

# GREAT LIBERAL GATHERING EXPRESSES DETERMINATION TO ASSIST IN PROSECUTION OF THE WAR TO SUCCESSFUL FINISH

**Patriotic Conference at Belleville Yesterday a Huge Success—  
Most Representative Convention Ever Held in This City—  
War Problems Discussed and Decided Stand Taken—Mr.  
Hartley Dewart's Conclusive Reply to Solicitor-General  
Meighen on the Nickel Question.**

Following the lead of the Liberals of Eastern Ontario who met in conference at Ottawa last week to discuss principles of Liberal policy and the national problems of the present day which are looming up in the after-war period of readjustment the Liberals of Central Ontario Ridings from Frontenac to Durham held an equally successful and enthusiastic conference here yesterday. There were some three hundred delegates in attendance from the Ridings of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward, East and West Hastings, Northumberland, Durham and the City of Kingston. The afternoon session held in the City Hall was marked by a series of spirited speeches from representative delegates and the main subjects of consideration were epitomized in a half dozen resolutions unanimously carried.

## Out of Town Delegates

There was a large representation of out of town delegates. Among those who were noticed in the audience were J. Nelson Stone, Norham, president of the Northumberland Liberal Association; Geo. Carlaw, Warkworth, J. B. McColl, ex-M.P.P., Cobourg; E. A. Duncan, Mayor of Cobourg; Dr. G. M. Ferris and T. C. Richardson, Newcastle; T. L. Webb, Colborne; Dr. J. E. Eilbeck, and Fred Lovekin, Newcastle; Thos. S. Holgate and H. J. Knight of Bowmanville; Dr. A. W. Richardson, Mayor of Kingston, Leman Guild, president of the Whig Pub. Co., of Kingston; Dr. J. P. Sinclair, Gahanogue; Geo. A. Gillespie, M.P.P., Peterborough; T. S. Wartman, B. F. Day, W. T. Waller, E. J. Pollard, S. Woods, C. Woods, W. L. Bogart, M. S. Madole and J. R. Madden, Napanee; E. W. Grange, Ottawa, Sidney, Denys, Odessa, F. E. Jackson, Allen Macdonald and C. Haight, Bloomfield, W. T. Giles, Nelson Parliament, M.P.P., and Cyrus Giles, Ameliasburg, E. R. Walt, Concession, D. A. Lambert, of Northport, H. H. Horsey, R. G. Gilbert, B. S. Gilbert, Phil. Haight, E. M. Ostrander, E. L. Wood, Kenneth Warren, W. V. Pettit, A. M. Platt, and M. R. Allison, Picton; A. G. Robinson, Rosemore; Jas. R. Stainton, F. Brennan, A. J. Rendall and Patrick Slavin, Deseronto; A. C. Duford, D. F. Ashley, Jno. E. Sprague and J. W. Haight, Foxboro; A. R. Reid, Chas. Mitz and Wm. Shaw, Vanhoose; Thad. W. Davis, W. H. Moorman, W. D. Reid and N. Vermilyea, Thurlow; E. C. Tufts, Wm. Cross, and A. H. Watson, Madoc; Jno. A. Stewart, Bouché.

U. A. Hubbell and Wm. Dettlor, Bancroft; F. B. Spencer, R. B. McMullen and J. G. Sills, Halloway; J. V. Walsh, Marysville; Mr. Milligan, Melrose; O. White and Wm. Corrigan, Shannonville; D. Poucher and D. M. Poucher, Plainfield; J. L. Newton, Tweed; Jas. H. Clure, Chapman; Peter McLaren, Melrose, R. McLaren, Corbyville; A. B. Collins, Tweed; Albro N. Sprague, A. M. Lawrence, E. T. Marsh, Trenton; E. L. Reid, Bancroft; H. Morrison, G. G. Thrasher, Lindsay Melkijohn, and W. H. Heath, Stirling, Philip McConnell, of Springbrook; O. B. Tolton, and Harry W. Jones, Eldorado; T. C. Snarr, J. U. Heath, W. Harlow, C. A. Bodell, and Blake Faulkner, Harold, Chas. H. Vandewater, Chatterton; Dr. J. U. Simmons, E. R. Young, S. Nicolson, Ross Nicolson, and John L. Marshall, Nicolson and very many others as well as a most representative gathering of the leading Liberals of Belleville.

