

Dominion Election

NOMINATION, - Thursday, Oct 27
POLLING, - - Thursday, Nov. 3

Liberal Candidate for York,

MR. ALEXANDER GIBSON, Jr.

DAILY HERALD

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 1904

TOMORROW NIGHT'S MEETING.

The electors of Fredericton are looking forward with pleasant anticipation to the addresses which are to be delivered at the opera house tomorrow evening by Hon. H. R. Emerson, the popular Liberal leader in New Brunswick, and Sir Frederick Borden, a distinguished son of Nova Scotia, both of them trusted colleagues of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Both gentlemen are able platform speakers, and having an excellent cause to advocate, will no doubt create a most favorable impression, and spur Liberal workers to increased activity in the interests of Mr. Gibson, the candidate of the party in York.

The chair will be occupied by His Worship Mayor Palmer, whose identification with the Liberal party in this campaign is very pleasing to those who follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Ladies are invited to attend the meeting, and the gallery will be reserved for their accommodation.

FOOLISH TACTICS.

If the Sun's information from other constituencies is no more reliable than the news it publishes from York that paper is imposing on its readers' credulity to a most amazing extent. The Sun declares that one of the liveliest campaigns in this province is being put up by the Tory candidate in York, when, as a matter of fact there is absolute indifference even in the Tory party itself, and Mr. Crockett's chances of election are of the slimmest possible character.

Fancy the Sun trying to delude its readers into the belief that such orators as Duncan Thomas, Lewis Bliss, J. K. Pinder, etc., are stirring up the country people to a ferment of agitation against the government. The thing is too ridiculous to invite serious attention.

If the Sun had reliable knowledge of the situation in York it would know that many of the leading Conservatives in York are giving Mr. Crockett no quarter, but have actually signed Mr. Gibson's nomination paper, and are giving him enthusiastic support. When we mention in this connection the names of Mr. Jas. S. Neill, formerly president of the Conservative association of York, Mayor Palmer, Mr. John Kilburn, Ald. John Scott, Mr. W. J. Scott and others equally prominent in the Conservative party in the past, it will be seen how futile and foolish it is for the Sun to pretend that the Tory candidate in this county is receiving any substantial assurance of making even a respectable showing at the polls.

Not only have the gentlemen we have named signed Mr. Gibson's nomination papers, but some of them have already taken off their coats for Mr. Gibson and will do everything in their power to elect the Liberal candidate. There is Mayor Palmer, for instance, the largest employer of labor in Fredericton, acting chairman of one of Mr. Gibson's election committees, and the same gentleman will occupy the chair at the great Liberal meeting at the opera house tomorrow evening, to be addressed by Hon. H. R. Emerson and Sir Frederick Borden.

In the face of evidence like this what sense or reason is there in the Sun or anybody else representing that Mr. Crockett's campaign is anything else than a flat, dreary failure.

GRASPING AT STRAWS.

The desperate condition of the Tory cause in this campaign, and their utter lack of hope of defeating the government is well illustrated by the frenzied way in which the party throw up their hats at the announcement of Mr. Blair's resignation of a government office.

The ex-minister of railways is offered a bigger salary probably from some corporation that desires his eminent legal services. He declares that

he is relinquishing \$10,000 a year for a larger amount purely from personal reasons, to better his financial condition, and forthwith all Torydom pretends to go wild and predict the defeat of the government.

Steady, gentlemen! Don't grasp at straws. Mr. Blair has separated himself from a lucrative position in the service of the government, swapping \$10,000 a year for \$25,000, but is that any reason why Liberals should be stamped into desertion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

Mr. Blair says he is still opposed to the government's railway policy, but does that furnish any intelligent Liberals with a reason for deserting the standard of his party; or weaken the faith of those who think Laurier is the man to lead the political thought and administration of this country?

How absurd to suppose that the Liberals of Canada are going to vote the Tory ticket because, forsooth, Mr. Blair has secured a better job than the one the government gave him.

