

# The Carleton Sentinel.

VOL. 59.—No. 1.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 1907.

WHOLE No. 3120

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## THE LIBERAL CONVENTION.

The Liberals of New Brunswick have every reason to feel proud of the splendid response to the call for a Provincial Convention, which met at St John on Thursday and Friday of last week. Thursday evening was devoted mainly to enrolment, after which about 150 delegates attended a banquet at the Union Club. A feature of the banquet was the great speech by Hon A G Blair in which he announced that he is heartily in accord with the party, and his services were at its disposal. From Carleton County F B Carvell M P, Hon W P Jones, N F Thorne, M Bohan, Matt Bohan, W B Nicholson, E R Squiers, Daniel Thompson, J S Leighton jr, Marcellus Ryan, John H Thompson, H V Dalling, Henry E Smith, J W Smalley, Major Good, W V Benn, C D Jordan and others were at the convention. Friday morning A B Copp was appointed Organizer for the province. The nominating committee selected the following officers for the Provincial Liberal Convention:— Pres, A O Skinner, St John. 1st Vice-Pres, O Turgeon M P, Bathurst. 2nd Vice-Pres, A Gibson jr, Marysville.

Sec, R E Armstrong, St Andrews. Treas, C J Osman, Hillsboro, and a member of the Executive for each county, Hon W P Jones being selected for Carleton.

The principal topic Friday afternoon was the St John Valley Route. We give below a synopsis of the debate, from *The Sun*.

THE VALLEY ROUTE.

The following resolution was moved by James E Porter, ex-M P P (Victoria) and seconded by Alex. Gibson, jr.

"Resolved, that it would be in the best interests of the people of this province to have the G T P built from Edmundston down through the Valley of the St John River to Fredericton and thence to Chipman."

Hon Mr Emmerson said that he did not think that this Liberal convention, gathered as it is from every section of the province, should embarrass its leader in his great work. It might be that in the revolution of events the adoption of this resolution now would place Sir Wilfrid in a very embarrassing situation.

In so far as the different routes are concerned he himself was in no way allied to one or the other. He was not opposed to the sentiment of the resolution but to it being introduced at this time.

The government has decided to abide by the findings of its engineers and it might of course happen that the most direct way would be found not by the route outlined, but by another way and the convention would be on record as thinking differently from its leader.

"It is recognized that we must have the best route through the province. This route we or the government itself are not yet in a position to determine. The members for Nova Scotia have agreed to await the report of independent men and it behooves New Brunswick to do the same.

"I therefore think that we would be premature in adopting the resolution of my friend from the river county of Victoria.

"Let us first have the information and the knowledge. Should it come to pass that the government led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier would find itself unable to adopt the route favored by this resolution what position would you have placed yourself in? Do you want it to appear that you have lack of confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier?"

"I know as reasonable Liberals that you would not want to do so and let me tell you this that if another route should be adopted the port of St John would not suffer as a consequence. I think that this convention from the enthusiasm which it has shown would prefer that this resolution should be dropped."

F. B. CARVELL, M. P.

F B Carvell, M P—"This is a matter on which I feel so strongly that whether the motion is withdrawn or not, I can not miss the opportunity to express my opinion.

"An evening paper yesterday stated that this matter was to come up this evening, and that I was behind the resolution. Let me tell you, however, that I had nothing to do with it and did not know that it was going to be introduced.

"But now that the matter has been brought forward, I wish to say that I do not entirely agree with my leader, the honorable minister of railways, that the passing of this resolution could in any way be regarded as want of confidence in our leader.

"Hon Mr Emmerson speaks about the most direct route. If the line is to be built by the most direct route, I have been grossly deceived. I was told that the different routes would be surveyed and the most convenient route accepted. This is what I told the people of my constituency and I am content that it was upon this that they elected me. Should the river route be adopted, these counties will return a solid phalanx of liberals but if this course is not adopted, I will not be so ready to foretell the future."

The speaker found fault with the early reports which made the mountains of the Tobique like the Garden of Eden. Senator King, Senator Thompson and he put the matter before Sir Wilfrid Laurier and new surveys have been made.

"There is no loyalty in trade, no sentiment in commerce, and if the trade of the West comes to St John, as it should come, it must be remembered that Portland has an advantage of 100 miles on the city and trade will not be attracted here much quicker by a line of down hill and up grades. Should the trade not go to St John, it will go not east of this city, but west of it, and if to Canadian ports, it must be as Mr Armstrong said yesterday, to Charlotte county ports."

He was not prepared to discuss at length the manner by which the surveys has been made to show the shortest route through the centre of the province, including though it did a viaduct 180 feet high, three-quarters of a mile in length and costing a quarter of a million to save four miles. Any lumberman, any farmer, any man of common sense would know that such a route would not be a success. (Applause.)

MR. MURRAY'S VIEWS.

Wm Murray of Restigouche said that he found that at this convention held to gather the Liberals of the province together, sectional issues are being raised. The mover of this resolution is asking us to take this matter out of the hands of parliament, the duties which rightly belong to it. Let the people of St John and the river counties know that they are not the whole thing even if they think they are.

(Cries of "Hear! hear!" and of "They are the people who held the banquet.")

He would therefore, he said, move as an amendment that the matter be laid on the table.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN.

Jas. E. Porter said that he would like to recall to the last speaker's attention a remark made by Hon. Mr. Marcell. The strength of the Liberal party, he told us, was in the fact that they did not wait for their leaders to think for them, but do so for themselves, but Mr. Murray has just said that we have no right to express any opinion as to which route the new line should take. He wished us to adopt the principle of Tories. The commercial necessities of the river counties demand competition with the C. P. R. \$100,000 would not cover the loss they have suffered this last year through the lack of railway facilities and shortage of cars. To build the railway by another route than the river route would mean the neglect of fertile land and the destruction by fires of a good hunting ground. If the government will not help us, we have, he felt sure, enough enterprise in the north of the province to do so themselves. (Applause.)

In view of the position which has been taken, however, he would withdraw his resolution—(applause)—although he was not sorry that he had taken this opportunity to express his own sentiments in the matter. (Applause.)

Hon, W P Jones.

Hon. W P Jones said that not withstanding that the resolution had been withdrawn, he would not miss the opportunity to say that his views coincided with those already expressed by representatives of the river counties. A new railway is of vital importance to the people of the St John Valley and it is now the burning question there.

In the grand holiday guessing contest for the Clock carried on by The Rockwell Boys at Avondale, the timepiece was carried off by John Crandall, who guessed within two minutes of the time it ran down. The clock stopped at 8.22, p m January 1st, having run from December 19th, at 8.17 a m. These young merchants say business is booming.

Mrs D. L. Parks is spending a few weeks with her sister Mrs G M Street at Presque Isle.

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NEXT ISSUE.

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