

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 1858.

On Wednesday, as per notice, the Sheriff held his court for the nomination of candidates for the vacancy occasioned by the assumption of office and consequent resignation of Mr. Connell.

Mr. G. CONNELL, of Wakefield, nominated the Hon. Charles Connell. He said that (the electors) had often met together for the purpose of exercising that invaluable privilege which, under the constitution of Great Britain, they enjoyed, of electing representatives to serve in General Assembly; but that never had they met under such peculiar circumstances as on the present occasion.

Mr. Connell had been called upon to take the office, and he had responded to the call, and assumed the duties of that office,—thereby necessitating a resignation of his seat in the Assembly and a return to his constituents, in order by their votes to be maintained therein. He had the honor of nominating the Hon. Charles Connell, Postmaster General, as the most fit and proper person to represent the county.

It was necessary for them to consider and understand their position—what the result of Mr. Connell's election would be, and what his rejection. He had hoped that there would be no opposition, and regretted to learn that it was the intention of Mr. Harding to offer. The electors of Carleton must all admit the importance of having a representative in the Executive, as of course, no matter how well and ably they might be represented in the Assembly, they could not be in as good a position as they would were one of their members in the Government, by which they would enjoy the privilege of two representations,—their members in the Assembly to recommend; representative in the Government to assist in giving effect to such recommendation.

These were the points for his hearers to consider: it was not necessary for him then to go into Mr. Connell's past services; they must decide whether they could find a man, who, being elected, and taking only Mr. Connell's seat in the House, would be in a position to benefit the county as much as Mr. Connell could, holding his present position.

Mr. Stickey seconded the nomination, but forbore making any remarks then.

A. Kearney, Esq., nominated Mr. R. Harding, Esq., as the proper and most suitable person to represent the county. Mr. Estabrook seconded the nomination. Neither of these gentlemen making any remarks.

C. PERLEY, Esq., M.P.P., said it became his duty to make a few remarks. He had occurred entirely in the appointment of Mr. Connell, because he was fully aware that that gentleman possessed all the necessary ability, industry and perseverance to fill the office advantageously to the county and the Province, and likewise because he knew Mr. Connell was ambitious to secure the best interests of Carleton. There were two subjects, in which the Province was largely interested, shortly to be laid before the Government,—the proposed Inter-Colonial Railway and the Union of the Colonies; and this fact, with a due regard to the importance of the measures, should have a weighty influence in determining which of the two men now nominated should be selected to represent the county.

Mr. Connell was ambitious to secure the best interests of Carleton. There were two subjects, in which the Province was largely interested, shortly to be laid before the Government,—the proposed Inter-Colonial Railway and the Union of the Colonies; and this fact, with a due regard to the importance of the measures, should have a weighty influence in determining which of the two men now nominated should be selected to represent the county.

While he admitted that Mr. Harding had a perfect right to come out, he regretted that he had not chosen some other occasion.

He was glad Mr. Connell had accepted the office, and hoped that the electors would sustain him in the step, as they could not find a better man.

Mr. CONNELL.—Again, for the seventh time, I have the honor of appearing before you, my constituents, to seek an approval of my actions, and a renewal of your confidence; but this I consider more important than any former similar occasion. I am before you to-day as the Postmaster General of the Province, and I come to you, to whom I owe this and every other honor which I have ever obtained, in order that you may decide whether or not I should hold my present position. I have never before held any office of emolument; I have never sought for office, and had this office depended upon my seeking for it, I never would have had it; but being solicited by the Government to take it, I felt that in justice to you—waiving all personal feelings, which rendered such an office anything but desirable to me—it was my duty to accept it.

I have always considered the claims of my constituents of prior importance to my own convenience; and I have never shrunk from any duty laid upon me by those constituents. You remember when I was a member of the Legislative Council; in that position I might have remained, above and free from the turmoil and strife incident to membership in the Assembly, and might have by this time attained perhaps to the very office I now hold, without being individually responsible to you. But you asked me to resign. I did so; and you nobly responded on that occasion, one which I shall ever keep in grateful remembrance.

Gentlemen, my interests always have been identical with yours. Here in this country, almost within sight of where we stand, I had my birth, of poor parents—the son of a mechanic. By my own industry, and your noble support, I have attained to what I have.

It may be said, "Oh! that £600 a year; that is the great attraction in the office." But £600 a year has no charms for me. I could remain with my family, and in my own office, and make more than that attending to my own business. But in accepting this office it becomes necessary that I should neglect my own business in order properly to attend to its duties, and my intention is to endeavor so to fulfil these as not to bring dishonor or reproach upon my constituents.

It has been urged that the office of Postmaster General is not necessary. But, after a careful examination and consideration of the whole matter, I have become convinced that there exists an imperative necessity for such an office.

This department extends in its ramifications throughout the whole Province, embracing some 800 postmasters and way-offices, all drawing pay from the revenue, and requiring strict supervision. Then, again, there are continually arising necessities for changing old offices and establishing new ones, to meet the requirements of the different localities. These, added to the fact that there is at present an excess of expenditure over the receipts of the departments, amounting to upwards of £5000 a year, go to prove the desirableness of having an efficient chief to the department. Such is my opinion now; such it was when I moved the resolution in the Assembly to have the office established. I do not wish to shirk from the responsibility of the act in the opinion, in fact, as in every public act

of mine, I desire a free canvass by my constituents, only asking that they meet me face to face, candidly expressing my faults as becomes true friends—not going behind my back and whispering or insinuating slanders and falsehoods. For my faults I ask to be forgiven: for what I have done right I desire to receive credit.

