

## RETAIL MERCHANTS HOLD A DOLLAR DAY FEBRUARY 16

### Successful Meeting Held Last Night--President Murray Reports on the Work of the Organization --Mr. Cameron's Address

The annual meeting of the Fredericton Branch of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada was held last night in the Board of Trade rooms, and a good representation of the merchants was present.

#### President's Address.

The President, A. Murray, gave a review of the work during the past year as follows:

Gentlemen,—This being our annual meeting, it is my duty as President of the Fredericton branch of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada to give a report of my stewardship for the past year. In doing so, it gives me great pleasure to state that although our organization is still young, we have already accomplished a great deal. One year ago we formed this branch, which is connected with the Dominion Association, which has been organized and in operation for the past eighteen years, which is sufficient evidence that there has been and is a necessity for such an organization.

One of the first things accomplished after being organized here was to promote Dollar Day, and I think you will all agree with me that it was a great success, bringing a great many people into the city from the surrounding districts.

We have held several meetings during the year, and a great many subjects were dealt with. We had a visit from Mr. E. M. Trowen, the Dominion Secretary, from Toronto, and also several visits from Mr. N. C. Cameron, our Provincial Secretary, who have given us a great deal of information.

I also had the pleasure of attending the last Dominion convention, which was held in Montreal, and I can assure you, gentlemen, that I had two of the hardest days' work of my life, as we worked early and late, and many matters that were dealt with at that meeting will be laid before you in printed form at a very early date, which I feel satisfied will convince the most pessimistic merchant that he should be a member of and support this organization.

Our Provincial Executive, of which I am a member, is now preparing a monthly journal, to be known as the Maritime Retail Merchant. In this journal it is our intention to fill a long-felt want, and that is to keep our members informed as to what is being done by this association throughout the whole Dominion. We have been very fortunate in having been able to secure the annual convention for the province, which is to be held here in Fredericton in March. We hope at this convention to have hundreds of merchant delegates from all parts of the province, and it will be necessary for us to make some preparations for receiving and entertaining same. Each one of us should make this organization a part of our business, as we are organized for the sole purpose of having Honest Goods and Honest Trading, and to make it easier to do right and harder to do wrong in the retail trade, and I can only repeat

the words that I expressed at our last Provincial Convention:

"The great requirement of today is a greater community of interest between merchants themselves. They must take more interest in the commercial and general welfare of one another, must take a deeper interest in various community work; must try to work for the betterment of the conditions of many they are very deeply interested in, by reason of their business association with them. They must become 'live wires' in their community."

#### Must Co-operate.

Merchants must be prepared to trade with one another, instead of going abroad to supply their needs, instead of seeking to supply their needs from wholesale houses. They must realize that unless they practice reciprocity with their fellow merchants in their trading they cannot achieve results. If they will not prohibit themselves against bad practices, they cannot complain about others.

Merchants must look the facts in the face; must look into their own hearts and ask themselves if they are doing many things as they should; if they are really trying to help one another.

When they really help one another and are honest and loyal to one another, they will always find they help themselves.

Cut out petty jealousies; cut out distrust of one another. Stop knocking, and get to work."

#### Mr. Cameron's Report.

Mr. N. C. Cameron, Provincial Secretary, gave a report on provincial matters, touching upon many subjects, as follows:

The necessity for a new Garnishee Act, a 'Transient Traders' Act, and a better Peddlers' Act, which are to be brought up at the coming Provincial Convention, which is to be held in Fredericton in March.

The Fire Insurance Department of the Association, and how it protects members in case of loss by fire.

Also fully explaining a new and a more thorough system for the collection of accounts, and showing that 90 per cent. can now be collected.

The Association is now publishing a journal to be known as "The Maritime Merchant," which will be delivered monthly to every member of the Association.

Dollar Day was then fully discussed and it was decided to ask the co-operation of the press to assist in making this event as big a success as last year.

