

TRoubles of the GRITS.

IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HALIFAX.

The Young Men Explain the Reason Why They Fought the Fight for Russell—Who Forged the Convention Tickets Is Now a Burning Question.

HALIFAX, April 2.—The breach in the liberal party of Halifax shows as yet no sign of healing. Wire pullers in the two factions are bitter in their denunciations of each other, and are not backward in charging all manner of evil-doing against those with different views of the situation.

PROGRESS last week referred to the charge made by the Jones workers that the convention had been packed in the interest of Russell, when the Russell men read that the first thing they did was to retaliate by saying that there was just as much "packing" on the other side.

"Why," said a prominent Russell wire-puller, "I saw five men at the convention, not one of whom had any right to be present, and who were all Jones men. They were J. W. Creighton, (though he did not vote), J. H. Barnstead, Mr. Walsh, Thomas Cook and James Fraser. The delegate's ticket held by at least one of these men was not genuine."

"What was wrong with it?" PROGRESS asked.

"Only this," was the reply, "that C. B. Burns, who was acting secretary, says the name 'C. B. Burns' which was affixed to J. H. Barnstead's ticket was not his signature, that his name on that ticket, in fact, was a forgery. And it was not alone on that ticket this liberal worker went on to say, that the name C. B. Burns was forged, there were other tickets like it handed in to that convention by Jones men."

It will be seen from this how serious is the rupture between the old and the young men in the party in Halifax, or between the Jones and the anti-Jones men.

In proof of the statement that the anti-Jones workers ran scores of "delegates" into the convention who had no right to be there, the Jones men tell as an instance how Dartmouth sent over 23 "delegates," who sat, took part, and voted in the convention, whereas the town has a right only to four delegates. Russell is a Dartmouth man himself, so that those 23 were doubtless taken there to the convention to vote for the professor, though it is denied that they voted in a body for him.

"How could this kind of thing be done, if it was done?" is a natural question. The convention was originally called a year ago, and the body that met recently, when Russell and Keefe were nominated, was only an adjourned meeting. A list of the delegates who bore credentials was made when the convention first met. That list was the basis of membership in the adjourned meeting, of course. And so it would have been, had the list not been lost. When it was decided to call the convention together a second time, to receive the reply of Messrs. Roche and Dwyer, or to nominate their successors, the discovery was made that the names of the delegates had been lost. No one knew who they were. Accordingly the notice summoning the convention asked all delegates to come to the secretary and get convention tickets of admission to the convention. Whether the list was actually "lost," or not, very few know, but there are more than a few who say that it was not lost at all, and that the story that it was missing was only a clumsy device to place the convention in the hands of those who wished to control it against Jones, and for either Roche or Russell, as the case might be. Things must have reached a pretty pass in the liberal party of Halifax when such charges as this are possible, that the membership roll of a nominating convention should be lost and that then a section of the party should feel justified in stating that it had been intentionally lost in order that the body might be packed in the interest of a particular candidate.

The tickets, bogus and good alike, were printed at the Recorder office. The good ones were not all personally held by C. B. Burns for delegates. The tickets were handed to ward chairmen for distribution—to all who had a right to them—but, the Jones men charge, to those faithful to the young men's section in particular. This may account for 23 coming over from Dartmouth, while poor Mr. Barnstead, a life-long, daylight to dark, liberal, who had the misfortune to be a Jones adherent, was refused admission to the convention even though he had a ticket. But his ticket was one of those with a signature which C. B. Burns repudiated. There are hints regarding the place of printing of these questioned tickets, and the signing of Burns' name to them, but, in Barnstead's case, that gentleman says he was given his ticket in Burns' office, in response to a letter which he presented showing that he had been regularly appointed a delegate for Jeddore or some such district. Yet when Mr. Barnstead showed himself at the convention door he was ignominiously challenged, his ticket disdained, and had he not been a determined man of considerable force of character and physical ability, he would have been turned out to the street, as, indeed, he and C. C. Blackadder, as well as some others,

had been on a former occasion. The objection to Barnstead, even with his questioned ticket in his hand, was that he could not be a member of the adjourned convention, though bearing a letter of appointment from a section, for he had been appointed since the first meeting of the convention. As it was merely an adjournment, none who had not held seats in the original body could hold seats at the subsequent meeting. Thus the young men tried to rule Barnstead out, and as some of his friends say, at the same time admitted many from Dartmouth, a place entitled to only four, or perhaps eight delegates. From this it may be seen how effective for good or evil such a catastrophe as losing the membership roll of a political convention may become.

