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Moncton's Grand Welcome.

To Premier Laurier, the Minister of Railways and Other Politicians.

PROGRESS was represented at the Moncton demonstration in favor of Hon. Wilfred Laurier, Premier of Canada, and the Hon. A. G. Blair, Minister of Railways, and in a brief way wishes to describe, no doubt very inadequately, the grand reception that was given to those gentlemen and the candidates for Westmorland, Cumberland and Albert, Messrs Emmerson, Logan and Lewis.

It was apparent upon the arrival of the Atlantic express from St. John that something unusual was in the air. The crowds of people forming a dense mass upon the arrival of the train, badges and buttons in connection with the liberal campaign were met every where and the most appropriate banners, significant of the platform of the liberal party, crossed the main street in many places.

The preparations for the evening decorations were elaborate and although the weather was somewhat disagreeable were being continued and completed. When darkness set in, the illuminations were simply splendid. The hotels favorable to the party were one blaze of light. Many of the business houses had outdone themselves in their efforts to convey the glad welcome to the Premier, and private dwellings, more particularly those of Dr. Murray and Messrs M. B. and Andrew Jones, were handsomely decorated with Chinese lanterns and other illuminatory effects in honor of the occasion.

It would be a difficult matter indeed to describe the scene as viewed from the Hotel Brunswick, just before the procession started. The Hon. Minister of Railways appeared among the crowd and enjoyed meeting with many old friends although surrounded as he was by hundreds it was a difficult matter indeed for him to move from one place to another. The greetings to him were so hearty and the cheering so tumultuous that a stranger would almost think the demonstration was solely in his honor. Bands and torchlight bearers were so numerous that they seemed to cover a broad area in front of the hotel and when the procession started they made a splendid demonstration. Long before their arrival at the rink, that building was crowded, it seemed, to its utmost capacity, but when the Premier and his party arrived two or three thousand more people must have succeeded in forcing and crowding their way into the structure. The cheers which greeted them were continuous and deafen-

ing and as, proceeded by the Union Jack, the Premier and the Minister of Railways, with Mr. Emmerson, the Westmorland candidate, and Mr. Logan, the Cumberland candidate, and Dr. Lewis, the nominee for Albert appeared upon the platform, there was one spontaneous outburst of cheering, applause and every conceivable noise that intended to convey the heartiest welcome ever extended in the Maritime provinces to distinguished politicians.

Just before it subsided a pretty little maiden with a handsome bouquet of flowers appeared before Sir Wilfred Laurier, and modestly presented them to him. He won the favor of all the audience, no doubt more particularly of the ladies, by his kind greeting to the little girl, who can now boast that she has been kissed on both cheeks by the Premier of Canada. Before he began his speech and just after the chairman, Dr. Smith of Shediac, completed his brief and flattering introduction another little girl presented him another bouquet equally as beautiful and received a similar reward.

The speech of Sir Wilfred Laurier was one of those admirable efforts so familiar to those who have had the pleasure of listening to him on the floors of the House of Commons. His courtesy to his opponents must have impressed any of those in the audience who could not agree with him. Certainly it was very apparent to those who admired the man and his methods. He was earnest, convincing and at all times eloquent. His arguments were unanswerable and the calm and conclusive manner in which he presented them, won the praise of even the most bitter conservatives in the building. The daily papers have presented the most of his speech, it not all of it in fact, and it is not necessary to do so here. There is no doubt the best impression was conveyed to thousands and that it was done as only one man in Canada can do it.

Pleasant features of the occasion were the cheers for the returning soldiers, the boys in khaki, as Hon. Mr. Emmerson introduced them and the college cry of the students from Mount Allison. Both of these were heartily received and gave the impression that the young men of the county as well as the country were with the party in power. A handsome portrait of the late Sir Albert J. Smith, who for so long a time represented the county of

Westmoreland, stood upon an easel on the platform, and when the chairman referred to him as his uncle, the applause that greeted the reference showed in what esteem the late statesman was held in the county.

The speeches of the Hon. Mr. Emmerson and the Hon. Minister of Railways were brief and eloquent. Mr. Emmerson did not say much. He knew that the Premier was to speak after him and that another meeting, the overflow from that in the rink, was being held at the Opera house. So he went there and captivated the crowd as he had the vast assembly in the rink. The Minister of Railways followed the Premier and it will be easily imagined that his task was a difficult one; for, upon the departure of the first minister, a considerable number attempted to follow him and the band and torchlight procession that accompanied him to the other meeting. But even after that the diminution in the crowd was hardly perceptible and the people of Moncton listened with the keenest attention to the address of the Hon. Mr. Blair upon the issues of the day; the principal one dealt with being the difficulties between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Intercolonial. His presentation of the facts of the case was admirably done, and as he was talking to a railway audience they knew how to appreciate the terms he used and the stand that he had taken. The applause was frequent and exceedingly hearty. There were no interruptions and but one question which was answered promptly and effectually. The minister was in excellent voice and spoke with the fervid eloquence for which he is noted, and he gave the railway men in Moncton and Canada to understand that they were in the right hands and the right people, those who understand what is best for them and for the railway, and who are looking after their interests.