It was significant of the spirit of party unity and of the desire of Liberalism to take its full share in the responsibility of solving the many and complex questions of war conditions that intelligent consideration was given to the policies of constructive legislation which have already been enunciated by the party leaders, that enthusiastic confidence was voiced in these leaders and that a firm resolution was expressed to vigorously and confidentially prepare for the coming responsibilities of office both in the Provincial and federal arenas. The conference was held under the auspices of the Hastings Reform Club and its success was largely due to energy and enthusiasm of the chairman of the committee, Mr. F. E. O'Flynn and his associates. At the opening of the conference the Hon. Geo. P. Graham was voted to the chair and Mr. Nelson Parliament, M.P.P. was made vice-chairman.

## Hon. Geo. P. Graham

Mr. Graham in giving the keynote to the conference declared that Liberals all over the country had shown since the war began that they were willing to assume their full duty in regard to the war and were now also preparing in every legitimate way to carry out their responsibilities and opportunities in setting things right at a home so that the war could be prosecuted to the very best advantage and the national welfare secured both for the present and in the critical years to come. If an election came he said the Conservatives might

depend on the fact that the Liberal party would be ready for any emergency.

Vice-chairman Parliament emphasized the fact that the motto of the Liberal Club Federation was "Service" and the present conference was designed not merely for party purposes but rather with the larger idea of national service in mind.

## RESOLUTIONS

The first resolution passed at the conference was one declaring "continued fidelity to and confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier coupled with a declaration of belief that when an appeal is made to the country he will again become Prime Minister. In moving the resolution Mayor Richardson of Kingston in an apt and thoughtful speech alluded to the steadfast purpose, tolerant spirit, courage, and clear and wide vision which had made Sir Wilfrid by all odds the outstanding statesman of the Dominion. He protested vigorously against the misrepresentations which had been made in some sections of Ontario against Sir Wilfrid's attitude in matters of race or creed. He declared that the Protestant and English-speaking section of Canada, if they read Canadian history aright and rightly understood his consistent aim throughout, could trust him fully both as a loyal citizen of the Empire and as a statesman who had always believed and had always acted on principle that in matters of national policy there should be no church or racial domination.

A similar resolution expressing appreciation of the leadership of Mr. W. R. Rowell in Provincial affairs was moved by Mr. M. S. Madole of Napanee and Mr. Peter McLaren, reeve of Tyendinaga.

A resolution moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by E. T. Marsh of Trenton placed on record the emphatic condemnation of the conference of the conduct of Sir Robert Borden in retaining as his colleagues in the government particularly in this time of stress and war, members of the Nationalist party who were elected on the platform of "No aid to Great Britain" and whose slogan in the campaign of 1911 was "We owe nothing to England."

A further resolution provided for the formation of a Central Ontario Organizing Association to work in co-operation with the Central Provincial and Federal Party Organizations in co-ordinating and promoting Liberal interests. Mr. Nelson Parliament was appointed convener of the Central Ontario Committee.

## Determined to Prosecute the War

The following resolution was carried amidst great enthusiasm: "That this Conference of Liberals representing the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Hastings, Prince Edward, and Durham and Northumberland and the Cities of Kingston and Belleville assembled at the City Hall, Belleville, Wednesday, December 6th, 1916, placed on record its continued admiration and fidelity to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates their approval of his loyal support of the Government in all proper steps in connection with the present contest, and their congratulations that he has passed his seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey, and their hope that the closing of his life may be filled with happiness by the victory of our arms abroad, and the passing of the control of this great Dominion into the hands of the great Liberal party."