It has often been said by my opponents that I have always been seeking office. But, gentlemen, had I desired it, I might long since, and at different periods, have taken a seat in different Governments, as well as offices, and I have refused because I held your interests as worthy the first consideration.

I have been told that a misrepresentation—so gross that I can hardly credit that there is any man so bold as to circulate it, or one so silly or ignorant as to believe it—has been spread through the county to the effect that if, in this election, I am defeated, my successor in the Assembly will take the office I now hold. I need scarcely repeat to an audience of your intelligence that such an idea is preposterous.

In connection with the office at the head of which I have been placed, many abuses have become notorious; manifest; and, should I be re-elected by you, my best attention shall be given to rectify the same. And in this connection I may say that my earliest endeavors will be directed to putting an end to the violation of the sanctity of the Lord's Day, so extensively encouraged under the present system. I do not conceive that it is right to waken or allow the officers of the postal department to perform that labor on the Sabbath which we would not allow our children, or would not want to do ourselves.

It is a desirous that the first order I sign as Postmaster General shall be to forbid post and way-offices keepers from delivering mails on Sundays, and no man thereafter found violating that order shall be continued in office. It is also my desire, and shall be my aim, to do away with the carrying of mails on Sunday; and if I succeed in accomplishing these two acts, I should then feel satisfied to retire from political life, drawing from a consideration of these in my retirement a consolation for all strife, abuse and disquietude which have marked my former life, and a satisfaction which would attend me to the grave.

As I have intimated before, I have accepted office mainly in accordance with the desires of my friends, and the favorable expressions of opinion by business men in St. John and elsewhere have largely assisted to induce me to adopt that course.

Mr. Connolly, in nominating me, referred to the necessity of this county having a proper representation in the Government, and he has not by any means overrated the fact. Heretofore, money passed from the people, through their representatives to the Government, since the surrender of the initiation of money grants, and all your members could do was to use their influence with the Government. If we were supporters of the Government, of course we stood, as you may readily understand, a better chance than if in opposition. But I need not tell you how much better still your position must necessarily be when you have a voice at the Executive Board, when, while as a sworn adviser of His Excellency, it will be my duty to do justice to all, I will still be in a position to have a watchful eye to the interests of my own country. When ever anything comes up before the Government affecting the interest of a county not represented, great injustice may, through ignorance, be done to that county.

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and towns; while at the same time it would so far meet the wishes of the different sections of the Province that it would form a bond of sympathy between them, and so produce the most desirable result. The Americans are now agitating a road, which will most assuredly be built, to connect Bangor directly with the River St. John, thus increasing the value of our farmer's property 100 per cent., and opening up to him the markets of all the Eastern States.

It is a fact that we have not begun to farm here yet. Undoubtedly lumbering has produced good and benefit to many of the inhabitants of this county. But we have come to a new time; we are entering upon a new era,—an era of railroads and of progress; and now our people are finding out that attention to the land, and the agricultural resources, will pay as well as lumbering.

Many falsehoods are being circulated with reference to the bill relating to Timber Berths. In Canada the law is that the first applicant obtains the permit permanently at the upset price; and such was the provision of the bill introduced by Mr. Mitchell last winter. Of consequence, with much of our business, and have large permits, engaged in the lumbering trade, will not apply for such a law it would be to take £500, and make £5000 of it—this I could do in three years in this county. On the other side of the lines, from the 25th of March the first applicant obtains the permit permanently at the upset price; and such was the provision of the bill introduced by Mr. Mitchell last winter.

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connection being then taken by the Government. Of much more importance than any other interest then at stake. He was not a party to any bargain made with Mr. Harding at the last election, and would not then listen to suggestions made him that he should buy that gentleman out. He had learned that a note given by J. T. Allan to Mr. Harding, as consideration for not coming out at last election, was now in suit, but he had known nothing further about it.

Mr. HARDING rose to explain. He could not recover from Mr. Connell the £350, because it was for property put into Mr. C's hands in order to keep it from those of a creditor of his (Mr. H.). He complained that the election had been hurried, and that he could not get it put off a week longer, as he desired.

The Sheriff declared this last statement of Mr. H.'s false, he had consulted Mr. H. as to the time for the election, and so (Mr. H.) had expressed himself as ready to give way.

Here the question was put to Mr. Harding whether, in the result of his being returned, he would support the present government, or oppose it? To this, Mr. Harding would not, as we understood him, give an explicit answer, merely stating that he always had been favorable to the present government.

Mr. Stickey was the next speaker, and in a lengthy and able speech he supported Mr. Connell and the government, exposing Mr. Harding's position as professing friendship for the government, and at the same time opposing it. We regret that we cannot, from want of space, give a report of Mr. Stickey's remarks, or of those by L. P. Fisher, Esq., who followed him. The latter expressed himself amazed and astounded at what he had heard from Mr. Harding, whose politics he might define as "a way, we trust, as will not impeach the intelligence and standing of the county, in the eyes of our neighbors. Remember you have not to decide between men, but between yourselves and the government, between yourselves and your own interests."

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