Give the liberal committee of Westmoreland all credit for the splendid manner in which they handled this gigantic demonstration. The rink was profusely decorated and the mottoes so brief and concise as to impress themselves upon the mind of every one present. A few of them noted by PROGRESS read as follows:—

- “British Preference and Liberal Rule”
- “Emmerson and Fair Play to the Wage Earners.”
- “Blair and the Long Haul on the I. C. R.”
- “Sir Wilfred Laurier is too British for Sir Chas. Tupper.”
- “Unity, Peace, Friendship and Fraternity. God Save the Queen. A United Canada and a United Empire.”
- “The Choice Between Foster's Deficits and Fielding's Surplusses”
- “Five Years More of Progress and Plenty.”
- “For the I. C. R. and not the C. P. R.”
- “Fair Play and Fair Pay for the I. C. R.”

The meeting broke up with great enthusiasm, and with cheers for every body. The special trains that came from Albert and Cumberland left with their delighted occupants, who each and every one of them had paid their fare to the city of Moncton. In spite of what the Sun says there were no bars wide open with free rum, there were no free dinners, there were no free torch bearers. The demonstration was of the people and by the people as spontaneous as can be imagined and greater and heartier by far than any that has ever been held in the Maritime Provinces.

Grocers Want to Know Why.

There is considerable talk and some dissatisfaction over the tardiness of the committee who had charge of the grocers picnic, held in August last, in failing to make a report or show a statement up to the present time of the receipts and expenditures of the outing. Of course the talk is among the grocers and properly so because the picnic was held under their auspices. For the past three or four years picnics have been held under the auspices of the city grocers, and in every case a surplus has been shown after all expenses had been defrayed. The picnic in August last was as great a success as any yet held, and there is no reason why a goodly sum was not realized yet there are grocers who say that the bills for printing, prizes, refreshments, music, boats etc., etc., have been paid by individuals, out of their own pockets, or else are not yet paid. One

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Michael Kelly Explains.

Why it Was He Was an Applicant for a Chicken Farm and a Senatorship.

PROGRESS has a letter from Mr. Michael Kelly of St. Martins, which is altogether too lengthy for publication in full, but as it refers to an article which appeared in this journal a week or two ago those paragraphs in connection with that are cheerfully quoted. With reference to the statement that he was at different times an applicant for two or three offices in the gift of the dominion government, Mr. Kelly says:—

“Briefly the facts are these—just after the elections of 1896, when almost everyone believed that owing to the long lease of power held by the conservatives, during which time only their supporters were given the positions of honor and emolument, a thing perfectly justifiable, that the liberals would on attaining office make sweeping changes. Accordingly Colonel Tucker wrote me asking for the christian name of my wife and stating that he intended having her appointed post mistress of this place. A little later in order to reconcile the several claimants for the different offices at the disposal of the dominion government, we were instructed by Colonel Tucker to call a meeting of the leading workers of the party. This was done and I was unanimously elected to fill the position of post master in case a change was made. Other gentlemen to fill the remaining positions were similarly elected and the secretary instructed to forward the list to Colonel Tucker. About the same time I wrote Hon. H. A. McKeown stating that while not urging a change I wished him to use his influence in my behalf in case changes became the order of the day.

Last summer in order to help St. Martins as well as myself and to give an impetus to the chicken raising industry I applied for one of the chicken fattening stations to be established in N. B. by the Dominion Parliament, a thing which I had a perfect right to do. Now with reference to the Senatorship, arising out of my affliction I have always been haunted by the fear that in my declining years I might find myself in straitened circumstances consequently, I have always availed myself of every honorable opportunity calculated to improve my financial condition. On the death of Senator Lewin, who died I think, last spring, and knowing if my memory serves me right, that St. John County had not been represented in the Senate since confederation and knowing moreover that there would be a number of applicants for

the vacancy, I applied with only the faintest hope that as a compromise I might possibly be successful, feeling that the position was worth the trying and that failing to obtain it I should be no worse off. A more worthy man obtained it, and just here let me say that I most heartily approve of all the N. B. appointments to Senate made by the present Government.”

With a reference to his prohibition record Mr. Kelly explains that it was in consequence of the action of the government on this question that he had changed his attitude and in conclusion he most emphatically affirms that no private matter caused him to leave the ranks of the liberal party.

One “Cop” On the Beat.

Within the past few weeks but one policeman has been doing patrol duty on Britain street in the day time. This vicinity requires more than one police man. A single officer is not by any means able to cover the ground in as thorough a manner as should be done.

The beat is quite a large one, and the district is one that requires a great deal of vigilance. Rows of all sorts are of almost daily occurrence. There has been many barroom fights lately, generally at the time when none of the blue-breasted gentlemen were around.

