to election by not less than 500 majority—Applause.  
If elected, besides, I shall support Whitney only so long as he follows his election pledges. I refuse to follow a leader who uses pledges only as a means of getting into power. We have had such leaders and we have them now, but I don't think it is necessary to mention names."  
**A VOICE—We can guess!—Applause.**  
Mr. Bowyer—I have no fear for Mr. Whitney. I know he intends to

follow his pledges. He is a man who is bold enough to be honest and honest enough to be bold. But should he fail, I shall vote against him."

"I was much cheered when I heard that in Ottawa P. D. Ross, of the Ottawa Journal, had accepted the Conservative candidacy. He is a man who is known all over the Province and took the nomination solely on the pledge that he would do all he could to have more followers. He would support Mr. Whitney just so far as he was able. Mr. Whitney was pleased at the manner in which he had accepted the nomination and only wished to have more followers. He said: 'That's the kind of a leader and that's the kind of a representative—Cheers.'"  
"Let the people of East Kent hold me to my pledges. I shall go to the Legislature to support of equal taxation against corporations and against subsidies to private corporations. I shall fight for a fair proportion of taxation and I am opposed to hunting and bonuses to industries. I speak for myself and I say to my friends that if they support me they may look for victory on the 25th of January."

As Mr. Bowyer concluded he was given another burst of applause from the audience.

**MR. CLANCY SPEAKS.**  
Mr. Wilson then introduced Mr. Clancy and at the mention of the name the house rang with cheers and applause.

Mr. Clancy—I shall now call upon a man who is seen to be a minister of the crown.  
**A VOICE—And he will!**  
Mr. Wilson—It has been said in a Liberal Journal in St. Thomas that Mr. Clancy should not be the Minister of Agriculture. This Liberal Journal says that Findlay Macdonald is more entitled to it."

**A VOICE—Well seen about that!**  
Mr. Wilson—In the meantime it is a very good sign to see the Liberal papers discussing who will be in Mr. Whitney's cabinet after the 25th. When the time comes to form the cabinet we may be assured that he will be at the head of an honest and upright government—Applause.  
Mr. Clancy then stepped forward and no man ever got a heartier reception than the one given to him. The house was completely filled with applause, cheering and yelling and the hub-bub was kept up for several minutes. Ladies and gentlemen alike rose in their seats and waved their handkerchiefs and hats and cheered and applauded to the limit. It must have been a proud moment for Mr. Clancy. He said:  
"I am unable to express my gratification for this splendid assemblage and for your magnificent reception. I know no reason why the Liberals should not come and welcome Mr. Whitney into Chatham and I am pleased that they have joined with

the Conservatives in so doing. One very pleasing feature is the presence of so many ladies. You have not come here to listen to me, but to hear Mr. Whitney, so I will not weary you."

"It is a well known fact that the ladies lead in all great movements and I am sure that they are in this too. They are the upholders of moral right, and they were never more needed than they are at this time and when they undertake anything they generally carry it through. May we hope that the ladies will not rest until the sentence is passed on the Ross government—Applause. I will not take up your time. You have come here this evening to listen to a man who holds the highest office in the power of the province to be set at naught. Mr. Whitney has been returned by a majority of over 7000 votes in the last election, leaving out entirely all of the ballot boxes that were switched and stolen. Ross has filled the place of Mr. Whitney, and has ruled in a large sense, but Whitney will rule in time."

**GOVERNMENT A GONER.**

"There is a Liberal paper which is conducted in this city with conspicuous ability and with much vigor—along what lines I will not say for it is shoddy enough to be bold. It represents the candidate of the Liberal party—which quotes a statement made by the Liberal candidate that he thought that Ross government was a goner."

**A VOICE—So it is!—Applause.**  
Mr. Clancy—And that 50 per cent of the Liberal party believed so too. Now what has transpired to bring back that 50 per cent of the Liberal party. He quoted two things—the convention in Toronto and the reforming of the cabinet.

Can you think what the new platform was? I'll warrant no one here can remember a clause of that platform except the resolution condemning Ross. What did Ross say? 'Now we have sinned against public morals, let us back and we will be good.' I don't think the people are disposed to put them back."

**PURIFIED (9) CABINET.**

Now what about the reconstructed cabinet?  
**A VOICE—We had a specimen of capital!—Applause.**  
Mr. Clancy—Did Ross go to those 50 per cent of the Liberals to select new members for his cabinet? No. He went to see such an assembly as to the time in depending the three who were discharged.