## Mr. Hartley Dewart, M.P.P.

The outstanding feature of the afternoon session was a comprehensive review of the Nickel situation and a complete exposure of the specious line of defence of Solicitor-General Meighen in his recent speech at Toronto. A fuller report of Mr. Dewart's great address will appear in tomorrow's "Ontario."

## HIGH COURT SITTINGS

Hanley and McCormick, executors late Bridget Culhane, vs. Conway and Bank of Montreal. Consent minutes of judgment confirming settlement of this action between parties were put in before Mr. Justice Sutherland at the High Court here. The defendant, Mary Conway, to be paid \$900, the plaintiffs paying the costs of the Bank of Montreal, other parties to pay their own costs and the balance of the fund to be paid to plaintiffs. Note of B. Conway to be surrendered by plaintiffs. E. J. Butler solicitor for plaintiffs; W. N. Ponton, K.C., solicitor for Mary Conway, W. B. Northrup, K.C., solicitor for Bank of Montreal.

## MR. DEWART'S CRUSHING REPLY

(Continued from page 10)

It is interesting to know what Mr. Hughes said in his presence with reference to this firm of Merton & Company and the whole German situation. I make no apology for quoting his pregnant words in their entirety from the Empire Review, April, 1916:

"Well, when war broke out and Australia, in common with the rest of the Empire, rallied to the standard, it was found that the great metal industry of Australia, the source to which the Empire might have looked for a supply adequate even for its abnormal needs, was so completely dominated by German capital and German influence that the choice seemed to be only between complete paralysis of the industry, shutting down the mines, the throwing out of employment of thousands of workmen, or supplying these metals to those agencies of Germany through whom the Australian companies were permitted by their contracts to sell their products, and through whom alone Britain could buy them."

## Enemy Firms in London!

"The German Agencies of whom I speak were not situated in Germany but in London! They were legally considered—British firms. Under the cloak of naturalization our enemies were within the very heart of our citadel. For it is literally true, although it has been questioned, that for nearly twelve months after we were at war with Germany, the British Government could only buy Australian lead—or any other—from a German firm! It may be said that it was an English firm. Legally it was and is so in essence it was German. It was a tentacle of that great German metal octopus that, with its heart at Frankfurt-on-Main—the headquarters of the Merton group—had got the earth in its grip. I am not concerned with the precise nature of the relations between the heart of the Frankfurt octopus and its London tentacles. They are immaterial. I am not concerned with appearance but with reality."

## The Way of the Serpent.

"That in the great German commercial and industrial conquest of the earth the way of the German was that of the serpent and the dove. I know very well they cooed soothingly, but wormed themselves into the heart of our citizens. They always assumed the nationality of the country they intended to despoil and betray. It was such a ridiculously easy thing to impose upon the generous hospitality which we extended to all the nations of the earth. In England, the Frankfurt group is represented by an 'English' firm; in the United States the octopus calls itself the American Metal Company; in Africa, the African Metal Company; and in Australia the Australian Metal Company. What is in a name? Nothing! Or in an oath? Nothing. They took the name best suited to serve their purpose and the oath of naturalization as lightly as other men say 'Goodbye.' The certificate of naturalization was to them a scrap of paper."

## Supplying Ammunition to the Germans.

"I have mentioned lead and zinc but only because they are typical. When war broke out German influence controlled all copper interests: it owned or controlled the smelter works in Great Britain. And this German taint ran like a cancer throughout the fair body of British trade and commerce. And it was daily spreading. What an intolerable insult to our pride as British citizens it was and is; that Germany should have such a hold over our trade, that we should have actually been compelled to buy the raw material for munitions from German agencies at prices practically fixed by them; and that we should have had to pay \$90 to \$100 for spelter in America while Germany was able to get it at \$30. And this spelter which she got at \$30 was largely from Australian ores. To kill Englishmen and Australians too, with ammunition made from Australian ores and at the same time to compel the British Government to buy its ammunition through German agencies at three times the normal price was admittedly a master-stroke."

## What Are We Going to Do About It?

Well, what are we going to do about it? To bewail the past is futile, but not to learn wisdom from the past is criminal.

