

A CANADIAN PARTY.

The Platform of the Liberals of Canada.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

Tariff Reformation Looking to Free Trade and Honest Government the Vital Features of a Splendid Platform.

Ottawa, June 25.—(Special.)—The greatest political gathering ever held in Canada began its sessions here to-day. The weather was sultry, almost past endurance. The thermometer in the building stood at 105. It furnished a notable proof of the passion for politics that is so strong a trait in the Anglo-Saxon nature that here on 3,250 and 4,000 people should sit for three sweltering hours, packed like sardines in a box, paying the strictest attention to the preliminaries to the remarkable gathering. One would have thought that on such a day the attractions of the deep shade and the breezes from the cool reaches of the river would have drawn many of the delegates from the furnace air in the rink. But, no; the warmth of their enthusiasm refused to be exceeded.



Sir Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario.

by any territory that this climate can furnish. They came, and came early, and came in thousands, and started till they were positive that nothing more would be done until 8 o'clock.

It was precisely 2:30 p.m. when President MacLean of the Ottawa Reform association advanced to the front of the platform and said: "Gentlemen, you will come to order." Immediately quiet fell upon the great gathering.

When Mr. MacLean had invited all Reform members of the party council and members and ex-members of Liberal governments to take seats upon the platform, he indicated that there would be no further preliminaries, and that a resolution would be moved.

There was a tremendous outburst of genuine enthusiasm and approval. It was several moments before the cheering subsided, and then the leader said: "Gentlemen, we have the good fortune to have amongst us to-day, amongst this vast audience, one who is a veteran in the



Hon. W. S. Fielding, Premier of Nova Scotia.

cause of reform, who has been associated with all movements that have taken place in the last 30 years for the advancement of the people of Canada, who has been the successful leader of the Liberal party in the Maritime provinces of the Dominion. I therefore submit for your choice as chairman of this convention Sir Oliver Mowat, premier of the province of Ontario. (Great applause.) I may say that this motion is seconded by the Hon. Mr. Marshall, leader of the opposition in the province of Quebec. All in favor of the motion will say "Aye." The response was so prompt and unanimous that Mr. Mowat did not consider it necessary to ask if there was any opposition.

There was more cheering when Sir Oliver Mowat came forward. He said: "Mr. Laurier and gentlemen, I thank you for the great honor you do me in calling on me. In calling on me, I suppose I may say unanimously, to preside at the great convention of the Liberals of Canada. I congratulate you, loyal as I know you are, that you have selected for this great convention the anniversary of the accession of our most gracious Queen. I hope that the Reform party may be in power as long as her majesty has reigned over the British empire. (Applause.) When I was informed that it was the intention to suggest my name as chairman of this great convention, I thought it best to put in writing what I thought it was fitting to do on this occasion, and I propose now to do what I am not in the habit of doing—to try and read to you the substance of what I have put down. There

is one man, and all of my own opinion, who has been successful in the past, and who will be successful in the future. The present is the first convention of the Liberals of all Canada since Confederation. I hope and believe that good results will come of this convention, also in consolidating the party for its future work, and preparing for victory at its next general election. In this work we have the comfort of knowing that there are good grounds for the hope that, with proper effort on our part, the next general election will place at the head of Canadian federal affairs the distinguished Canadian who is our cherished Dominion leader, whom all men, without distinction of party or race admit, whose purity of purpose and conduct all recognize, and who has the well-founded confidence in all respects of the Liberal party. A prospect hopeful to our country may well animate every one of us to the greatest possible exertion for its realization. The provinces of the Dominion are bound together by a common constitution, and a common relation to the empire whose citizens we are, and the representatives of the Liberal party of every province have met to-day to take counsel as to the best desirable policy for the Liberals of all Canada to pursue as a party, in order to the largest practicable prosperity and greatest possible well-being in all respects of every province of the Dominion, and therein of the Dominion as a whole. Ontario Liberals are not for Ontario only, are we, my friends? And Quebec Liberals, though they like Quebec much, are not for Quebec only. Is it not so, my brothers of Quebec? The Liberals of the maritime provinces are not for the maritime provinces