The election of officers then took place as follows:

President—A. Murray (re-elected.)  
1st Vice-President—M. E. Doohan.  
2nd Vice-President—A. W. Coombes.  
Treasurer—E. R. Blackmer.  
Secretary—W. Mackay.

Executive Committee—C. W. Whelpley, Howard Rogers, J. P. Farrell, C. W. Hall, J. D. Cain.

Auditors—H. F. McMurray, Charles Edgcombe.

## Opposition Platform

The following platform was adopted at the Opposition Convention held in St. John recently:  
In the event of the Opposition being returned to power, we pledge ourselves:—

#### NO PARTIZAN CONTROL OF CROWN LANDS.

1. We pledge ourselves to completely reorganize the Crown Lands Department, so that its administration shall be entirely severed from politics and administered on sound business principles under systematic plans by a non-partizan commission specially appointed for that purpose, responsible to the Legislature and working in co-operation with the Dominion Commission of Conservation.

#### TAKE THE HIGHWAYS OUT OF POLITICS.

2. We pledge ourselves to take the highways out of politics, giving the expenditure of the money collected from the people and the control of the labor, together with the Government appropriations, into the hands of supervisors, chosen by the people of each parish, to whom a detailed and audited account must be rendered every year at the annual meeting, and a duplicate thereof forwarded to the Department of Public Works, the work of the supervisors to be under the inspection of a competent provincial engineer.

We also pledge ourselves to set aside the money collected from the licenses upon automobiles and other motor vehicles, together with an equal appropriation from the revenues of the Province each year, to pay the interest upon the bonds to provide for permanent roads, which shall be constructed as rapidly as possible.

#### PROHIBITION PROVINCE WIDE.

3. We pledge ourselves at the first session of the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Province to the fullest extent allowed by the Constitution, and within three months after the passage of said Act to submit the same by referendum to the electors of the Province, and should the majority of votes cast be in favor of the said law, then to bring the same into force by proclamation within one year thereafter.

#### ELECTION LAW.

4. (a) To amend the electoral law so as to make it impossible for members of the Legislature to traffic with the Government and still retain their seats.

(b) To make it possible for young men, when they reach the age of 21 years, to register their names and be placed forthwith upon the voters' lists, instead of waiting for the tedious machinery of revision as it now exists.

(c) To divide the counties into electoral districts which shall each be represented by one member.

(d) We will also consider amendments to the election law to make bribery in municipal as well as provincial elections impossible.

#### PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

5. To obtain at once a correct statement of the financial condition of the Province in order that the people may have definite knowledge of the vastly increased public debt and the enormous obligations of guaranteed bonds they will be called upon to pay; and to so reduce the cost of the administration of affairs and the number of useless officials as to avoid the necessity for direct taxation new confronting us.

#### AGRICULTURE.

6. To give the farmers all the practical assistance that the resources of the Province will permit, to improve agricultural methods and the quality and quantity of the stock upon the farm; to reduce the enormous salary list in the department, and to spend the educational grant received from the Federal Government without regard for political patronage.

#### VALLEY RAILWAY.

7. To complete the Valley Railway from a point on the Transcontinental Railway at or near Grand Falls, to St. John, and insist upon the Dominion Government carrying out the terms of the original legislation and allow the Province forty per cent. of the gross earnings thereof.

#### EDUCATION.

8. To always maintain and improve the educational service of the Province and to co-operate with the Federal Government in carrying out the recommendations of the commission upon technical education.

#### IMMIGRATION.

9. The inauguration of a vigorous immigration policy to properly place before intending immigrants, whose number will be large after termination of the war, the advantages of the agricultural possibilities of New Brunswick.

#### COULDN'T PUT CARVELL OFF.

The minister admitted that it was true that he had gone to F. B. Carvell, chief whip of the opposition, and to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the opposition, with a view to having them use their influence with Mr. Carvell to get him to refrain from bringing the matter up in the House. Both these gentlemen, Hon. Mr. Burrell stated, had received him courteously but intimated that they would be unable to do anything. The minister declared it was untrue to say he had "gone whining to the leader of the opposition and the chief Liberal whip." He had subsequently gone to Mr. Carvell and argued that the latter had "grotesquely misquoted" what had been preliminary to a private and confidential interview.

