

Liberals Demand Laurier Candidate

Liberal Meeting Last Night Scene of Disorder

North Brant Delegates Failed in Fusion Meeting

Election Contests in Both Ridings Are Certain

Mayor Bowlby to Run in Place of Lloyd Harris

LIBERALS CHEERED LAURIER AND SOUGHT SUPPORTER AS CANDIDATE

HARRIS WITHDRAWS; MAYOR BOWLBY TO RUN His Worship Will Be Independent Liberal Candidate, And Will Choose His Own Course in Promoting Welfare of Country

FUSION MEETING OF NORTH BRANT DELEGATES FAILED

Lloyd Harris Accepted Nomination Over Long Distance Telephone Last Night, But Section of Party Did Not Approve His Candidacy—Gathering Cheered For Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Broke up Into Disorder

Dissension and chaos ruled at last night's Liberal meeting, and became increasingly more involved as the evening progressed. At times the two factions, the one supporting the nomination of Lloyd Harris and the other advocating a straight Laurier platform clashed so hotly that confusion was rampant and the chairman, Vice President George Cook was forced to repeatedly call for order and again and again define the status of the gathering—whether it was a convention of representative delegates or merely a meeting of party followers—and he was forced to admit that he himself did not know. After three hours wrangling and nothing definite was accomplished an adjournment was made with no provision for a succeeding meeting. The situation in the South Brants remains as before except that the Liberals last night committed themselves to a straight party fight.

Union Government or the Laurier platform was the bone of contention. Representatives from Oakland township, that stronghold of Liberalism, came out flatly for Laurier and were ardently supported by a strong following of the younger element of the meeting. At one juncture when the discussion was most involved and when all semblance of order was lacking on account of the loud and unqualified calls for Laurier, Chairman Cook emphatically shouted above the uproar.

"I am chairman of this meeting and I'll tell you we are going to have a Laurier candidate. This party who are conscripting our boys when 4500 have already gone from Brant county will not have our support. I'll tell you, our blood is up! We are not going to stand for any more of this fool business!"

Time and again during the meeting the constitution of the Liberal party was referred to and M. W. McEwen on each occasion produced the guiding principles of the party and read them aloud to convince the gathering that it would be impossible to reject Mr. Harris now that he had been unanimously elected to the nomination by the committee appointed for that purpose.

A crisis was precipitated by Mr. A. Harley who anticipated an actual demand for a Laurier candidate by suggesting that if the nomination were to go to another member of the party, the nominee should be selected by a properly constituted committee and not such a gathering as that of last night. He proposed a resolution that a special committee be appointed to retire for ten minutes and regularly select a candidate. Supporters of Mr. Harris rallied to the latter's support and condemned the suggestion as invalid whereupon Mr. Harley retired and communicated by telephone with Lloyd Harris in Toronto and informed him that the meeting "had absolutely refused to have further dealings with the enemy."

Mr. Harris' reply was: "Definitely accept the nomination without equivocation or any further reservation."

The meeting commented at half past eight with Vice-President Geo. Cook of Oakland, presiding in the absence of the President, Dr. W. D. Wiley. Secretary McIntyre read a letter that had been received from Mr. Harris, reading as follows:

President Brantford Liberal Association, City: Dear Sir,—I have been carefully considering the political situation in Brantford to-day, and had decided to advise you that I would allow my name to stand as the nominee of the "Win the War Liberal convention," which was tendered to me a week ago Saturday night.

I have, however, just learned that the chairman of the Fusion committee which was organized for the purpose of bringing the parties together and if possible avoid the necessity of an election under present serious conditions in Canada, has written the Liberal Association for another meeting, and as I made it a condition of my accepting a nomination, that an earnest effort should be made to get the parties together, I think that in order to be consistent, I should request that this letter asking for another conference should not be ignored.

I therefore ask my friends to accede to the wishes of the chairman of the Fusion committee and arrange for another meeting, which should be held within the next day or two, and if no results are reached at such meeting, then I am in the hands of the Liberal party, and will do as my friends desire.

"I hope that at to-night's meeting

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Nov. 14.—Pressure remains abnormally high over nearly the whole continent, while the weather continues fine in Canada.

Forecasts Moderate west to southwest winds to-day and on Thursday with stationary or a little higher temperature.

"Zimmie"

they will agree to my request, and if no results are obtained from a further meeting, then it is understood that I am entirely in the hands of the party.

I am sorry I have been called away in connection with my other duties, but hope we can reach a proper decision in these very important matters.

I remain, Yours faithfully, LLOYD HARRIS.

Secretary McIntyre further stated that no letter suggesting another fusion meeting such as was referred to in the communication from Mr. Harris, had been received from the Chairman of the Fusion committee. He admitted, however, that the Chairman of the committee had requested of him whether the Liberals would be agreeable to another conference.

Mayor Bowlby had little or no faith in political peace or a Union candidate in South Brant. It would only be putting off the evil day. He had no hope of the Liberals or the Liberals were willing to accept Mr. W. F. Cockshutt.

