

# The Grey Review.

VOL. XIX.—NO. 9.

DURHAM, THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1897.

WHOLE NO. 970.

## The CASH System

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Durham, Aug. 9th, '96.

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## ECHOES OF THE CONVENTION.

### What was Said and Done by Loyal Grits.

Last week's REVIEW must suffice for the general run of the Convention. We give below the chief speeches delivered, more or less fully and these will show that our loyal men are no mean students of political affairs nor wanting in their loyalty to principles of government which go to make up the statesman.

Dr. Mearns was chosen to present the resolution of confidence, and referring to recent victories asked why victory was so long in coming. He showed the adverse influence against which the fight was carried on, and instituted a parallel between the recent struggle, and the long struggle of a previous generation to secure representation by population. The political topography of the country had been hewed and carved to serve partisan ends, and the influence of large corporations and combines used to coerce masses of voters.

He thought it no wonder that honest Conservatives felt ashamed of their party and went, if at all, unwillingly to the polls. He blamed no man for being a Conservative; men were born with Conservative as well as with Reform tendencies party government was a necessity, but a party that had governed as the Conservative party had done prior to its defeat was not to be tolerated.

Speaking of Provincial affairs he thought it remarkable that Sir Oliver Mowat had held the reigns of Government so long. Since the time of Sir Oliver's first entering into power England has had eight Governments, Quebec, eleven; British Columbia, eleven; the other Provinces, from five to eight; there had been five Governors and five Lieutenant Governors and six Presidents in the United States. These statistics proved conclusively that Sir Oliver Mowat had been a man of ability, honor and honesty. A financial comparison of Ontario and Quebec showed that while Quebec was in debt \$22,000,000, Ontario had money out at interest and was bringing the Province an income.

Under Sir Oliver the population had increased 600,000, and the area of the Province had been doubled. The attendance at Public and High Schools had increased to a great extent, and Asylums and Reformatories had been built and equipped in accordance with the needs of the Province.

MR. G. MCKECHNIE

Had much pleasure in meeting so many old Reformers after not having met as a body for over a year. Since that time changes had come about. This riding as well as the Dominion of Canada had declared for Reform. He referred particularly to the changes that had taken place in Provincial Politics. Mr. Balfour had been taken into the Cabinet. He was one of the best men throughout the Province of Ontario. With all due respect to the members of the legal fraternity, Mr. McKechnie would accept Balfour's opinion on Municipal Law in preference to any legal gentlemen in the Province. It was evident that the Government had largely similar feelings towards him that he should be appointed as one of the members of the Government when a vacancy had occurred. However, the duties were too great for a man of so weak a physical frame, and owing to this he soon succumbed. This had been a great loss to the Province. Speaking of Mr. Davies he thought the people of the Province would be called upon at some future time to exhibit a spirit of confidence in Davies. He was a man well up in the confidence of the administration. On many occasions he had gone about from place to place advocating the principles that had been advocated in this riding. He had always been an active man and as a reward for his labor he had been given a Portfolio in the present Government at Toronto.

As far as the translation of Sir Oliver Mowat to Ottawa was concerned he thought the councillors Sir Oliver had left were thoroughly capable of administering the affairs of the province so as to secure the confidence of the people, and the voters of the country might have the fullest confidence in re-electing their vote in favor of Mr. Hardy.

DR. LANDERKIN

"MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I am glad to see so many here this stormy day. I have not had an opportunity of meeting the Reform Association of South Grey since the election on the 23rd of June last, consequently I am glad to meet to-day so many old Reformers who have been stalwarts in the good cause for the last 25 years I have been a Candidate. Time has dealt gently with the old men. I think an approving conscience has helped their looks. I also see many young men here that I did not know at that time, but they also are ready to be with us, I hope, at the coming campaign, which will be in a year or two at the most. We had a

terrible fight at the last election. We had an adverse majority to fight of 855, you faced that majority, you overcame that majority and you won victory in spite of that majority on the evening of the 23rd June. It was not I who won the victory. You did the work, you fought the battle, you deserve the credit. Are you as good men now as you were then?"

Yes I think your are. This Riding will not rest till the Local Government is installed; the best Government that has ever been in Canada. No charges can be laid against Hardy's Government. Mr. Hardy is an able vigorous man, well qualified to succeed Sir Oliver Mowat, and he gave Ontario honest and clean Government for 24 years."

Speaking of the last Government at Ottawa he said that the people had begun to think that it was impossible to have honest Government, as in the past corruption and dishonesty had been the rule and honesty the exception. The last Government had acted as if they thought the public money was theirs to do as they pleased with. These men who had administered in the past had forgot that they were the stewards of the people. Not one dollar of the people's money should be misapplied. In the matter of receiving tenders for a contract he thought the Government of Wilfrid Laurier would act honestly and uprightly. The honest tenderer would get the job if he was reliable. There could be no departure from this rule. It was the law of the land and the law of the Liberal party. The Tories had piled up millions upon millions of a public debt that the young men in the room would never see wiped out. They stuffed every place in the public service whether their service was required or not.

Regarding the School question he said he thought Mr. Laurier showed that he had a grasp of public affairs, as he had settled in 6 months what the others had not been able to do in 6 years. They had kept the country in turmoil and unrest, set man against man and promise against promise. He had given as fair a settlement as it was possible for a Premier of Canada to give and had received the approbation of the Province of Manitoba.

