

## HON. MR. FIELDING OPENS CAMPAIGN.

Minister of Finance Discusses Political Topics at Great Length.

Glouce Bay, N. S., Sept. 7.—About 1,000 people, many of whom were Conservatives, turned out Saturday to listen to Hon. W. S. Fielding, Hon. Wm. Paterson and Mr. E. M. MacDonald at the King's Theatre. Hon. Mr. Fielding and Mr. MacDonald arrived in town at 3 o'clock, and spent the time until the hour of meeting, attending the picnic which was being held in aid of the Catholic Church at Dominion Number 6, about four miles from this town.

Half an hour before the time of the meeting, the Prince Albert band, which had been hired for the occasion, paraded the streets to the Glouce Bay Hotel and escorted the visitors to the theatre. Upon their arrival a hearty cheer was given. Then a picture of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was thrown on a screen in front of the stage curtain.

Mr. A. B. McGillivray, Stipendiary Magistrate, was chairman. He spoke briefly, and stated he was proud to introduce such men as Messrs. Fielding and Paterson, who were known throughout Canada as men of probity and honor.

## MR. FIELDING'S SPEECH.

Mr. Fielding was evidently suffering from hoarseness. The Finance Minister, after thanking the people for their hearty welcome, said he was glad to be able to address such a large audience. He could not help thinking of the time when Glouce Bay was little more than a village. He paid a tribute to Hon. Mr. Paterson, whom he characterized as a big man, and one who wished to do justice to the whole of Canada. Mr. E. M. MacDonald was also referred to as a worthy representative of Pictou, and Mr. Johnston was held up as a man who never spoke in the House without saying something. The only fault he had to find with the member for South Cape Breton was that he was too insistent and wanted too much for his constituents.

Then Mr. Fielding began the practical part of his speech. He said: "The Conservatives are only doing their duty when they present their views on the proper course to be pursued in the government of Canada. If you believe Mr. Foster, it is time that there was a change. The Conservative party was once great, and had magnificent leaders, but at the present time it had degenerated into a party of scandal. The Conservatives to-day have no policy, nor have they any really big men."

"It was only a year ago that an attempt at formulating a policy was attempted. The so-called Halifax platform was not the result of a calling together of the rank and file of the party, but was made up somewhere by some two or three men, and given to the people as the platform of the party."

In that platform public ownership of utilities was talked of, but in the very next breath Mr. Borden wanted to take the only railway owned by the people and place it in the hands of a commission, over which the people would have no direct control. The doctrine of public ownership has been forgotten. It is not now discussed on the public platform nor was it talked of in the House. The Halifax pronouncement was designed chiefly as a means of getting into power. It was openly stated by Hon. John Haggart that the Conservatives would have nothing to do with public ownership of railways, and that it was a preposterous scheme. Mr. Haggart was one of the leaders of the party, and his words had weight."

Continuing, the Finance Minister said the Conservatives had for another plank adequate protection, which they talked of years ago, but to-day it is unheard of. When the Liberal party was bringing down their revision of the tariff, the Conservatives made no objection whatever to the proposals of the Liberals. That was the time for the Conservatives to stand up for their principles, if they had any in that regard.

## A CAMPAIGN OF SCANDAL.

"After abandoning all planks in their old platform the only thing they now depended on was a campaign of petty scandal. They criticized the paying of a few cents a pound for tobacco which, under their treatment, had developed into the so-called Arctic scandal. The magnificent development of the West, under the able management of Hon. Clifford Sifton, was unsatisfactory to them, and they raised the cry that all of the western lands had been given away. When the Intercolonial was being improved, so that that magnificent railway could be placed in a position to properly handle the traffic that was being handed in for transmission, the Conservatives raised the cry that we were paying too much money for the land upon which we were extending the work. The whole campaign was to be conducted upon the cry of 'Graft, graft, graft.'"

"They blamed the Government for the erection of the Quebec Bridge. A few years ago the Conservatives promised to build that bridge, but did not do it. The Liberals of the country, realizing the necessity of some such undertaking, voted a million dollars to complete the work. When the Government passed an act to guarantee the bonds of the company which had contracted to build the bridge there was no objection from the Conservatives; in fact, the leader of the Opposition had said, when speaking in Quebec, that the work was a national one and would have to be built."