"Now we have no quarrel with the Liberal party. We are prepared to wage the main and life of the Liberal party are just as anxious to turn Ross out as we are. It would be fair, unselfish and untrue, to say that the Liberals are not anxious for the welfare of the province. Let me just say the class of man who is elected will take the complexion of the electors. He will be no better than you are. I think there will be a standard set this time, and I am glad to see such an assemblage of young men, and old men all here to protest against the state of public affairs in Ontario to-day. It rarely falls to the lot of any man to get such a gathering as this. We differ in policy but we never differ in public morality. It is not policy alone, and the deeds which have been committed against the electors of this country, which make the Liberal party have no policy so far. They say, come and vote for Ross. See what your father did. I deny that any Liberal has ever been elected upon the support of the Liberal leaders under such conditions as exist at the present time."

**TO CRUSH CORRUPTION.**

The Liberal party does not propose to take a position such as the one Ross has taken. The rank and file are innocent so far but they now on trial. Will any man who supports Ross be innocent with what he knows now? I do not mean to be offensive, but fair. We cannot allow party to influence us to let our votes sanction anything that is wrong."

**A MAN OF COURAGE.**

Our leader here is a man of courage. He never hesitates to declare his position on any question as a public man. That is the stamp of a man for a leader—Applause. All Canada should be proud of Mr. Whitney. I sat in the Ontario House when Mr. Whitney first came in and I marked him then as the leader of the party. Mr. Whitney should this time appeal to the Liberals with as much confidence as he does to the Conservatives—Applause.

"The Liberals will not become Conservatives just because they support Mr. Whitney this time. It is not the weak Liberals who support him, but the strong ones, and all can congratulate themselves upon the victory which will be his on the 25th of January."

When Mr. Clancy concluded he was given a hearty round of applause from the audience. It was plainly seen last evening that Mr. Clancy is a winner.

**THE COMING PREMIER.**

"I will now call upon the man whom all Ontario delights to honor, and I will ask you to listen with attention and delight to the gentleman who will after the 25th of January be the Premier of Ontario."

As soon as these words were uttered the audience fairly rose in their seats and received Mr. Whitney with deafening applause. He gracefully bowed his thanks, and commenced upon the able political speech which has been delivered in Chatham in years.

Mr. Whitney said, "I am glad to see the County of Kent. This meeting is a record breaker. It has been my privilege to attend a great many meetings called together for similar reasons to this, and although in some cases the number in attendance may have been greater, I am bound to say that never yet have I seen a meeting where there seemed to be so much condensed enthusiasm. There are now understood the persons which moved a supporter of the Ross Government, standing on this platform a few weeks ago, who declared that the Government was a goner. Laughter. If you will pardon me I will take up where Mr. Clancy left off: As one who represents one of the great political parties, I would be ashamed to come before my fellow subjects in the Province of Ontario, having regard to the situation and circumstances so present to the mind of every one of you—I would be ashamed to come and ask for support from the position we occupy merely on the ground of party—Applause. Parties are necessary, more than perhaps we, as we go along from day to day are wont to realize. The British system of constitutional government can only be worked by means of party; and if anything serious should affect either of the great parties the machinery of British Government cannot run smoothly, and constitutional Government is affected in a great degree—Cheers. I may return to that subject of party again. I want to mention one or two other questions. When we have the people advocating certain political principles, we are supposed to give reasons why the people should agree with us and disagree with our opponents. It will not be necessary for me to go into a lengthy discussion on the Opposition policy. It is not necessary to do so because, as is well known, the policy of the Opposition was given to the people two years ago and a half, and was endorsed by a majority of over 7,000 votes—Loud applause. Therefore there is no need to argue on questions of policy, though some of our opponents may have no policy at all. As Mr. Ross said not long ago, that our policy is the same as the policy of the Government. Mr. Ross says many strange things—Laughter."

**THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY.**

First, there is the question of the education of our children. I do not know of any question that can interest an enlightened people, a Christian people, a British people, to the extent that they ought to be interested in the education of those whom they expect to leave behind them when they go off the stage and take farewell to the career of earthly life. There cannot be a man bound to tell you this, and I can speak with some authority, that among all public questions there is not one which has taken more attention to the extent that this question has. In the first place, I would draw your attention to the fact that 95 per cent of the children of Ontario begin and end their education in the public school. The cost of this education is about 100 cents a year, and it is not a small sum. There isn't a teacher in Ontario who will not say that radical changes are necessary, and I hope the day is not far distant when, if representations are made by the teachers to the Education Department, they should be listened to and due consideration and respect paid to the advice of men most qualified to judge (applause), and they will be listened to, and legislation will be passed, as I propose it should be passed, giving from the exact opposite of the treatment they have received from the present Government at Toronto—Cheers. Also, the Minister of Education would receive advice from a consulting body, composed of representatives of each class of teachers in the Province. They should select representatives by some system of election to form this consultative body, who would be able to give the Minister of Education advice, and as he would not be compelled to take this advice, there would be no interference with his functions as a responsible Minister. This question has been before the people some six or seven years, and I was surprised to learn myself that this idea long after it was brought before the Legislature by me, and found its way across the sea and the Educational Council of England had taken it up—Applause. I was

Continued on 8th Page.