

THE MILITIA

Col. Thompson M. P. for Haldimand in an Able Speech

POINTS OUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE FOR IT.

The Annual Expenditure on the Force has been Doubled.

Ottawa, July 21.—The Canadian opposition gave an exhibition of versatility yesterday. It had been attacking the Dominion government for dismissing Lord Dundonald from his position as general officer commanding. Yesterday they attacked the British government for having called Lord Dundonald home with orders to keep quiet in the meantime. Col. Hughes, Mr. Bell, Colonel Tisdale and other good Conservatives said as Lord Dundonald was a half pay British officer he had the right to participate in any kind of politics he pleased, anywhere he pleased. The order for silence was a direct attack upon the British right of free speech. Col. Hughes intimated that if Lord Dundonald was a man he would talk back to the Secretary of State for War of Great Britain. This was all begun at the morning sitting.

In the afternoon Mr. A. C. Bell, Conservative member for Pictou, Nova Scotia, sought to defend the party to which he belongs from the charge of making political capital out of the Dundonald incident. He wanted to know what right the Chief Justice of Canada had to give voice to this sentiment in an interview in London. He challenged the statement that Conservatives had ever sought to make capital out of Lord Dundonald.

Col. Thompson of Haldimand, who followed, charged Mr. Bell with having descended to a low level to stir up party strife. The Hansard tomorrow would contain Mr. Bell's speech and therefore the answer to Mr. Bell's challenge for proof that the Conservatives have sought to make political capital out of Lord Dundonald. A sample of the unfairness of the Conservative methods in this affair was found in the play upon the inadvertent use of the word "foreigner" by the prime minister, who changed it instantly and substituted the word "stranger." Mr. Thompson said the leader of the opposition had accepted the explanation of the prime minister on behalf of his party, yet the following day the chief organ giving him support in the capital, the citizen appeared with a column editorial, commenting unfairly upon the use of this word. Since then Conservatives have been trying to make votes out of the unfair use of the word and today Mr. Bell had made a slighting reference to the incident. This was a sample of boasted Conservative fairness. During the morning debate Col. Sam Hughes had called all British governments cowardly. Mr. Bell had termed them magnanimous gentlemen. The Conservatives were seeking to impugn the loyalty of Liberals for themselves. Criticisms of loyalty come with poor grace from representatives of a party which rotten-egged a governor-general and burned down the Parliament Buildings in Montreal, and one of whose leaders when trade matters were under discussion some years ago used the famous words "So much the worse for British connection." Col. Thompson said that he did not wish to impute disloyalty to any man in Canada but it was time to call attention to the fact that there was no party monopoly of it here.

Lord Dundonald had said Canadians were living in "a fool's paradise" and charged the Government with the neglect of the militia. If we are living in a fool's paradise under the Liberal management of the militia and being neglected now, what sort of a fool's paradise were Canadians living in under Conservative

management? The description would not be parliamentary. However it could be appreciated when it was remembered that under the Liberal government \$10,000,000 more had been spent on the militia than by the Conservatives and the annual expenditure had been increased from one to two millions. The test of a Government's regard for anything is generally indexed in the estimate. That sort of a test showed the great interest of this Government in the militia. But this was not the only evidence of regard for militia and defence. It remained for this Government to obtain after thirty years, the Fenian Raid medals, the long service twenty year medals, and had put an end to the life term system of colonels and thereby giving play for ambition and promotion among militia officers. The effect was apparent in the improved conditions of the militia. The present government had organized the Army Medical Staff and the medical corps as a part of the military, replacing the regimental surgeon and his pill-box with an ambulance system. The present government had organized the Militia Intelligence Department, made up of the best men in the various corps of the Dominion. The present militia administration has organized and improved the engineers, a most valuable branch of the militia. The present government has organized rifle clubs and established rifle ranges all over the country. In doing this has it hardly deserved Lord Dundonald's charge of indifference to the militia. The present government has established the school of Musketry for the improvement of knowledge in the handling of small arms. It has increased the capacity of the Dominion arsenal at Quebec from 1,500,000 rounds a year to 9,000,000.