Mr. Fielding here quoted an article from a Conservative paper, in which it was stated that the Government was going to pay \$353,000 to a company which never at any time had more than eighty-one thousand dollars of cash subscribed by the promoters. "I state," said Mr. Fielding, "that every dollar of the two hundred thousand which was asked for by the Government was paid in cash, and went into the work of the bridge, and I stake my reputation as a public man that there is no truth in the story that an unaccepted cheque for \$19,000 was never presented for payment, or was never paid. The Conservatives charged the Liberals with neglect in the building of the bridge, which collapsed a little over a year ago. No one regretted that terrible catastrophe more than the Government, but we were not to blame. We went to the most distinguished engineer in the continent of America, a man who was held in the highest regard by every member of his profession. The plans submitted by Mr. Cooper proved defective, but I do not think we can be fairly held accountable for that. Now that the Government is about to take over the bridge and build it themselves, the Conservative press is complaining. Why do they not oppose the act in the House? If the Opposition proposes to go up and down the country denouncing the work of this Government in that regard then they should have done their duty on the floor of Parliament. That was the place in which they could make their principles known. I will undertake to say that no Conservative would dare go to the Province of Quebec and make the statement such as they are doing in other parts of Canada."

## GOVERNMENT IS HONEST.

"We do not claim to be perfect, but we do claim to have given you twelve years of good government. It was not angelic government, but human government, and I do not think the people want a change to go back to the days of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster. The expenditure of the Government is now over a hundred million dollars annually. Hundreds of thousands of men are employed. There will be no time when all these men will be equally honest and equally zealous in the employ of the country. There have been some mistakes in judgment in the past of the Government, but we cannot do business unless we trust the men we have engaged. When the Conservatives say there has been dishonesty and corruption in the Government, they state what is not true."

Mr. Fielding said the trip of the Arctic was a service of which one day all Canada would be proud. This ship was sent up to Northern waters to plant the flag of Britain in these unknown islands. Had the Conservative Government done the same thing in connection with Alaska, before Uncle Sam squatted on this territory there would have been no adverse award to Canada when the commission sat some time ago. "Every inch of Canadian land has been blessed by Providence, and we want to hold on to it for the benefit of future generations. The Conservatives charged first that goods had been bought for the Arctic which had never been placed on board, and when this charge had been proven false then they fell back on the paltry and petty 'scandal' that we had paid too much for the tobacco."

There has never been any serious charge made against any member of the Government. I say there has never been a charge, a semblance laid against any member of the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"The great number of the officials of the Government are honest. In almost every instance where suspicion has been directed the officials alleged to be connected are Conservatives and appointees of a Conservative Government. I have been asked why we did not turn all Conservatives out when we went into power. I don't believe in the doctrine 'to the victors belong the spoils.' I will say, however, that if wrong-doing is proven against any official, be he Grit or Tory, as a member of the Government, I undertake that justice will be done."

## FINANCES DISCUSSED.

"Hon. Mr. Foster says that since the Tories went out of power the finances of Canada have been going to bow wows. I will give you some examples. Ponder them yourselves. Taking twelve years of Conservative rule and compare them with

twelve years of Liberal rule and what do you find? In each year the Conservatives had a deficit of \$415,000, while we had an average of a nine and a half million dollars surplus. There has been no increased taxation. In fact the Conservatives now claim the tariff is too low. The customs dues collected to-day are two per cent less than in 1896."

"We are told we have a larger per capita tax. Admit that, but what if we do. The great thing is that we have a low rate of taxation. Mr. Foster himself says that 'the rate of the per capita tax is a misleading and clumsy way of showing how we stand in the matter of taxation.' We have even an improved service without increasing the burdens of the taxpayers, the abundant prosperity has been brought about without an increase in the burden you have to carry. If you strike out the moneys spent by both parties in large expenditures on necessary public works, the Conservative increased the national debt in twelve years by sixteen million dollars, while the Liberals have not added a cent. On the contrary they reduced it during the time they have been in power."

Mr. Fielding then spoke of the great change in the town of Glouce Bay and in the county generally. What has brought about your better financial condition? The Conservatives say it was the national policy, that policy was inaugurated in 1878. Very little progress was made until 1896. It was not satisfactory to you. The coal industry was languishing. I will not come out strong for public ownership, but I say this that when any valuable franchises are given to the capitalists, the state should get a fair return. When I was Premier of Nova Scotia, and we were about to increase the royalty of coal, the coal barons came to us and said 'don't do it or you will close the mines.' I told these people that they were wrong and if they could not pay the additional tax we would get some one who could. Mr. Henry M. Whitney was brought in by my government and this was the best thing that was done for the people of Cape Breton. The big town of Glouce Bay is the result and the great coal industry and the great steel industry, is the result. You owe all this to the Liberal policy. The older electors know these statements to be facts. The new men may be deceived. It is to you latter that I most strongly appeal."