Hon. C. M. Fraser, M.P.P., minister of public works for Ontario.

only; I am not right in saying so, my brothers? The Liberals of Manitoba and the Province of Columbia and our Northwest territories are not for these provinces and territories only. Is this not so, my brothers who come from these parts? Yes, all of us, from every province and part of Canada, are Canadians, and all of us are bent on doing our best for all Canada. (Applause.) I am glad to know it is so. There is no earthly object more fitting or grander for any people to apply themselves to, with profound earnestness and hearty zeal than the common good of their country. It is good to be a glorious thing to do for one's country, and the Canadians of every province and of every race and creed in it have repeatedly and whenever occasion offered shown their readiness to hazard their lives in defence of their country. Thanks to them



Hon. A. G. Blair, premier of New Brunswick.

all. But, if it is a glorious thing to die for one's country, it is also a glorious thing to live for one's country. Not many of us may ever be called on to die for our country. I hope none of us may. But all of us may live for our country, and in that way may do more for it than by dying for it. We live in our country when we perform with fidelity our duties as its citizens; we live for our country when we take active thoughtful interest in promoting for it good government, and in adopting or supporting a beneficial and just policy in its public affairs. And, my fellow-Canadians, are not these the objects which have brought us together to-day? If I put the affairs, however interesting and necessary, of a township or a town or a county that we inhabit to the right, but the affairs of half a continent, the affairs of a territory as extensive as the United States of America, and many times more extensive than France or Germany or the British Isles. Questions are to occupy the attention of the convention on which the

future of half a continent may depend, and not for a year or two only, but for generations.

"Our country, in the largest sense, is the British empire."

"Whatever the nation may have been to us or to any of our ancestors in times



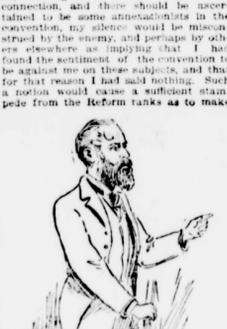
Hon. A. S. Hardy, Ontario commissioner of crown lands.

that are past, to most of us one or other of the British Isles is the fatherland. But loyalty is not confined to these; in Canada all nationalities are on a level, all have received the same consideration from the sovereign and her imperial advisers and her parliament. Canadians have no complaint to make of injustice at her hands or at theirs; our grievances are brought on us by the mistakes of our fellow-Canadians, and the wrong-doing of



Hon. D. Mills, M.P. for Bothwell.

some of them. The result of the Imperial policy and practice towards Canada is that no line of nationality or of creed or of class distinguishes those amongst us who are attached to the empire from those who are not. (Applause.) Many, or perhaps all, of even those who have gradually on annexation do not do so from hostility towards the empire. They are for annexation because they think that the present and future inhabitants of Canada would be better off economically if citizens of the United States than if they were not, and as against that view of the economical results of annexation they do not appreciate the force of considerations which have weight with the rest of us. The president of the Continental Union association has declared himself, and I should not, honestly declared himself, notwithstanding his declaration, to be "an Englishman to the core." My desire is in what I say to avoid exciting subject-matter which we may not be united that if on such occasions as this I should say nothing about associations of British connection, and that be ascertained to be some accommodation in the convention, my silence would be misconstrued by the enemy, and perhaps by others elsewhere as implying that I had found the sentiment of the convention to be against me on these subjects, and that for that reason I had said nothing. Such a notion would cause a sufficient stampede from the Reform ranks as to make



Hon. C. H. Ross, M.P.P., Ottawa.

our success at the next general election be out of the question. As to the general sentiment regarding British connection, I am pleased that a French Canadian Roman Catholic archbishop recently spoke the sentiment of Canadians generally, as well as of himself, when in a sermon for the public he said: "I was born and reared in the British possessions, and my allegiance is to the crown of England, and my heart and conscience would rebel at anything contrary to these obligations. I

am a British subject, and am happy to live under the auspices of the empire, and I desire that this noble standard continue to fly and give protection to my emotions, as well as to any other fellow-countrymen." These sentences may be read or listened to with satisfaction, whether the drift of the document in other respects is concurred.