Through the efforts of the present government we have today a small arms factory in Canada capable of producing 1,000 rifles a month and if worked night and day 24,000 rifles a year. He believed that if the Minister of Militia had an opportunity to carry out his present policy cannon would soon be cast in Canada. He has already arranged for two institutions in Canada where steel gun carriages can be made and repaired. This, said Colonel Thompson, is Canada for the Canadians. Something had been done for the officers of the permanent corps. A bill had been passed to provide them with a pension upon which they could retire and live reasonably when their period of usefulness was over. This was bound to have a good effect upon the officers of the instructional force of Canada. Col. Thompson referred to Col. Hughes' attack upon Mr. Arnold Forster, the British Secretary of State for War. Col. Hughes had fairly wiped him off the slate. It was like the passing of a second Forster. Col. Hughes had seen fit to impugn the loyalty of Solicitor-General Lemieux. The loyalty of the Canadian Solicitor-General could be well compared with the load-mountain loyalty of Col. Sam Hughes. Mr. Lemieux came from a fighting race. He was a French-Canadian, one of the kind of men who had proved their loyalty under the walls of Quebec in 1776, and again in 1812 at Chateauguay. There could be no question about the loyalty of such men.

Apology for Col. Hughes.

Dr. Sproule followed, and explained that Col. Hughes did not mean all he said about the British government, and not half all the House thought he meant. The Doctor thought it was not an evidence of British fair play to rag Lord Dundonald when he was just beginning to get interesting. Dr. Sproule also said this splendid Imperial officer had been kicked out of the Canadian service as though he were a dog.

Mr. William Northrup gave a fifteen minute explanation of the way Conservatives have been keeping the Dundonald matter out of politics.

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AT ANDOVER.

Local Gov't. Members Continue Their

EDUCATIVE CAMPAIGN.

Large Gathering of Victoria Farmers at Court House.

SPEECHES BY MESSRS. FARRIS, LABILLOIS, FLEMMING, TWEEDALE AND OTHERS.

Andover, July 22.—Hon. Messrs. LaBillois and Farris held a very successful meeting at the Court House here last night, speaking on the new highway act and agricultural topics. There was a good attendance of representative farmers from this village and the surrounding districts, and the speakers were given a very attentive hearing. Among those in attendance were:—J. F. Tweeddale, M. P. P., Jas. Burgess, M. P. P., Henry McQuaide, George Barclay, H. W. Beveridge, G. L. Kelley, T. R. Cameron, John Brooks, A. W. Perley, J. E. Porter, ex-M. P. P., Rev. R. W. Demmings, J. A. Perley, W. A. Atherton, Coun. Chas. Inman, Jas. Paul, Frank Turner, N. McQuarrie, A. E. Kupkey, Harry Armstrong, Henry Bridges, Ben. Kilburn, F. D. Sadler, Robt. Beveridge, David Curry, J. B. Porter, G. E. Baxter, Herbert Manner, Thos. Rogers, Thos. Lawson, Chas. H. Larlee, Wm. Phillip, Wm. W. Brayall, G. M. McCrea, Chas. Pickett, J. W. McPhail, Edward Cox, C. L. Omstead, S. P. Waite.

Mr. J. F. Tweeddale was elected chairman and introduced Hon. L. P. Farris as the first speaker.

Mr. Farris said he was very much pleased to be here tonight and to meet so many of the Victoria County farmers. He had the pleasure of visiting this section before, and was always kindly received. He had endeavored to interest the farmers and promote their interests and since occupying his present position found it difficult to follow such an energetic Commissioner of Agriculture as Mr. LaBillois, his predecessor. In looking over the situation he found in various counties apple culture successful and profitable. We are trying to show the people what can be done in this line by means of illustrative orchards which are being established in every county. Nova Scotia apples last year brought \$2,000,000, and if we used the same efforts and methods in New Brunswick he was sure we could make the industry a great success. Mr. Farris here described how the illustrative orchards are set out and cared for as an object lesson to the farmers. We give our attention largely to winter varieties of apples. We do not pretend to originate these ideas, but get them from the practical experience of others. We are hoping to inspire the farmers to go into apple culture. He was firmly convinced that apples can be most successfully raised in New Brunswick and hoped that the efforts of the government in this respect would receive the hearty co-operation of the farmers.