## NO CHANGE IN SIGHT.

"There is no sign of a change in the Government. There will be no change. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has good ministers and a splendid band of young Liberal supporters. The solid eighteen was the contribution we made in 1904 to our honored leader. There was no break until 'Choice Tomatoes' that accomplished that result. In 1908 we can do the same thing. I confidently appeal to you to do all in your power to strengthen the hands of our leader, by casting your vote in aid of that party which has done so much for the progress and prosperity of all sections of this fair land of Canada."

## HON. WILLIAM PATERSON.

Mr. Paterson was the next speaker and stated that Nova Scotia for size and population had produced more brainy men than any of the provinces in Canada. He eulogized Mr. Fielding and Messrs. Johnston and MacDonald. He would say nothing about the alleged scandals. That would be left to Mr. MacDonald, who was thoroughly conversant with the history of them all. Neither could he discuss the policy of the Conservatives, as at the present times they did not appear to have any. He asked his hearers to compare the records of the two parties. More progress has been made under Liberal rule, the interests of the country have been better served. Foreign trade under twelve years of Conservative rule increased fifty millions, under Liberal rule it had increased 350,000,000. What is the cause of that progress. I will admit for argument's sake that the national policy is responsible. Well, if that is so, you must admit that the Liberals have used that policy better than the Conservatives, and should be kept in power. Sometimes the Conservatives say the Liberals deserve no credit, that Providence has dealt bountifully with Canada and that is the reason for prosperity we enjoy. Surely my Conservative friends will not admit that Providence frowned on Canada when they are in power. No, the real reason is that the Liberals know how to make better use of the bounty of Providence."

One of the great causes of the good time the country now enjoys, flows from the preferential tariff with the Motherland, introduced by Mr. Fielding. This act caused a great thrill to go to the heart of the British people and as a result our exports to Great Britain have increased enormously. Our kinsmen across the seas have appreciated our treatment of the old land and whenever possible they will ask for our products

in preference to those of other countries. Young men you have a glorious heritage. You are taking part in building up a great and growing nation. I do not ask you to vote Liberal. All I ask is that you examine the question of which is the better party honestly. Examine the history of your country. Seek to know the truth. Hear both sides of the case, and then if you follow the dictates of your conscience, you will be a good citizen and will lend your aid in the building up of our own dear land."

"In 1896 young men and women were obliged to leave Canada and go to the great friendly country to the south. The population was practically stagnant, but now tens of thousands of our sons and daughters are coming back to this land, to help lay the foundation of the future goodness of this portion of the British Empire. Do you want to again go back to those terrible dark days of Tory rule."

"We have accomplished progress by the expenditure of money. We spent tens of millions of dollars of your money. We are not going to apologize for doing this. In fact, we intend to spend more of it. We have done this under a lower rate of taxation. Outside of the money needed for the Transcontinental Railway we have not added one dollar to the national debt. The revenue has increased from \$19,000,000 to \$46,000,000 per year. The average rate of duties on a hundred dollars' worth of goods under Conservative rule was \$18.28; under Liberal rule it was last year \$15.66. The increased revenue is due to your having more money to spend. In other words, you are more prosperous."

"Go honestly into the question of politics. I do not think you can change for the better. Sir Wilfrid Laurier holds a place never before held in the lives, and affections of the people of Canada. I cannot advise a change from Mr. Fielding to Mr. Foster. After hearing both sides, I hope you will stamp down this campaign of slander. Public men have feelings. It is not fair and manly to carry out such a programme of charging corruption among the outside world. If we had stolen, squandered or wasted your money we would deserve to go and you should put us out of power. On the other side, if you find that these stories of dishonesty are false, or grossly exaggerated stamp your disapproval of such tactics by again giving the Liberals your confidence and trust."

