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**Joint Political Meeting.**

The Masonic Hall was well filled on  
Thursday evening when a joint meet-  
ing was held by Mr. Arch. Campbell  
and Mr. N. W. Rowell, the Liberal  
candidates for West and East York  
respectively. The hall was prettily  
decorated and draped with red, white  
and blue bunting, Union Jacks and  
Canadian flags, pictures and appro-  
priate mottoes. Among the engrav-  
ings which decorated the walls and  
platform were the Queen, Hon. W. E.  
Gladstone, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and  
Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, and stretched  
across the whole length of the plat-  
form was Sir Wilfrid Laurier's favor-  
ite motto, "The Deeds that I give  
unto you is Unity, Peace Friendship  
and Fraternity."

The chair was occupied by Mr.  
Andrew Newton, President of the  
local Association, and the speakers of  
the evening were the two candidates  
and Mr. Edwin Bell, a young barrister  
of Chatham, the former home of Mr.  
Campbell. Mr. Bell was the first  
speaker. He briefly referred to the  
good work done by Mr. Arch. Camp-  
bell in the riding of West Kent, which  
he redeemed from the Conservatives  
and held for fourteen years until he  
resigned a few weeks ago to contest  
the constituency of West York, where  
his present home and business are.  
Mr. Bell contended that the late Con-  
servative Government never gave  
Kent justice simply because that rid-  
ing returned a Liberal election after  
election. He showed that the increase  
in the national debt had been trifling  
during the past four years as compar-  
ed with the increase during the eight-  
een years the Conservatives were in  
power. At the opening Mr. Bell com-  
plimented the meeting on the presence  
of so many ladies, and concluded a  
neat speech by recommending the  
electors present to cast their votes on  
the 7th of November for Messrs. Camp-  
bell or Rowell, who were supporting  
one of the cleanest and ablest Govern-  
ments that ever ruled.

The chairman extended an invita-  
tion to Hon. N. C. Wallace, Mr. W. F.  
Maclean or their representatives to  
take the platform, saying that ample  
time would be given them to address  
the meeting. As no person responded,  
the chairman called upon Mr. N. W.  
Rowell, who gave an able and eloquent  
address. After referring to some per-  
sonal allusions made by his opponent,  
Mr. Maclean, relative to himself, he  
expressed regret that there had been  
seemingly corrupt work in some of  
the elections where Liberals were con-  
cerned, instancing Brockville and  
West Elgin. He reminded his hear-  
ers, however, that his opponents were  
saying nothing of the wholesale bribe-  
ry in many constituencies such as  
South Ontario, where one Smith, a  
Tory ex-M. P., admitted before Judges  
Osler and Ferguson that he had spent  
\$1000 in buying votes during Calder's  
election. In this case Judge Ferguson  
said: "I have nothing to say to  
Smith, but that his evidence is the  
most glaring piece of corruption I ever  
heard." Mr. Rowell defended the  
Laurier Government's position with  
respect to the plebiscite, saying that  
Mr. Clarke Wallace and others were  
representing that the temperance peo-  
ple had been deceived. He showed  
plainly by speeches of Mr. Wallace,  
Mr. Foster, Mr. Laurier and others,  
that there was no deception, as no  
promise of prohibition had been made,  
even if a majority of the vote polled  
were in favor of it. Mr. Rowell quoted  
from Hansard the following discus-  
sion in Parliament before the vote  
was taken:

"Mr. Foster.—For the sake of clear-  
ness we want to know just where we  
stand. The hon. gentleman has said  
that whatever the will of the people is  
he will carry it out. That is one ver-  
sion. I want to ask my hon. friend  
(Mr. Laurier) if that means that if  
there is an affirmative vote for the  
principle, my hon. friend will  
straightway, at the next session of  
Parliament, we will say, introduce a  
bill to carry out the will of the peo-  
ple?"

"The Prime Minister.—It means  
nothing of the kind. It means that  
the Government when they have the  
will of the people before them, will  
have to take such steps as will give  
effect to the will of the people. There  
is the question of revenue to be con-  
sidered; there is also the question of  
compensation to be considered; there  
are different questions which will have  
to be considered."

"Mr. Casey.—Then I think if the  
question goes in this abstract form, it  
must certainly be distinctly under-  
stood by those who agree to the pas-  
sage of this bill, that a mere vote of a  
majority of those who attend the polls  
on that occasion shall not bind this  
House. My hon. friend from York  
(Mr. Foster) has been trying to get a  
pledge from the Government. Well,  
it is quite open to the Government to  
pledge itself, and to say it will intro-  
duce the bill if such and such a thing  
happens. But nobody can expect,  
not even the apostle of the prohibition-  
ists can expect the House to pledge

themselves and to say that they will  
accept that verdict as conclusive on  
an abstract question like this, which  
takes no account of the difficulties and  
dangers surrounding it, and that they  
will bind themselves to pass such a  
prohibitory law as may be introduced.  
I certainly shall not forswear my in-  
dependence and responsibility to that  
extent."

