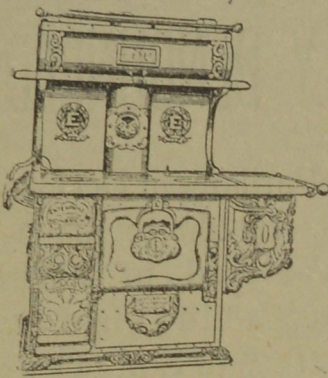


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Former Minister of Labor Nominated at Rousing Convention--Fighting Speeches by Dr. Michael Clark and Sir Allen Aylesworth--Message to Sir Wilfrid

(Toronto Globe)

"Twelve hundred Liberals in mass meeting assembled in North York greet you. Fight on; we will uphold your hands."

The foregoing was telegraphed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier from the Liberal meeting in Newmarket on Saturday

Newmarket, March 9--Stirred by the significance of the present impasse in the House of Commons on a point of constitutional rights 1,200 Liberals representing every corner of North York gathered in the Town Hall here yesterday afternoon and by way of preparation for a threatened Federal struggle, nominated with splendid unanimity Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Minister of Labor in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's last Administration to be their standard bearer.

Afterwards hundreds listened with a steadily rising flood of enthusiasm to three eloquent addresses on the naval proposals of Premier Borden. Sir Allan Aylesworth, Dr. Michael Clark, member of the House of Commons for Red Deer, Sask., and Hon. Mackenzie King showed what "a fatal and fallacious policy" was the present Government's proposal, how ignominiously Mr. Borden and his followers had turned right-about face on the question how hollow and dead was the German menace, how empty the talk about an emergency was, and how futile would be the efforts of Mr. Borden to restore order and unity in his coalition Cabinet.

TOWN HALL FILLED

Early in the morning farmers interested in the outcome of the battle of words at Ottawa commenced to arrive in the town and by 2 o'clock in the afternoon when the meeting commenced the town hall was packed to its capacity, with standing-room at a premium and scores were turned from the doors unable to obtain admission. Common opinion declared it to be the largest and most enthusiastic assembly of Liberals of North York in forty years.

President W. C. Widdifield of the North York Liberal Association, on taking the chair announced that the first business of the afternoon was the nomination of a candidate to carry the riding for Liberalism in the next Federal election.

Mr. T. C. Robinette, K. C., of Toronto, was nominated by Mr. Walter Scott of Sutton and seconded by Mr. Joseph Davidson.

Hon. Mackenzie King was nominated by Mr. Aubrey Davis and seconded by Mr. James Cooper.

Mr. Robinette amidst prolonged applause, arose and, declining the nomination told the gathering that he had decided last fall to retire from the candidacy as the demands of his home and his professional duties were imperative. "I cannot spare the time at Ottawa after the next election," he added. Mr. Robinette moved that Hon. Mr. King's nomination be made unanimous and by a standing vote and cheer upon cheer his motion was carried.

MR. KING AND NORTH WATERLOO

Mr. King paid a graceful tribute to the faithful services Mr. Robinette had rendered to the Liberals of North York. He referred to the fact that earlier in the same week he had been re-nominated as the Liberal candidate in North Waterloo. "If I were looking for a certainty of return to Parliament," said Mr. King "there is no riding I would rather contest than North Waterloo. I believe that on the naval question a Liberal candidate would be victorious in an election. My successor in North Waterloo said soon after his victory that any defeat was brought about because I had made a racial appeal to the Germans. The situation has changed since 1911. The question before the country now is not the question that was before the country then. Now it is a question of a naval service or a contribution on the mother country. If I were to stand in North Waterloo again the Tory papers would spread it abroad that I was trying to stir up racial feeling among the Germans. I therefore feel it my duty to our party to make it impossible for such a cry to be made, even if it meant the loss of a seat in Parliament."

FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

Turning to the navy question Mr. King declared that history was repeating itself. "Here we are back again," he said, "fighting the same battle our ancestors fought. In the early part of the last century the struggle the right and liberty of self-government. A great change is now proposed, a result of the unpatriotic and iniquitous compact between the Conservatives and the Nationalists. Mr. Borden says there is an emergency. There is no emergency. 'So far as British supremacy of the seas is concerned. There is an emergency, however, and that is the Borden Cabinet. The great problem before the Premier is how he can carry out his pledges to the people of Quebec to do nothing without going to the people, and his pledges to the people of this Province that Laurier was not doing enough and he would do more. That is the emergency, and Premier Borden is afraid to trust the people on the question."

"We are asked," continued Mr. King, "to contribute the sum of \$35,000,000 to help carry out his unpatriotic alliance. Does Great Britain need the money? What has she been doing the past seven years? She has wiped out \$350,000,000 of her national debt. Now we are asked to borrow \$35,000,000 from her and give it back to her to save her. Do you wonder why the Government sits dumb? Do you wonder why not one of them will get up from one week end to another to say what the emergency is?"

Ovation for Dr. Clark

Dr. Michael Clark, on rising, was accorded an ovation. He said he desired the sympathy of the gathering as he had not recently been working on the eight-hour-day plan. He pointed out at the outset that it was fortunate the present naval question could be approached when the German scare was about dead. There was little or nothing in this latter. It was the unworthy successor of the Russian scare and the French scare. Both of them proved harmless and hollow.

"The German scare is dead," said Dr. Clark. "It became a corpse easily, for it was still-born so far as I was concerned. I am well versed in the history of those scares. You may have heard of Dr. Arbuthnot, a Scotch pamphleteer of two hundred years ago. He said it was perfectly necessary at that time on public grounds to frighten the people of England once a year about the pretender and the French invasion. Now substitute annexation for the pretender and the German scare for the French invasion and you have the situation in Canadian politics in this decade. I have found that these scares are perfectly harmless. I stroke them now, and, finding there is no sting, get on friendly terms with these scares. You do the same, and you will know the animal the next time it comes around. There was the Russian scare of seventy years ago. It went to rest. There has been recently the German scare,

and after four years it is about gone. Only people of very feeble intellect allow the German scare to operate upon their minds today.

A FRIGHTFUL RESPONSIBILITY
"At the present time," continued Dr. Clark, "Germany and Great Britain are on as good terms as it is possible for one nation to be with another. When they are on these excellent terms, it is a frightful responsibility for the people and the Parliament of this country to project \$35,000,000 into the maelstrom of European militarism. I believe that the more slowly and more considerably we go in Canada in regard to armaments the better for us and the better for the world." He showed how Canada and the United States were able to live side by side for one hundred years without hostilities and said that this peaceful relationship was "the high-water mark of civilization and international politics."

"The time has not yet come, though," he said "when we Canadians can afford to be peace-at any price men. It is our duty to provide for a reasonable scheme of defence against any possible external aggression. Defence as opposed to offence is or should be, one of the first principles of a nation."

Dr. Clark reviewed the events in the House of Commons, showing how the present imbroglio over the naval aid bill arose. He told of the vigils kept by both parties, and of the strong purpose of the Opposition to prevent "illegal onslaughts upon the money of the people." He told of

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the remarkable change of front on the part of those who are now at the head of the government, including Premier Borden and Hon. Geo. Foster. He described the latter as "the chief contortionist and skin-changer of his party." "There is no one," said Dr. Clark, "that can swallow himself like Mr. Foster. I called Mr. Foster's attention to his change of front on the navy question and Mr. Foster told me it mattered not what he said three and a half years ago. I said it mattered a good deal what he said three and a half years ago if what he said then was sense and what he says now is nonsense. I tell you we are bound to sift this navy question to the bottom."

WHOLE SCHEME AN ACT OF FOLLY.

After showing how incompatible were the Conservatives and the Nationalists in the government, "whose only common ground," said Dr. Clark, "was that they both had great objection to being disembowelled in the service of Britain," the speaker proceeded to deal with the idea of a permanent policy.

"How can you," he asked, "get rid of this proposal with one contribution if there is to be imperial federation? How are you going to get off with one contribution? This whole scheme is an act of folly of almost criminal description. It is the first step in a huge scheme of centralization."

(Continued on page three.)

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