"It is pleasant to see here that for nearly 80 years the British empire has been at peace with all those nations of Europe and America which are represented amongst the Canadian people; and



Mr. Wm. Mulock, M.P. for North York.

reached. I have not seen any statistics of an earlier date than 1790. In that year Philadelphia was the largest city of the United States, and it had a population of 10,000 inhabitants. New York had but 20,000, and Baltimore had but 15,000, and these cities were the only four that had over 10,000. Now, at this day in Canada, instead of four cities, we have no fewer than twenty cities which by the last census had over 10,000 inhabitants. Our city of Montreal alone has a population twice as large as the aggregate population of what were the four largest cities of the United States at the time I have mentioned, and



Hon. James Young, Galt.

the city of Toronto has a population of nearly twice. We have three other cities with each of them a larger population than Philadelphia then had, seven cities with a larger population than New York had; nine cities with a larger population than Boston had, and several more with a larger population than that of Baltimore.

Then again, the revenue of the federal government in 1790 was about \$1,000,000 only, while ours in the year ending 30th June, 1901, was nearly ten times that figure or \$8,525,311. The greater part of this sum is obtained from customs and excise duties, and the amount so raised is an enormous amount to take from our people; but the fact that year after year so great an amount is obtained from Canadian pockets, however to be deprecated, illustrates in a striking way the immense prosperity of our country, and the fact that our country in 1790 had with about a like population a century ago.

Take some further facts.—The imports into that country in 1790 amounted to \$2,000,000 only; the imports into Canada in the year ending 30th June, 1901, amount to five times that sum or \$10,000,000. Their exports in 1790 were \$2,000,000 only; ours in 1901 were nearly six times that amount or \$12,000,000. In 1790 the United States had but 70 post-offices in the whole country; Canada has 30 times that number, or about 2,100. They had not a



Hon. Francis Laugel, M.P. for Quebec Centre.

single steamboat; the application of steam to the propulsion of vessels had not been invented, and, while they were consequently without a steamboat, they had large sailing vessels. Canada in 1891 had 1,138 steamers and 1,000 sailing vessels; in fact, Canada had in 1891 more sailing vessels and three times more steam boats than even at that date the United States had. Their vessels were larger in the average than ours, but the tonnage owned by their 62,000,000 of people was in

the United States, which has now 62,000,000 of people and great wealth, separated from the parent land, and for years afterward, the nation had not one city with anything like so large a population or with anything like such developed wealth as many of our Canadian cities have now.



Sir Richard Cartwright, M.P. for South Oxford.

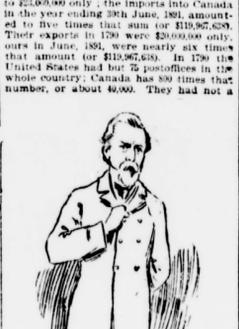
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Hon. Robert Watson, Manitoba.

amount of the debt of Canada in June, 1891, is stated at \$27,800,000. The largeness of the amount shows at all events that our credit in the English market has been good, if we cannot truly say that all the money borrowed was well spent, or that all the debt was reasonably and properly incurred, or if we cannot boast about the a debt otherwise.

Let me mention one other significant fact before I drop my comparisons. At the period at which I am comparing the present condition with the United States, that nation had not a single bank of a dollar of bank capital; while I observe that Canada had in 1891 paid-up bank cap-



Mr. Francois Laugel, M.P. for Quebec Centre.

ital of nearly \$9,000,000, (or, more exactly, \$9,967,060), and the assets of its banks amounted to four times that amount and more, or, to speak precisely, \$38,000,000. Many other comparisons to the same effect might be stated in connection with all these facts, it is also interesting to know that the shortest route for passengers and freight between America and Europe is from or through Canada.