One year ago when William Roche and Michael Dwyer were nominated by the liberal convention how bright the outlook was for that party. Mr. Roche is worth \$700,000 and Mr. Dwyer \$500,000. The latter declined on the ground that his health forbade him entering upon the campaign, and in taking that course every man on both sides of politics knows that, while devoted heart and soul to liberalism, Mr. Dwyer was merely performing his duty to himself. The present trouble has been brought about by Mr. Roche declining at the eleventh hour, to remain a candidate, yet the men who are responsible for this are those who induced Mr. Roche thus to withdraw.

A history of the "conspiracy," for that the Russell men do not hesitate to call it, which carried Mr. Roche out of the fight is told to PROGRESS by a friend first of Roche, then of Russell, but always opposed to Jones:

"The first we heard that anything was wrong was some considerable time ago when we were collecting subscriptions to a local fund for campaign literature. Gideon Martin was going round asking for the money for this object, and after a little effort in this direction Mr. Martin explained his lack of success by saying that he could not get subscriptions from certain persons till they were informed definitely who the candidates were to be. Then Dr. Barnstead took up the cry that those people would not subscribe because the candidate was Roche, and before long these names, among others, as representing a class of malcontents, were taken to Mr. Roche:—Wm. Chisholm, John Murphy, George Mitchell, and Hon. H. H. Fuller. Another citizen taking a warm interest in the intriguing going on was H. D. Blackadder, who lost no opportunity of informing Mr. Roche's friends, if not himself, that he did not think it would be possible to elect Roche, and he is said to have tramped the streets of ward 5 at midnight talking over matters with the candidate.

"Those who were satisfied with Mr. Roche's candidacy had Mr. Jones letter of a year ago formally declining to again become a candidate, not to speak of his announcement after the last Dominion election that he would retire from Dominion politics. On subsequent occasions Mr. Jones continued in his policy of retirement. At the banquet of Hon. George Murray, after the latter's defeat in Cape Breton by Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., Mr. Jones named Roche and Wallace as the coming liberal candidates Wallace taking the place vacated by the retirement of Mr. Dwyer, and lastly, one month before the reassembling of the convention, Mr. Jones again, at a meeting of the liberal executive committee, once more announced Roche and Wallace as the party's ticket. If Mr. Jones had ever given the party any idea that he desired to run" said the speaker, "he would have been unanimously nominated, but they took him at his word, and considered him forever out of the battle.

"Three days before the convention the Jones boom openly started, without, however, any direct authority from the old leader. H. D. Blackadder in ward 5; a crowd of young lawyers throughout the city, John H. Barnstead and other would-be organizers of the party in the South-end, had so successfully done their work that Mr. Roche was on the verge of declining the nomination offered him. A few hours more completed their work, and on the day before the convention re-assembled Roche succumbed to the conspirators who had been plotting against him in the interest of Jones."

The news of his declining came like a thunderbolt but it angered rather than terrified the Roche men, who had now become anti-Jones partisans. Done out of their legitimate candidate the choice of the convention, and the delight of the young men, they made their watchword "no surrender!" "Done up" as regards Roche, they were bound at least that they would fight under some other standard than that of Mr. Jones. Hence they took measures to secure a convention which would nominate Russell, for he was the man whom the young men fell back upon in their extremity. And the Jones men, busy all day, were not altogether idle either.

The Russell men say that their candidate will go to the polls, but they have a difficult task in getting a colleague for him. Keefe is the best that can be run, but Keefe does not want to run with Russell as a mate. A new convention will doubtless have to be called, and there

certainly is yet a lot of hot fighting in sight for the liberals, old and young, of Halifax city and county.

SONGS WE ALL KNOW.

Who Wrote Them How, and When Some of Them Were Written.

"The Campbells are comin'" is a very old Scottish air. Copies of it date back to 1630.

"One Bumper at parting" is one of the best known of Moore's convivial songs. The tune was called, "Moll Roe in the Morning."