"If the Liberals are not willing to do this, we might just as well look the devil in the face and confront the situation," he concluded amid hearty and pronounced cheers.

Arthur Pinkham, doubted if a Union candidate in this constituency was not merely a move to win the election. He did not state whose "move" it was to which he referred. The Union Government would have been a true Union if the constituencies of the country had been divided on a fifty-fifty basis. He severely condemned the members of the Liberal party who had accepted positions in the Union cabinet and who had otherwise morally supported the win-the-war proposal of Premier Borden. They "had deserted the leader, who for forty years had borne the brunt of the battle." Here the speaker was interrupted by deafening cries of "Hear! Hear!" and "Laurier! Laurier!" After a pause he continued.

"I would like to see that old leader, we never had a better, back again. All this talk of winning the war, let it go in one ear and out the other. What have they done to win the war? I don't like to trust them."

The speaker ended his oration amid another outburst of applause. "We want Sir Wilfrid Laurier," demanded a voice from the excited crowd and the cry was immediately taken up by others.

John Muir, was agreeable if the meeting strongly opposed giving Mr. Harris any further time to give a definite answer, and he thought that such was the consensus of opinion. He explained that the committee appointed at a previous Liberal convention had been asked to support a Union Government but at the fusion conference had suspected that the Liberal candidate would not be squarely treated and had therefore refused to allow his name to come before the fusion meeting. He thought Mr. Harris was acting in good faith and would come out in favor of the Borden Union Government. He thought "the Conservatives were playing the game for all there was in it."

"I intend to back any good sound Liberal as long as I live," declared Mr. Muir. "We should look at the situation from the standpoint of Mr. Harris and be charitable. He is in an awkward position. Mr. Harris told the executive of the Reform Association that he would fight the Liberal battles if the Conservatives played the game of politics. The time is short and we must take immediate action or we will be set down as a lot of coward Liberals."

"I do not believe that Mr. Harris is attempting to hold the Liberals back from a fight. We have given the Conservatives every reasonable chance. Mr. Harris is not anxious for the nomination. In conversation with me he stated that it would be impossible for him on account of his other duties to adequately represent the constituency nor give it as much time as he would wish. This is the truth and I think it well that the Liberals should know it."

Mr. Muir suggested that a resolution be passed authorizing the sending of a telegram to Mr. Harris, informing him that the meeting did not desire the committee to go back again and confer regarding a Fusion candidate, and that Mr. Harris be given until six o'clock to-night to reply, stating his attitude.

Vigorous objections from all quarters of the hall were called and Jack Sloan voiced the sentiment of the meeting.

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Lloyd Harris, the Liberal nominee for the coming Federal election, it is said, has resigned and Mayor Bowlby has been requested and has consented to become a candidate on an independent Liberal platform. These developments have resulted from last night's meeting of the Liberals of the South Brant riding when serious opposition to him jeopardized Mr. Harris' position as the Liberal candidate.

This morning, it is stated, some were exceedingly active planning an open meeting of all anti-conscriptionists and anti-fusion citizens to be held in a public hall. Circulars announcing the meeting were drafted and Mr. W. C. Good mentioned as a possibility as an anti-fusion candidate.

In the interval since last night's riotous gathering, in formation of the spirit of the meeting has been communicated to Mr. Harris, who was faced with the alternative of retiring or sticking to his guns in the leadership of a divided party. He selected the former course and Mayor Bowlby will be the candidate on a straight independent Liberal ticket.

When interviewed this morning his worship definitely stated: "I could not help but see that the county representatives did not want Harris at last night's meeting. I tried in vain to preserve peace and harmony, but failed. I knew they wanted me. They cheered when I rose to my feet. I have never refused a public trust."

"When there is such a sentiment and Mr. Harris is aware of the circumstances he will not accept the nomination. In fact he has been communicated with and has withdrawn. He has sent a letter to the executive committee of the Liberal Association, I understand."

"I am compelled to become a candidate. I will be a candidate, but on certain conditions—that I be an independent Liberal candidate. Any voter who votes for me does so on a clear understanding that I am to be at liberty to use my wisest discretion to promote the welfare of this country."

Asked for his attitude toward the conscription issue and the Laurier platform, Mr. Bowlby replied:

"I am not going to vote to queer the present conscription law or to defeat it in any form until they obtain the 100,000 recruits provided for. But being a Liberal, I believe in constitutional government and democracy, pure and simple, and I believe the people have a right to make by their votes, and, therefore, they have a right to determine at an early date by their votes whether they do or do not want conscription further than has already been provided by the Military Service Act in calling up 100,000 recruits."

On the motion of Mr. Jas. Seace, Dr. Johnson took the chair. The names of the delegates were taken. T. Scott Davidson stated that the Liberal delegates had brought a number of supporters.