If a row did occur one policeman would not be able to quell the disturbance. The consequence would be that these street brawlers and disturbers of the peace would thus be enabled to escape scot free.

It is said that more police have been asked for from time to time, but none could be obtained. Some appointment should be made in order that the city can be properly patrolled. A good citizen does not want to come in contact with these disturbers and peace breakers.

Regretted in Boston.

The esteem in which the late Mr. Thomas Tierney was held by his friends in Boston is much in evidence now through the letters that are being received by his relatives here, expressive of the keen regret they felt upon hearing of his death. Mr. Tierney's visit to St. John was largely on account of his ill health. Those who were intimately acquainted with him thought that he was improving consequently his sudden demise was a great shock even to those who knew his serious condition of health. He was well liked wherever he was known.

Angry at McArthur.

The fact that Douglas McArthur, grand master of the orangemen of New Brunswick, has taken his stand with the liberal party seems to have given the conservatives a great deal of concern. Some correspondents have been very busy in trying to make the people believe that Mr. McArthur was influenced by other than honest opinions when he took the stand he did.

It will be remembered by all those who took an interest in the last campaign that Mr. McArthur then figured as an independent. He was, if we mistake not, at that time an Alderman at large in the city of St. John and he possessed considerable influence with the people with whom he was particularly associated. Mr. McArthur, like the great majority of the independents sees that the present government is doing all that is possible for the city and the port of St. John and as that was the main plank in the platform of the independent party, he is not by any means deserting his colors in supporting the Minister of Railways and Col. Tucker.

Still, it so happens that the grand master of the orangemen has a brother, who for many years has been a contractor and judging from a letter that appeared in the Sun a few days ago, it seems that because Mr. George McArthur, the contractor, obtained a job from the government railway some weeks ago, a considerable time before the election writs were issued, that the grand master is accused of changing his attitude on this account.

Everybody who knows the two gentlemen will be amused at the accusation, for no two brothers are more independent of each other. Mr. George McArthur takes a building contract every place he can get it. He has conducted his business not only in all Canada but in the State of Maine and Newfoundland and his lowest tender for the Campbellton round house being accepted by the department of railways he began work on the job some weeks before the election was on.

This is not the only way in which the opposition press has endeavored to minimize the efforts of Mr. McArthur. Only a few days ago there was a meeting at Golden Grove, one advertised only a few hours and still it was so well attended that when the writer of this article arrived he was unable to obtain a seat save upon the edge of the platform. The meeting was enthusiastic and was addressed with great earnestness and force by Col. Domville and Mr. McArthur along with one or two others. Still in spite of this fact a quartette of conservatives from the city, one of which was a south end world heeler conveyed the information to the Sun that there were eight people in the audience and four of them conservative. The lie was so apparent that it was ridiculous as well as amusing and seems to be simply a sample of the methods pursued by the opposition towards those who have chosen to exercise their liberty of conscience in electing which party they wish to support.

In Its True Light.

The Development Club appears to have come out in its true colors. There is no doubt now of the object for which it was started and the aims and purposes of those in control of it. A vote was taken on Wednesday night, by the members, to decide which party they should support and some idea of the make up of the organization can be had, when it is stated that out of 245 votes only 5 were cast for Messrs Blair and Tucker. It is understood, in fact it is stated by one of those present, that the president, Mr. Harry McLellan, was very much annoyed indeed, first because the attendance at the club was not much more than one third of its alleged membership and secondly because any one had dared to vote for the support of the government candidates.

It is stated that he gave the five who did so a certain time to retract their vote, but as they made no move and he was not aware who they were, the wrath of the management was then poured out in plenty and many things were said that had better been left unsaid. In fact some of them angered even those who had voted in support of Foster and Stockton. Many of the members of the club state that it is possible to persuade them, but it is impossible to drive them. They see now that they lost their liberty of conscience when they took the oath to support the club in all things that the majority decided. Some of the strongest conservatives in the ranks of the

young men of the city will have nothing to do with the organization on account of this. They say that it is always possible for interested managers to canvass and make the vote just about as they want it.

The popularity of Mr. Robert J. Wilkins sided materially in starting the scheme. But Mr. Wilkins told all his friends including PROGRESS that the idea of forming such a club was to develop sport and he explained quite fully what was intended by that phase. He did not mention politics at all, in fact he was quite earnest in his denial that it was the intention of the club to have anything to do with politics. As the membership grew, however, the importance of its voting power seems to have been impressed upon the managers, and a prospectus was issued which showed that the object of the club was not the development of sport, but rather the development of reform in civic, provincial and federal politics. Then it was found, much to the surprise of those who had joined, that the minority was to be coerced by the majority and that any one who was a member of the club lost the right to express his opinion, if it did not happen to coincide with that of his next neighbor. Such a condition of things was not relished, and the result is that the club is waning in popularity and has become just what it was always supposed to be, a conservative organization, particularly destined to work against the Hon. Minister of Railways and to assist the effort of its president to defeat him.