The Premier of Australia had a right to speak. He had acted and acted promptly. He had shown Great Britain, Premier Borden, zinc for Imperial use. But we did nothing with the vastly more important Nickel that we should have had Bonar Law who had presided with controlled in Canada. In Australia, out comment, when Premier Hughes

delivered his telling speech in London last spring. Let Sir Robert Borden take such comfort from the reply as he can. This is what Bonar Law now says on the 29th of November:

"Mertons have eliminated the enemy holding in the Company with the approval of the Board of Trade. His Majesty's Government therefore utilized the services of this Company, which have assisted in securing Government control of metals. Such control, owing to pre-war conditions, could hardly have been secured without their help."

(Signed) "Bonar Law."

"Such control," "owing to pre-war conditions," "could hardly have been secured, without their help." But the Gordian knot could and should have been cut here in Canada, for we are in control of the situation. It was to Canada that Great Britain looked. Of course our "arrangements" were approved. So were those that Australia adopted. But why did Canada not submit the same measures for adoption that Australia did? The way was made clear for us by Australia. Only a political reason can possibly account for Canadian impotence and inactivity.

There are others besides the Premier of Australia who will not tolerate the German Merton Firm, or any other enemy firm with an English veneer. Men in public life in England speak out. Criticism is not considered a badge of disloyalty there. Men do not hang on to the Government benches and defy public opinion. The present political crisis there is due to insistence that things shall be done right. It is not Liberal Leaders such as political flag-wavers like Mr. McNaught profess to despise, but the ultra Unionists who are speaking out there, as we are speaking out here.

## The Unseen Hand of the Hun

Sir Edward Carson is the spokesman. I was pleased to find an antidote to the Toronto Star's editorial twaddle on the Nickel question, in its noon edition of Wednesday, Nov. 29, and sorry to find that it was cut out of the later editions the same day. It was the report of Sir Edward Carson's speech in November in the British House of Commons when he exposed the "Unseen hand of the Hun." He spoke in the debate on the bill for the registration of business names. After two years and four months of war this Bill was introduced to compel persons trading in Britain to disclose their real names. It was a measure to assist loyal traders. In discussing our faulty naturalization laws Sir Edward Carson said:

"There has been an outcry in this country ever since the war broke out that something ought to be done to eliminate German influence from trade, commerce, and finance, which they had set up not only here but also in every other country not merely for the purposes of trade war but as part of the general war they were going to wage. The great complaint against the Government is that up to this they have really done nothing. The whole of this trouble will be found to arise from the little attention we have given to our naturalization laws. I am perfectly certain that one of the great difficulties in trading enemy influence in this country has been that we made no provision for dealing when the war broke out, with those on whom we had conferred the full benefits of British citizenship, although at the time their sympathies might be, and probably would be, with the enemy who were trying to overthrow the British Empire."

## A Shallow German Artifice.

A question was raised in the House of Commons on November 8th, 1916, regarding the status of the Merton Company, "with its two naturalized British subjects" who had changed their names from Langebach and Schwartz to Lang and Station. The London Daily Mail called for Premier Hughes' view and the reply came in a cable message from Sydney, N.S.W. The text is as follows:

"Sydney, Saturday, Nov. 11th.

"With reference to Mr. Pretyman's answer in the House of Commons on Tuesday regarding the application of Messrs. H. R. Merton & Company, Metal Brokers, for reinstatement on the ground that the German interest had been eliminated, Mr. Hughes, the Premier, says:

"Messrs. Langebach and Schwartz are still enemy subjects except for the cloak of naturalization. I do not hesitate to say that Merton's is an enemy firm, the naturalization being a shallow artifice deceiving nobody who is not anxious to be deceived. The Commonwealth Government refuses to recognize them."

"Mr. Hughes added that one condition of the zinc contract with Britain was that only British-born subjects should handle Australian metals and that therefore Merton's were clearly ineligible for reinstatement."

The inert Canadian Government must have learned that Australia would have no Merton dealings."