Such facts as I have mentioned show in part what Canada has accomplished while reaching its population in 1891 of 4,825,000, as compared with the condition of the United States when they had a like population. They show how enormously in all these elements and indications of comfort and prosperity which these facts suggest our four or five millions of people are in the state of richness ahead of these four millions that a century ago formed the nucleus of a nation owning the other half of North America, and having now a population of 62,000,000. While we are at peace with them, our having these 62,000,000 of people on our borders to trade with, so far as we do trade with



Mr. John Cameron, editor London Advertiser.

and bad police protection could combine to inflict on him. Many of our Canadian roads might be better than they are, but the average of them are better than the average in the United States at even the present day. While their four millions of population had no railways, or four or five millions have now no less than 14,223 miles of railways. These railways have cost many millions of dollars the exact figure I have seen is \$16,647,738, and instead of one trip by stage in a week there are many railway trips every day of the week between some of our cities. Further, tele-



Hon. F. Peters, premier of Prince Edward Island.

graphed lines connect our cities, and a comparison of our public debt to-day with the debt of the United States at the close of the last century was equally satisfactory from the Canadian standpoint. I observe that the net



J. Israel Tarte, M.P. for L'Islet.

themselves. Most, if not all of us, may be against political union with them, but we all respect them as a nation, and esteem very many of their people.

"None will infer from my mentioning the facts of which I have been reminding you that I want you to believe the time to have come when Canada may safely or properly part politically from the empire of which it forms a part, and set up as a wholly separate nation, as under different conditions and circumstances the other British American colonies did 120 years ago. Not on the other hand, am I at present speaking of Canadian greatness as being a reason against staying in the country and annexing it to the British nation. That subject I have discussed more than once before. My reason for speaking at present of our country's greatness, and of what, in the eyes of this immense gathering of representative Liberals from all parts of the Dominion, it is fitting, as I have already suggested, and may be useful at the outset of our deliberations, to call to

mind the greatness of the country, the affairs of which, in the highest earthly sense, this great assembly has come together to confer about, the country belongs to us as Canadians; its laws are made and administered by Canadians, and its contribution to the construction which 20 years ago Canadians, by their representative, prepared and asked for, and got for their actions, as they may get whatever other changes in that constitution they from time to time hereafter desire. The whole maintenance and development of this great country are in the hands of the Canadian people, and for its constitution and government and welfare, present and future, the Canadians of the present day are responsible. Let us bear in mind all these facts while we are deliberating on what the power and what belongs to the present duty of the Liberal party.

"With such a country as Canada is, and with such promise as it presents, and with such a population as occupies it, and with such a history as belongs to it, why has there been so much depression in it in late years, and why is there still so much amongst important sections of our people? Why has there been, and why does there continue to be, such an exodus of our native population of all the old provinces, others not coming from outside to take the places of those who go? Liberals think they see and know some of the principal causes, and that they are removable causes, and we have come to

them, is a further advantage in our favor as compared with the Americans of the last century. (Applause.) Why, in view of all such facts, should not a country do as much for Canada as a century has done for our neighbors? May it not do more? The resources of Canada, for the purposes of agriculture and commerce are immense, and unsurpassed by any competitor. We have probably the finest forests in the world and the richest fisheries; our country abounds in minerals, too; we have treasures of coal and iron and copper and silver and gold and nickel. Two-thirds of the wheat area of North America are in Canada. We have climate and



Mr. John Charlton, M.P. for North Norfolk.

soil which are specially adapted for raising the best wheat, the best barley, the best horses and the best cattle in the world, and for producing the best cheese. At the world's exhibitions of London and Philadelphia and Paris and Chicago, Canada has held its own, as respects its principal exhibits, in competition with all the nations of the earth. More important in our favor, however, than all I have mentioned, is the acknowledged fact that our climate with all its varieties, is specially adapted for developing an active and hardy race of men and women, Canadians who, either in mature life or in early manhood, go to the United States as affording a larger field for their activity, compete successfully there in every walk of life with natives of that country who have had their origin in their birth, continue true sons of our dear Canada, and pursue as its citizens the paths of righteousness and patriotism. (Applause.) We admire the energy of our neighbors as a people, and we admire the success that they have accomplished in almost every department of activity to which they have applied



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