Mr. Farris said he regretted the Creamery here is not running this year. New Brunswick is one of the best dairy provinces in the Dominion, and the industry can be made a very profitable one. Kings County produced over 1,000,000 lbs. of cheese and 500,000 lbs. of butter last year, and they found winter dairying the most profitable. We had an increase of \$46,000, last year and during the same period the dairy products exported from Montreal were valued at \$1,500,000, more than all the grain shipped from that port and \$15,000,000 more than all the beef exported from Montreal. Institute meetings were held under government auspices to interest and instruct the farmers, and he expected to employ our own men as lecturers instead of securing them from the sister provinces.

We have a fine province, not surpassed in many respects in Canada, and we should try to keep our young men on the farms. As the lumber is being cut away, it becomes necessary for us to engage more extensively in farming, and we must keep up to date in our methods to meet the keen competition of the age.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois thought the people in general would approve of the series of meetings inaugurated by the government, that the mem-

bers of the administration most intimately connected with the great public services might meet the people in the various parts of the province and talk over mutual interests. There was no politics in these meetings. The new highway act had been adopted in principle by both government and opposition members of the legislature, although there may have been differences on the details. He spoke of the loss to the province by the neglect of the people to perform their statute labour, a loss of fully forty per cent. He knew of cases of men who had been assessed on \$10,000, and \$12,000, and in ten years had not paid more than \$4.00 for improvement of the roads.

It had been represented that the government would collect the road tax under the new law, but that was not the case. The money went directly into the county treasuries and will be expended in the districts where it is collected. Mr. LaBillois proceeded to make comparisons of the amount of tax under the old and new Highway Acts to the advantage of the latter. He urged that one reason why the government had taken over the appointment of highway overseers was that the municipal councils, while hitherto making the appointments, had not followed that up by seeing that the officials did their duty. He wanted only the best available men appointed supervisors, men who would take an intelligent and active interest in their work, and he urged the representatives to recommend none but that class for the positions.

Mr. LaBillois spoke of the general interest in good roads taken by all classes, and invited the people to earnestly co-operate with the government in improving the highways. After a reference to the wide tire section of the new Highway Act, and the necessity of preserving the large bridges from damage by teams trotting over them, the chief commissioner spoke of the public improvements in Andover, the new buildings and the splendid water service, but expressed the hope that the people would take advantage of the provisions of the Highway Act enabling them to spend a portion of their road money, or all of it if they desire, in the repair and erection of sidewalks. In conclusion Mr. LaBillois spoke of the section of the new law authorizing the supervisors to spend 10 per cent. of the tax for the purchase of machinery for opening up winter roads. He was pleased with the progress he noticed on every hand in Victoria County. You have a fertile and progressive county, energetic citizens and splendid prospects for the future.

Mr. J. K. Flemming, M. P. P. for Carleton, was next introduced. He was pleased to see the interest manifested in the matters discussed at this meeting. Agriculture and good roads were most important matters, that interest the whole people. He had listened with great interest to Mr. Farris' address on apple culture. While he differed politically from the gentleman who had spoken, when the question of advancing the best interests of the province was concerned he was with him heart and soul. He said he did not approve of all the sections of the Highway Act, but he would not think for a moment of introducing a party discussion at a meeting of this kind.

He said Mr. LaBillois had given very much thought to this matter, and was a faithful and energetic member of the government, whom he was always glad to meet, as he was all of his colleagues. He was pleased to know that members of the government were going through the province getting in touch with the people and learning their needs, and he hoped all their meetings would be successful and be of great benefit to the province.