## MR. E. M. MACDONALD.

Mr. E. M. MacDonald spoke briefly. He characterized the Conservative party as a mass of "organized hypocrisy." Instead of being chief of "a dark lantern brigade," as charged by the Tories, he said he was the chief of the "searchlight squad." Mr. Merwin was held up as responsible for the great improvements on the St. Lawrence, as he was the man who had patented devices which did much for navigation. Conservatives are said to be controlled by a little clique of Ontario men, who opposed the duty on coal which meant so much to Cape Breton. The Conservatives had stated the Liberals gave away timber areas. This was not true. All they had done had been to lease 6,400 square miles at a fixed rental per year. 150,000 miles still remained for the people of the country. He stood for real purity not the sham article. He closed by predicting a big majority for Laurier at the approaching election, and said that there had never been a day since Sir Wilfrid came into power that a man who wished to work could not find a job."

The meeting was closed by Mr. Alex. Johnston, who thanked the people for their attention. Cheers were given for the King, Sir Wilfrid and Messrs. Paterson and Fielding.

## Why Not Follow the Scent?

The lying Press says a load of straw covers was hauled into the backyard of the Liberal Club one day last week. This is for the purpose of leading its readers to infer that the young Liberals have been importing some of Stanfield's Choice Tomatoes, we suppose. The hypocritical sheet might be right in saying that a load of straw covers was hauled into the backyard of the block in which the Liberal Club has its rooms, but it should be fair enough to state that there are a great many business places using the same backyard. Anyway why not follow up the scent? The President of the Press Printing Co. is paid a large salary for fermenting out the booze business in the Town. Why not give your tips to him, Mr. Press? The Young Liberal Club has never had a drop of liquor on the premises, nor a drunken man within its walls. Its members are gentlemen."

The brethren of Ivanhoe Lodge were entertained at Holyoke's Ice Cream parlors Tuesday evening by Wm. Loane, Esq.

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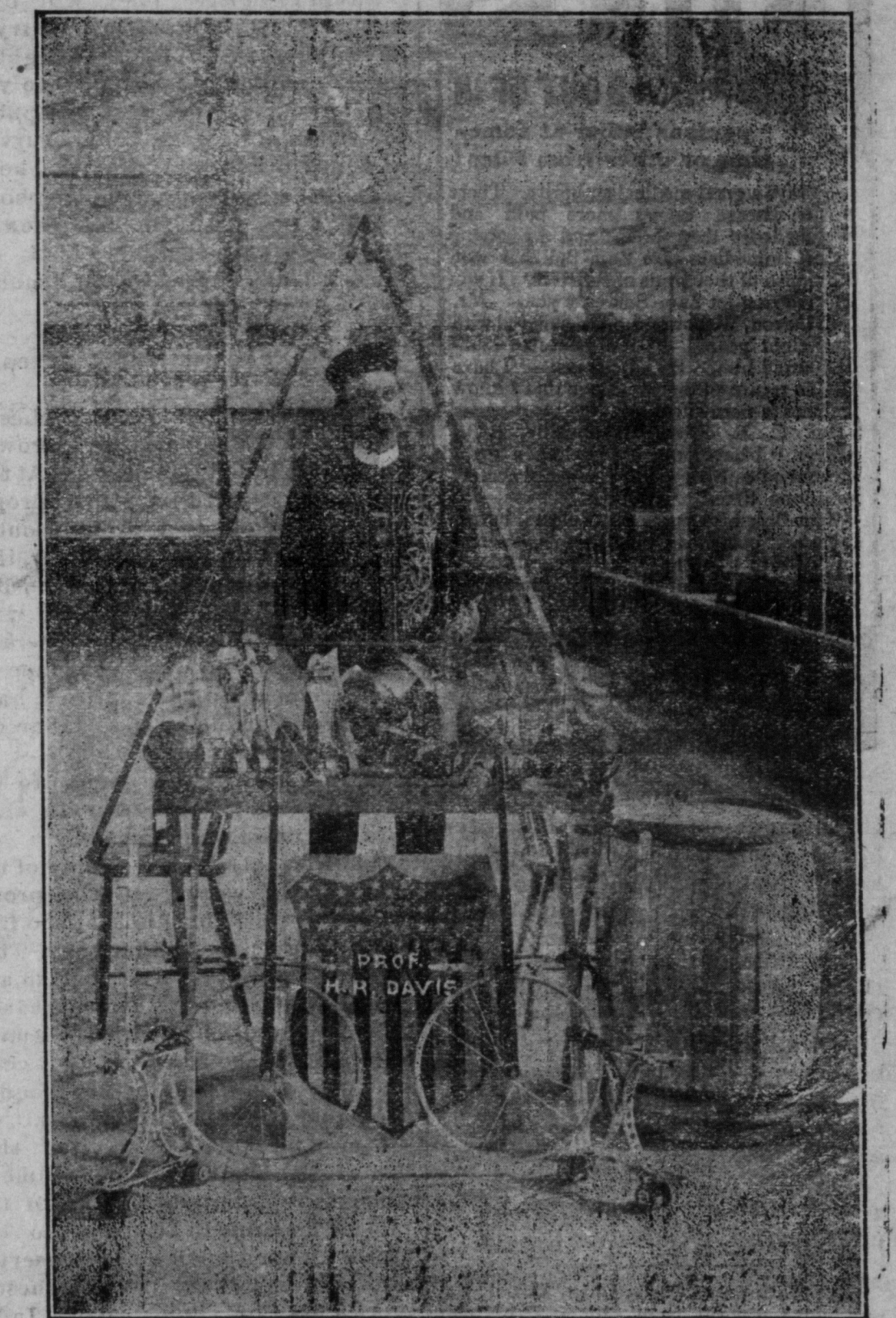
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Prof. Davis, the Wizard on Roller Skates, has postponed his grand exhibition until next Wednesday evening, 16th inst, in Graham's Opera House. Social dance after exhibition, with prize to best lady and gent waltzer.