Mr. Carvell's main contention as to the gouging of the farmers by the Conservative hay combine was not touched on by Mr. Burrell. The fact that a new bargain had been made with the Atlantic Hay Company saving the British government at least \$15,000 and securing a square deal for the farmers is the net outcome.

#### TORY-NATIONALIST ALLIANCE.

When Dr. Edwards of Frontenac got under way this evening he gave the Liberals a prompt opening to point the moral of the Nationalist-Conservative alliance. Dr. Edwards declared it to be the duty of the postmaster general, Hon. Mr. Casgrain, to do the mails to Le Devoir and to suppress the paper. He declared that Bourassa was once a member of the House and a supporter of Sir

#### Wilfrid Laurier.

"Later on?" queried Mr. Pardee. "Well, he was a Laurier supporter when he was in the House," retorted Dr. Edwards.

"With whom did he stand last election?" came back Mr. Pardee. "How do you like him, now that he is supporting your party?" put in Mr. Michaud.

Paul Lamarche, Conservative Nationalist, member for Nicolette, rose angrily on the government benches. "The gentlemen you are abusing," said he, "will have a seat in the next parliament."

"If he does," retorted Mr. Edwards. "It will be a blot and an everlasting disgrace to the constituency which elects him."

"Yet he is no worse than certain of the ministers who form your cabinet today," exclaimed Mr. Gauvreau.

Dr. Edwards ignored this, but declared that it was a disgrace to the dominion and an insult to every man who wore the king's uniform to allow Laverge to retain his uniform. (Cheers from both sides.)

"Why does he retain his uniform?" asked Dr. Edwards.

"Ask your ministers," replied Mr. Gauvreau.

"I did," said Dr. Edwards, "and the reason given me was that Laverge wanted to be a martyr and they should not make him one. That is the excuse of political cowards."

Mr. Carroll, who followed, promptly hammered home the fact that Borden won power through the influence of Bourassa and Laverge, had never repudiated them yet and had not yet denied their statements that they had been offered portfolios.

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## MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DISCUSSED THE HAY DEAL

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, "talked back" for three hours to F. B. Carvell in parliament today. He did not deal with the Carvell charges, as to the way the farmers had been cheated in hay prices, except indirectly with an assurance that a new arrangement of the hay contract in New Brunswick, allowing the company only \$1 per ton profit, had been consummated by the department. He also promised to put a chartered accountant in charge to see that the new arrangement was honestly and properly carried out.

The minister spent the greater part of his speech in abusing the counsel for the prosecution. He went back to 1902—the time of the South African war—when Mr. Carvell, then a private citizen, was secretary-treasurer of the New Brunswick Hay Company, which received under different circumstances an allowance of 50 per cent for the spread between the price paid to the farmers and the price charged to the government, as against \$9.50 which had been paid last year in the contract which Mr. Carvell now attacked.

The usually urbane minister of agriculture seemed to be laboring under

considerable excitement. He charged that he was being "stabbed in the back" in relation to Mr. Carvell's statement as to his appeals to the Liberal leaders and the chief Liberal whip to prevent the New Brunswicker from launching his disclosures, and denied the language attributed to him by Mr. Carvell in the interview he had secured with the latter.

"It wouldn't have hurt me very much if the whole thing was made public," declared the minister. "I did say it was confidential but I never used the term. 'In God's name don't bring it up,' and I never said I was afraid of the newspapers. I was amazed when I heard the member for Carleton use those phrases."

"What did you say then?" put in Mr. Carvell.

Hon. Mr. Burrell did not answer that, but he declared that, while he had nothing to say concerning Mr. Carvell's private life, his statements had "stamped him as unfitted for public life." After the war was over he would have no objection in bringing down every record. Mr. Burrell took refuge in the excuse that it was war reasons entirely that prompted his action in appealing for Mr. Carvell not to proceed.