Mr. James Burgess, M. P. P. for Victoria, expressed his pleasure at the government's action in establishing illustrative orchards, and declared his belief that the new Highway Act would prove a great success. He spoke of the introduction of road tax collection in Grand Falls after its incorporation, and of the great benefits derived therefrom, as against the performance of statute labour before incorporation.

County Councillor, George E. Baxter was pleased to meet the government members. It was a good plan for them to travel around the province and get acquainted with the people and learn their wants. Mr. Baxter was much interested in Mr. Farris' observations on apple culture and amusingly told his experience in orcharding, which at the outset had not been very successful. We need knowledge of how to proceed, and he hoped the illustrative orchards will prove successful. He feared the road act was the introduction of direct taxation. He favoured some sections of the law, especially that relating to wide tires, and trusted that other parts of the law would prove successful.

Mr. Benjamin Kilburn here took the chair and Mr. J. F. Tweeddale, M. P. P., addressed the meeting. He spoke of the necessity of the new road act which was framed very largely on the basis of an act put forward by the Victoria County Council and introduced in the legislature by Mr. Lawson. He referred

to the failure of the people to do statute labour and believed that the new plan would be a great improvement over the old. The act is not presented as perfect, but if it is found unworkable it can be improved. The present Chief Commissioner is ever ready to consult the interests of the people, and in this connection Mr. Tweeddale paid a hearty tribute to the ability and fidelity of Mr. LaBillois in the positions he has occupied in the government.

Mr. J. E. Porter, ex-M. P. P., spoke of the excellent moves the government had made to benefit the farmers' interests. Mr. Porter believed the road act would prove popular when it was properly understood and administered.

Mr. Thos. Lawson, ex-M. P. P., was pleased to renew his friendly intercourse with the members of the government present—gentlemen who had always listened with kindly and sympathetic interest when he was a member of the legislature. It was a matter of satisfaction to the country that a practical and successful farmer like Mr. Farris was in control of the department of agriculture. Mr. Lawson spoke of the great success of apple growing in Nova Scotia, and commended the government for its efforts to encourage the industry in this province. No doubt certain portions of this province are most suitable for growing apples, and the same market that is open to Nova Scotia is available to New Brunswick.

Mr. Lawson commended the new highway act and was glad to find incorporated therein some features for which he had contended while in the legislature, notably the adoption of a road tax instead of statute labour. He believed the change made was most desirable and would bring excellent results. The next most important feature to his mind was the amalgamation of the various road funds and their expenditure under one competent official.

Mr. Thos. R. Rogers of Carlingford made a short practical address on apple culture in which he is quite extensively engaged, and so valuable were his suggestions that Mr. Farris requested him to communicate his experience more fully to the agricultural department.

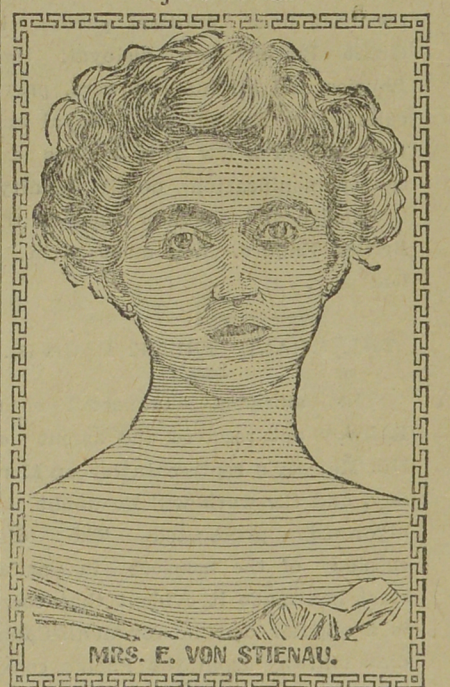
The very successful and interesting meeting closed with the National Anthem.

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