"Come, Landlord, Fill the Flowing Bowl," dates from the time of Shakespeare. It appears in one of Fletcher's plays.

"Cheer, Boys, Cheer" was the work of Charles Mackay, the music being by Henry Russell. It was the out come of an evening of conviviality in 1843.

"Drink to Me only with thine eyes" is from a poem entitled "The Forest," by Ben Jonson. The air is an adaptation from one of Mozart's opera melodies.

"Allan Water" was written by Matthew Gregory Lewis, better known in literature as "Monk Lewis," whose weird tales were the fashion when Scott was young.

"What are the Wild Waves Saying?" a duet that was once immensely popular, was suggested to Dr. Joseph Edwards Carpenter, by the conversation in "Dombey and Son."

"Rule Britannia" is usually credited to James Thomson. It first appeared in a play, entitled "Alfred," by Thomson and Mallet, in 1740. The air was by Dr. Thomas Arne.

"The Wearing of the Green" exists in several forms and versions. The best-known one was written by Dion Boucicault the dramatist. It is sung by "Shaun the Post" in "Arrah-na-Pogue."

"Scots, Wha Hae" was by Burns. It was written on a dark day while the author

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was on a journey. The tune is "Hey Tut-tie Tattie," an old march that is said by tradition to have animated Bruce's men at Bannockburn.

"A Life on the Ocean Wave" was the work of Epes Sargeant, an American poet, the idea being suggested to him during a walk on the Battery in New York, one day, when a high wind was blowing in from the sea. It was set to music by Henry Russell.

"The Last Rose of Summer," one of Patti's favourite songs, was the work of Thomas Moore. The melody is a very ancient Irish tune, formerly known as "The Groves of Blarney." This tune has been found in collections of Irish music at least two hundred years old.

"The Blue Bells of Scotland" was the work of Annie McVicar, afterward Mrs. Grant, the daughter of a Scottish officer in the British army. The melody was long believed to be Scottish, but is now known to be of English origin, being an old English folk song.

"Kathleen Mavourneen" was written by Mrs. Crawford, an Irish lady, whose songs ninety years ago were in high repute. The music was by Crouch, an eccentric genius, who in his old age and poverty begged his way into a concert given by Titiens, that he might hear his own composition fully sung.

"Love's Young Dream," one of Moore's best, was set by him to an Irish tune called "The Old Woman." Moore heard the tune from a blind fiddler, wrote it down, and, discerning its beauty, determined that it should have better words than the nonsensical verses to which it was sung by the Irish peasantry.

"I'll Hang my Harp on a Willow-Tree" has attached to it a bit of royal romance. It was written by a young nobleman who became deeply enamoured of Queen Victoria a year or so before she ascended the English throne, which event destroyed his hopes of winning her hand. The words first appeared in an English magazine, and were set to music by Wellington Guernsey.

"Auld Lang Syne" is of uncertain origin, there being several versions of this deservedly popular song. One of the best is by Burns, but only the second and three stanzas are by this poet, the remainder being from the pen of Ramsay. The song is of uncertain antiquity; one version is dated 1716, another is said to date from the sixteenth century.

An amusing story comes from a French provincial city where a stock company at a small theater were playing "Hamlet." A herald announced "the king," and as the actor stepped into view, a sarcastic voice came from the gallery: "What, him a king! why, he owes me two francs."

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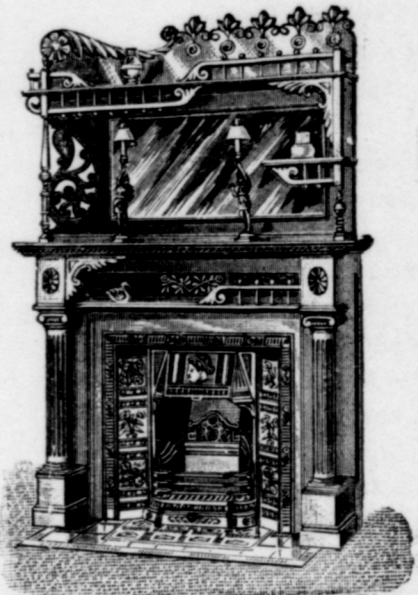
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