## A Poor Certificate.

So it was necessary to get a certificate of character for this firm in had acted promptly. He had shown Great Britain, Premier Borden, zinc for Imperial use. But we did nothing with the vastly more important Nickel that we should have had Bonar Law who had presided with controlled in Canada. In Australia, out comment, when Premier Hughes

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"There ought to have been a law—I do not understand why the Government did not include that in a Bill of this kind giving the Government power to review every certificate of naturalization which had been given in times of peace."

## Enemies of Britain

But he went further in discussing the laxity of the British Government in eliminating German and enemy influence. I commend his remarks to Sir Robert Borden and his apologists. "There is another matter—the question of allowing foreigners, whether they be enemies or neutrals, to usurp British titles so as to put a fraudulent pretence before the public. There are many instances in which companies call themselves 'British' and so on, and so on, and when you come to look into them there is nothing British about them, but that they are companies to promote German trade. Is not that a scandal?"

"There is a great deal of feeling about the laxity of the Government in eliminating German and enemy influence in this country. Let us not care about what was done in peace time. We have had our eyes opened now. Let us do what is necessary."

In the face of this mass of testimony Sir Robert Borden must stop apologizing for the Merton Firm with its international Nickel Alliance. It is not loyal enough for Australia. It bears the taint that Sir Edward Carson has exposed. "The unseen hand of the Hun" is now made visible to the people of Canada. The defence must be abandoned.

## Unimpeachable Evidence

The clear evidence of the Franco-German Journal trading the nickel of the Deutschland's cargo to the International Nickel Company and to our mines at Sudbury stands unimpeached. Until they disprove or displace this testimony there can be and there will be no confidence placed in either the Borden-Cochrane or Hearst-Ferguson Governments in their alleged "control of the Nickel situation."

This is no alarmist cry for partisan effect or advantage. We owe a duty to the men at the front. While they are fighting our battles at the front we can at least protect their interests here. They will have a right to demand from us an account of our stewardship when they return. It is not even now too late to make satisfactory amends for past mistakes. As Sir Edward Carson says: "We have had our eyes opened now. Let us do what is necessary."

It is a paraphrase of Premier Hughes' remark: "To bewail the past is futile—but not to learn wisdom from the past is criminal."

## KNEE DISLOCATED

Artilleryman of 2nd Battery is in Hospital.

Word was received in the city yesterday by Mr. William H. Bowen, of Brasse street, that Clarence H. Bowen, No. 40, 365 with the 2nd Battery C Co., C.F.A. was in the First General Hospital B. Rache with dislocated knee.

## PARISH GUILD SALE

At Christ Church parish hall on Wednesday afternoon and evening the annual parish guild December sale was held with very successful results. The attendance was large and the sales were excellent. The hall was decorated in green and red, forming a very happy combination. The centre of the hall was laid out as one large booth in which were offered fancy work, candles and so forth. Homemade cookies were dispensed at one booth and another section was devoted to a grab booth. Tea was served in a beautifully decorated tearoom. In the evening a short program was given by the following: Miss LaVoie, Miss Ponton, songs; Miss McPherson, Miss White, readings; Mrs. (Col) Campbell, piano numbers. The ladies are to be commended for their energy in the successful conduct of the affair.

## A POLICE BAIL

Chief Newton has received from his old friend Chief Wm. Weir of Spokane, a former Belleville boy, a program of the 5th annual banquet of the Police Department of that city. The Spokane police have their own band.

## A STRAY DOG

A small young dog apparently of mixed bull terrier and black and tan breed has been brought to the police station. It had been hanging around a residence.

## CARLISLE vs. WHITE

Mr. Alfred Carlisle of this city, who brought a suit in the Supreme Court here against the executor of his deceased brother's estate for \$300 under his brother's will and for a home or its value under another agreement was awarded \$300 and \$60 (for the horse). Each party to pay costs.

## KHAKI CLUB

A very pleasant programme was given at the Khaki Club on Wednesday evening. The music was in charge of Miss M. Stork, Miss Edna Wallace, Miss G. Price, Miss May Wallace gave clever readings. A number of selections were given by members of the battalion which were greatly appreciated by all present.