## Great Sale of New Fall Clothing and Dry Goods.

On Saturday Sept 12th, Woodstock will be greeted by the Lyons Dry Goods and Clothing Co when one of the largest and cheapest Clothing Furnishings and Dry Goods Sale will be held. This sale of entirely new goods, direct from the manufacturer will put all other previous sales in the shade. Don't miss it! See big ads in this paper. Notice 20 clerks wanted for this sale. Apply at once to Mr. Lyons.—adv.

## Home Players Won.

Woodstock gentlemen put it over their Winter Port rivals on Saturday in hollow fashion.

## Following is the score:

WOODSTOCK.	ST. JOHN.
C. M. Sprague.....	6 Andrew Jack.....
Dr. Sprague.....	6 H. N. St. John.....
W. P. Jones.....	0 Paul Lingley.....
J. S. Creighton.....	2 Dr. Magee.....
Rev. G. D. Ireland.....	9 E. A. Smith.....
D. W. Newcombe.....	0 H. W. Schofield.....
Walter Sprague.....	5 Rev. E. B. Hooper.....
George E. Balmain.....	10 F. W. Fraser.....
T. M. Loane.....	8 Major Hart.....
A. D. Holyoke.....	12 J. A. Jones.....
George Mitchell.....	8 F. A. Peters.....
G. H. Harrison.....	7 G. J. Harrison.....
A. B. Connell.....	16 W. D. Baskin.....
W. Dickinson.....	0 E. W. McCready.....
Dr. Kirkpatrick.....	9 R. B. Kessop.....
T. M. Jones.....	4 J. G. Gillespie.....
A. F. Gorden.....	12 James Jack.....
T. C. L. Ketchum.....	9 Peter Clinch.....

The visitors are thorough sportsmen, one and all. They were delighted with the visit.

Miss Mina Lane, graduate nurse of Boston, is in town the guest of her mother, Mrs. George A. Noble.

Mrs. W. S. Skillen is in St. Stephen, and will visit friends in St. John before returning.

Don't fail to hear Hon. Sydney Fisher in the new Opera Monday night.

Hon. Sydney Fisher will probably pay his respects to George E. Foster of Forester's money fame at the meeting here Monday evening. Come and hear him.

Mrs. Chalmers of Boston is the guest of her sister, Mrs. F. B. Carvell.

F. B. Carvell M.P. was in Hampton this week engaged as counsel in the suit of J. F. Tilley vs. S. H. White for breach of contract.

W. S. Skillen and Fred L. Moores were delegates from Ivanhoe Lodge to the Maritime Grand Council in St. John.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Smith visited Halifax this week, taking in the Exhibition.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Augherton have been visiting in St. Stephen and St. Andrews.

Of course you are coming to Woodstock Monday night to hear the Hon. Sydney Fisher, member of the Dominion Cabinet, and other prominent speakers including F. B. Carvell, M.P., on the great questions of the day. Everybody invited, Ladies welcome.