The Tory leaders had been powerless to remove the Quarantine on Canadian cattle, but the new Minister of Agriculture went to Washington and as a result the Quarantine was abolished. All these results tended to justify the claim that the Laurier Government was a Government of business men. He trusted that the Government would repeal the Franchise Act. Tariff legislation would be enacted as it was laid down in the Platform of the Liberal party. The Doctor concluded by referring to the reception given Mr. O'Connor in June and expressed the thought that they did not make much out of it nor had they gained any votes out of it.

MR. H. P. O'CONNOR

Was well received. He was delighted to receive an invitation from the Secretary to be present at this meeting. Not exactly to make a speech because he knew that each and every man present was just as well acquainted with the questions as he could possibly be. Other speakers had expressed regret at the usage he had got here in June but he begged to assure the audience that he never spent a more enjoyable afternoon. There had been a great change since then. Then there was the warm sunshine and the bright sky but now the elements were against us. Then had been angry discord but now all were of one mind; but he would far rather have addressed that meeting than this one. There was something to nerve one. He referred to his first experiences as a political "student" of Dr. Landerkin, when he had gone out as "bottle-holder" along with David Jackson and Mr. McKechnie. In South Bruce they looked upon Dr. Landerkin as especially their member and when they wanted to know anything about the Government it was to Dr. Landerkin they went to make inquiries. When the Doctor's election had been announced on June 23rd the Reformers and even the very Conservatives of Walkerton had been pleased. For some reason or other everybody in that part of the country liked him and were glad to hear of his success. They knew of the villainous, the scandalous, the dastardly manner in which he had been used at the last election, and that was the reason that the Reformers of South Bruce, especially gloried in his election.

"This is not a meeting to select a candidate, but a meeting to carry an election, but a meeting to congratulate each other; as the man said when his wife killed the bear 'didn't we do it.' Well may we be pleased with ourselves

and with everybody else. When we recollect the defeat we suffered, the principles we advocated; when we recollect that our men stood steadfast and firm, ignoring defeat we may well be excused if we congratulate ourselves. What a satisfaction you can take to yourself when you think that right has triumphed? In the election of our friends by a large majority (for the majority is a large one) there is cause for much congratulation and self-satisfaction. The election of Wilfrid Laurier to the highest position in the land is a matter of no small importance and of no common occurrence. It is to see a man of alien race and alien religion to the majority of the electors at the head of affairs; that that man should hold the position he does in this Dominion, is evidence to the whole world that the Canadian nation as a whole are no bigots and that they will judge a man upon his merits and on his merits alone. We have sounded the downfall of prejudice and have placed at our head a man a against whom the breath of scandal has never been uttered."

Referring to Sir Oliver Mowat he did not think he had been promoted to a higher sphere. That which came closest to the people was the higher sphere. Sir Oliver Mowat at Ottawa did not come in as close touch with the people as he did as Premier of Ontario and in that position he was not in so close touch with the people as the Reeve of the municipality. But whether Sir Oliver had been raised or lowered all could say that they had never had cause to blush for any act of his. As a member of the Legislature I was never asked to vote for any wrong doing of his, never asked to cover any offenses, or to put down scandals in any Act he called upon us to support. There we were allowed to vote as men, not to cover any wrongs or scandals, but to advance the interests of the people of the several ridings we had the honor to represent."

He advocated the thorough inspection of Voters' lists. That was where defeat as well as victory lay. With a particular attention to this victory was assured and if neglected it would mean at least an up hill fight.

After expressing sincere thanks for the attention of the audience and to Mr. Smith for his kind invitation he retired.

H. H. MILLER

Expressed pleasure at being present. He agreed with Mr. O'Connor that it would be sad indeed after fighting so many hard battles if old acquaintance should be forgot. In Dr. Landerkin, Mr. O'Connor and Mr. McKechnie we had men who were brilliant, eloquent and witty. In coming into the Hall he had endeavored to dodge the collection hat, but the first thing that was dabbled under his nose was the cap of Sir Colin McHardy, local minister of Marine and Fisheries.

He referred to the successful record of the Liberal party in South Grey and in this connection said no name would be longer cherished than that of Dr. Landerkin.

Mr. O'Connor's reception last June was a compliment to him, as if he had been an ordinary man and no, the mighty O'Connor, he would have been allowed to speak. The influence of his speech was justly feared by the opposition.

Speaking of national finances he compared the country to a joint stock company. The voters were the policy holders. All the difference in the world lay in the management at the head of the company. The Government were the Directors and according as they manage the affairs of this broad Dominion will there be prosperity or the reverse.

It took a great many years for the policy holders of Canada to realize that the affairs of the country were in bad hands, but on the 23rd of June the old board of Directors were voted out and honest substitutes elected.

He eulogized Premier Laurier, saying even Conservatives had confidence in him. The Minister of Agriculture and Postmaster General were men well adapted to fill their respective offices, and would as far as a cabinet could, bring success to the country.

He referred to the improved cattle trade as the direct result of a business minister, and looked for an improved Atlantic service and improved relations with the U. States, which would further benefit the country.

He expressed confidence in Mr. Hardy. He would be supported by 'Hardy' followers in Toronto and 'hardy' supporters in S. Grey. Reform patrons were not to be blamed for voting as they did at the last election, they thought to better themselves but they had found out their mistake. There was no government that would benefit the people like the old reliable Grit government, and these men, who, with honest intentions voted Patron, would come back and be better Reformers than ever.

MAYOR CALDER

Was called for, but said it was too late to make a speech. Notwithstanding the storm he thought the meeting was worth all the trouble taken to get to it. A great change has taken place for the Reform party in the last twelve months. Dr. Landerkin had been changed from an opponent to a supporter of the Government. While we should be glad for the change he

Cont. next on page 4.

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