The canteen was looked after by Mrs. MacColl, assisted by Miss Frazer and Miss H. Frazer.

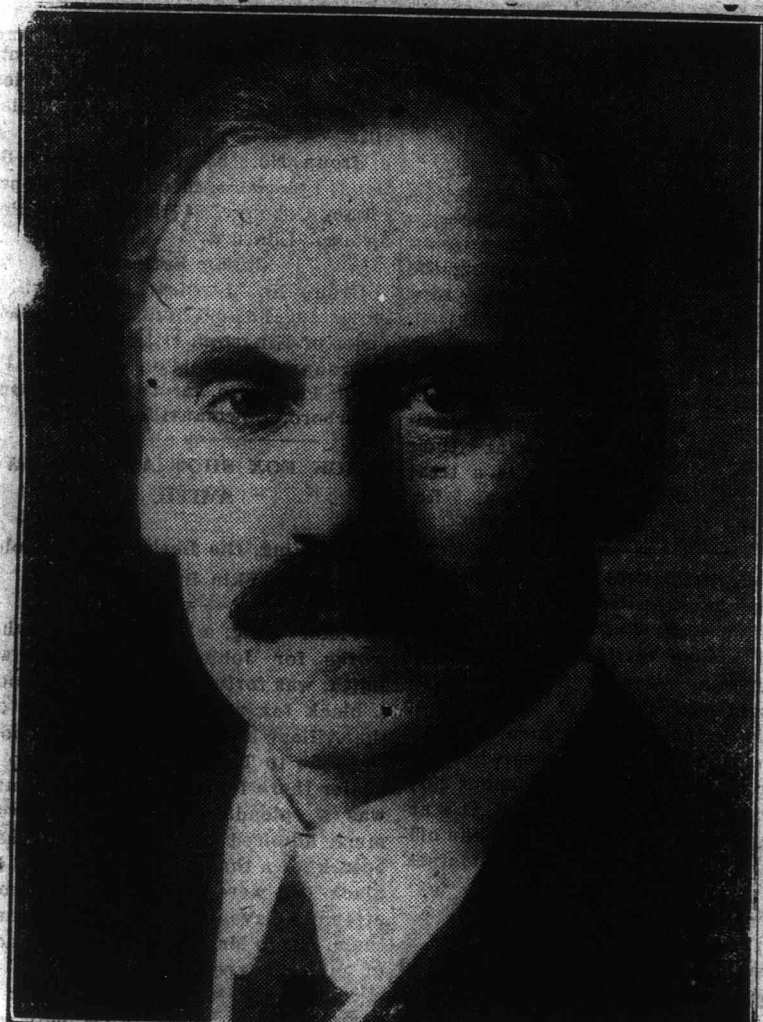
In spite of other attractions there was a good attendance.

## LAD TO REST

The funeral of the late Mrs. W. H. Buckley took place on Thursday afternoon from her late residence 130 Church street, to St. Thomas' church. Venerable Archdeacon Beamish conducting the service. Interment was in Belleville Cemetery. The bearers being Messrs. Vanorman, Barnhart, Carson, Grandall, Barnhart and Weir.

## FAREWELL TO LT. PONTON

Belleville Lodge No. 123 A.F. & A.M. last evening bade farewell to Lieut. Gerald Ponton, tunnelling officer, Royal Canadian Engineers, who is leaving shortly for overseas. A very fine address was given by W. Bro. Shaw, Belfast, now inspector of munitions, representing the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Among other speakers were R.W. Bro. W. N. Ponton and W. Bro. J. W. Johnson M.P.P.



N. W. ROWELL, K.C., M.P.P.

The Popular and Outstanding Leader of the Liberal Opposition in the Province of Ontario, Mr. Rowell's Patriotic Addresses at Griffin's Opera House and at the Banquet at Hotel Quinte Wed. Night Were the Finest Expressions of War-Time Eloquence That Have Been Heard in the City Since the Commencement of Hostilities.