"We brought only the ten stipulated," observed Dr. Dunton. On motion of Dr. Dunton, the spectators were allowed to remain. The following letter was read: To the members of the Joint Conference:

Gentlemen,—The time has arrived when we should be able to have "peace with honor" between the political parties in Brant, and it is my hope that for the sake of unity, which is so necessary at this time, that you will be able to unite upon a candidate whose selection will be later ratified by the electorate. I desire to take this means of relieving from responsibility any members or members from feeling, it necessary, if any do, to press my name before the conference, as it is contrary to my desire that this should be done.

Yours truly, JOHN HAROLD.

The Chairman.

"Political strife," observed Dr. Johnson, "are to be avoided at all times, but at a time like this I am particularly anxious to avert such a struggle. Many Canadians to-day are in the fight, but others are not. The war situation to-day is not what it should be, and it is our duty, our obligation, to do everything in our power to assist the boys at the front. So if we can avoid an election, here or any place, we should not hesitate to do so."

Mr. F. Smoke agreed with the last speaker as to the deplorability of a political fight at the present time.

The Situation. Mr. Smoke went on to summarize the situation in North Brant. On Oct. 12, the announcement of union government was made. A day later, Premier Borden wrote to Col. Harry Cockshutt, asking him to run in North Brant, the latter accepting the nomination tendered him.

On Oct. 25, a conference took place between Col. Cockshutt and Mr. John Harold, as a result of which the former wrote to Premier Borden, asking his opinion and that of N. W. Rowell as to who should be the union candidate in North Brant.

Before a reply to this letter was received, Mr. Harold accepted the Liberal nomination in North Brant. On Nov. 9, Col. Cockshutt, in reply to Premier Borden's letter, proposed to Mr. Harold both withdrawal in favor of N. W. Rowell, which the Liberal candidate declined to do.

Col. Cockshutt, stated Mr. Smoke, was now prepared to resign in favor of any union candidate who could be chosen. For the past six years the Conservatives of North Brant had been represented in Parliament, and in a straight party fight they were confident they could win it.

In order to avoid strife, the Conservative party had gone so far as to agree to N. W. Rowell, who in the light of later events, could not run in North Brant. The Conservatives had shown a spirit of compromise, and asked for a similar manifestation from the Liberals.

T. Scott Davidson. "Big things hinge on our deliberations to-night, for weal or for woe!"

Little or nothing was accomplished at last night's fusion meeting of North Brant delegates, except the shedding of a clearer light upon the situation in that riding. The Liberal delegates in attendance at the gathering took objection to Col. Harry Cockshutt as a non-resident, and declined to consider any candidate other than their present one, John Harold. The Conservative delegates appealed for suggestions of any one who might prove acceptable as a union candidate, but to all appeals the Liberals offered only the name of John Harold. The meeting was prolonged until after eleven o'clock, discussion being lengthy and at times heated.

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THE INSIDE HISTORY OF THE NORTH BRANT MATTER

Harry Cockshutt Took a Manly Course From the First But Harold and His Friends Blocked Rowell's Nomination

Now that the fight is on in earnest in the North Riding between Harry Cockshutt and John Harold, it will be in order to give to the public the history of the various steps which were taken by Conservative Unionists in order to avoid a struggle in the two Brants.

They went far—very far—in this regard as the record will show, and the onus of the failure most distinctly rests upon Mr. Harold.

In the first place let it be remembered that Brant has been in the Conservative column for the last six years. The events in their order, as far as Harry Cockshutt is concerned, are as follows:

1. Announcement of the Union Government took place on October 12th.

2. Harry Cockshutt received a letter from the Premier, asking him to run in Brant and the same was dated October 18th.

3. On October 20th he accepted a nomination.

4. On October 25th he had a meeting at his house with Mr. Harold, when matters were talked over and as the outcome of the following letter was sent to Sir Robert Borden, Premier of the Union Government, the very next day:

Oct. 26, 1917. Sir Robert Borden, Ottawa, Can. Dear Sir Robert,—A couple of days ago I was informed that John Harold, who was nominated for Brant as Liberal candidate two years ago, and who resigned the nomination about ten days ago, has expressed himself as being dissatisfied

with the course that had been taken by the convention on Saturday.

I called him up by phone and had a meeting with him yesterday afternoon. I told him that I had been offered the nomination before he resigned and that I had refused to consider it. I stated that since he resigned I had been requested to run and that I also had a personal letter from you asking me to do it and that on that account I had felt it my duty to accept the nomination.

He, on his part, told me that he thought by resigning the Liberal nomination it would enable both parties to get together and select a Unionist candidate and that he would most likely be the man to get that position, so far as his party was concerned.

I asked him if he had done anything in the matter and he

Continued on Page Five.)

The Kaiser Started This; Buy Victory Bonds and Help Finish Him

Let me write you a letter to Rev. H. N. as was shipped by a Lux Khan for an

Root Compound. Safe, reliable repelling agent. Sold in three doses of strength—No. 1, \$1.25; No. 2, \$1.50 per box. By all druggists or send us on receipt of price, pamphlet. Address: COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Windsor.)

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