"Mr. Wallace.—The people will  
come to the conclusion that the Gov-  
ernment on this question are lacking  
in sincerity, that they are trying by  
this means to get rid of a very perplex-  
ing and disagreeable question, that  
they have placed themselves on record  
on this matter in Parliament and in  
their conventions by the statements of  
the Premier and other leading mem-  
bers of the Government, and now  
come to Parliament to supplement  
their actions, and at the same time  
they do not pledge themselves, even if  
a majority of the electors vote in favor  
of prohibition, to do more than con-  
sider the next step to be taken, if any  
advance is to be made. Parliament  
should be told definitely what the  
Government propose to do, and to  
that end a suitable clause should be  
inserted in the bill."

The explanation showed conclusively  
that the only promise made was to  
take a vote, leaving Parliament per-  
fectly free to take such course, after  
the plebiscite, as might be deemed  
best in the interest of the country.

Another pledge redeemed was in the  
settlement of the Manitoba School  
Question. This question involving  
race and religion had been keeping the  
country in a turmoil for years. Sir  
Wilfrid gave a pledge that if entrusted  
with power he would settle it in  
less than six months, and he was as  
good as his word. Would you, said  
the speaker, displace the man who  
settled this great question, by Sir  
Charles Tupper, who promised remedial  
legislation if returned to power.  
The Laurier Government gave to Brit-  
ain a preferential tariff in Canadian  
markets, and this paved the way to  
the denunciation of the German  
and Belgian treaties, although Con-  
servative Governments had failed in  
their attempts. Mr. Maclean and Mr.  
Wallace would repeal the preference,  
unless Britain would grant Canada a  
preference over foreign countries.  
Mr. Rowell touched on most of the  
subjects before the people, and saying  
that the Opposition have one policy  
for Quebec, and another policy for  
Ontario. Mr. Laurier was censured  
in Quebec for sending the contingent  
to South Africa in too great a hurry,  
and in Ontario he was censured for  
not sending it soon enough. He con-  
cluded an eloquent speech amid cheers.

Mr. Arch. Campbell then took the  
floor and made a capital speech. He  
contended that Mr. Wallace was in-  
consistent. Four years ago he worked  
hard to hurl Sir Charles Tupper from  
power, and now he was endeavoring  
to restore him. Mr. Campbell spoke  
of the revision of the tariff, showing  
where reductions had been made,  
which greatly benefitted the Canadian  
consumer. He gave a history of the  
Drummond County Railroad, justifying  
the Government in building it,  
and showed that it was a paying in-  
vestment. He also dealt with the  
building of the Crow's Nest Pass Rail-  
way in a satisfactory manner, and  
stated that notwithstanding large  
sums of money expended, including  
\$2,000,000 for sending the contingents  
to South Africa, the Government had  
reduced the national debt \$800,000  
during the past year. There was rea-  
son to believe that the national debt  
would be reduced \$3,000,000 during  
the next year. The Government had  
been blamed by their opponents for not  
reducing the annual expenditure, al-  
though they were forced to carry out  
certain contracts entered into by the  
former Government, including \$13,-  
000,000 for deepening the St. Lawrence  
and Trent Canals. The Yukon Rail-  
way would have been a boon to the  
country had the bill not been thrown  
out by the Senate. It is true that had  
the road been built the contractors,  
McKenzie & Mann, would have received  
a large tract of land, but it would  
not have cost the country a cent of  
money, and the Government were re-  
serving alternate sections. Speaking  
of the transportation problem Mr.  
Campbell dwelt at considerable length  
of a railway, 70 miles in length, pro-  
posed to be built between Toronto and  
Collingwood. The proposal was to  
have seven large steamers on the  
lakes, wheat and other produce would  
be brought down from Northern Ont-  
ario and the North West and trans-  
hipped to Liverpool, thereby shorten-  
ing the trip about 860 miles, and the  
slow voyage through the Detroit  
river, St. Clair river, Welland canal,  
etc., would be avoided. This road  
would divert 1,000,000 bushels a year  
from the New York route to the St.  
Lawrence river. Mr. Wallace opposed  
this bill, which was finally thrown  
out by the Senate. Mr. Campbell and  
his colleagues only asked for a charter  
to build the road. He was a provi-  
sional director, but did not have a dol-  
lar in it. He was interested in such a

road as it would lower the rates five  
cents a hundred, and would help his  
milling business in Toronto Junction  
as well as the whole county of York.  
If returned to Parliament he would re-  
introduce the bill the first day the  
House was opened. He seemed to be  
in touch with the people in the build-  
ing of this Canada National Railway  
which is greatly needed. Before closing  
Mr. Campbell asked the hearty  
support of the electors on the 7th of  
November.

The meeting closed with cheers for  
the Queen, Mr. Campbell and Mr.  
Rowell.

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