Ah, no! Liberal allegiance to Laurier and good government is stronger than any appeal which the Tory party may make over the shoulders of a man whom that party has lampooned and slandered for the past twenty years, and whose services they are now craving to assist them out of the slough of despond into which they have fallen.

Liberals, stand to your guns, in utter disregard to what Tories claim is their bombshell, but which after all, is only the resignation of a government official who is naturally desirous of bettering his lot in life.

MR. BLAIR'S RESIGNATION.

Mr. Blair is growing spectacular as his age increases. Within a period of fifteen months he has sprung a couple of large sized sensations on the Canadian public.

Without a word of warning even to his most intimate friends, he threw up his position in the government as minister of railways and canals and came out in opposition to the Transcontinental railway project, and now just as suddenly and just as unexpectedly he has resigned the chairmanship of the railway commission.

Various motives are assigned for Mr. Blair's latest action, but in his published statements he gives no indication of his future course, except to say that beyond reaffirming his opposition to the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme he has no present intention of re-entering public life.

The Tories express great delight at Mr. Blair's resignation and declare that he will take the stump against the government on the railway issue. Mr. Blair himself has given no intimation to this effect, but as he is a gentleman who seems to enjoy the spectacular in politics, there is no means of forecasting what course he may take.

The Liberals are not seriously concerned as to Mr. Blair's future course. He did them about all the damage in his power when he made his celebrated speech in parliament on the railway question, and quotations from his address form the chief basis of attack by the Opposition in the present campaign.

He may seek to further arouse the country against the government on the railway issue, as the Tories earnestly hope, but at this stage of the campaign so promising to the government, Mr. Blair would not likely be able to exercise any considerable influence on the mind of the electorate.

Probably Mr. Blair's principal reason for throwing up his position is to better himself financially, as a lawyer of his great ability is capable of earning in private practice very much larger rewards than his \$10,000 a year as chairman of the railway commission.

Mr. Blair's next move will be anticipated with considerable interest, and though it may be in the direction for which the Tories are hoping and praying, any course he may adopt

will not turn the Liberals aside from their determination to secure a renewal of public confidence in the Laurier ministry at the polls on November third.

PERSONAL MOTIVES ONLY.

Those who assert that Mr. Blair has resigned the chairmanship of the Railway Committee from patriotic motives—his desire to save Canada if possible from the construction of the Transcontinental railway according to the government plan, are confronted and contradicted by that gentleman's explanation, in which he says:

"I find the work of the board very congenial to me, but notwithstanding, I have not found it sufficiently attractive to induce me to forego personal advantages, which otherwise are open to me in other employment."

I may say that the present moment I have had presented to me for prompt determination, the question as to whether I will turn my mind and my energies in another direction, which will be very much more profitable to me personally than the position which I now fill.

"I hope it will not be thought that in doing so I have pursued any other course than that which is proper and legitimate in a man, who, if he does not consider his own interests, certainly cannot expect to have them considered by others. I make no complaints, I cast no reflections, I do not wish to intimate that I have any cause whatever to find fault. I am reaching the conclusion at which I have arrived purely for reasons that are personal to myself."

If Mr. Blair is frank in this statement and the public is bound to accept it until there is indisputable evidence to the contrary, he resigns because he is offered a better position in some other employ, and not because he is impelled by a sense of the alleged great enormity of the government's Transcontinental railway policy. The effort therefore that our Tory friends are making to present Mr. Blair as deeply harrowed by patriotic motives, and unable to restrain himself from further opposing the government's railway policy, are to say the least premature and without reasonable excuse or justification.

However, the political arena is usually full of political surprises, especially during an election campaign, and as Mr. Blair has sprung a couple of sensations within a very short period, the public will not be thrown into any great state of excitement if there are others in store.

THE CAMPAIGN IN YORK.

Mr. Gibson in his canvas of York, is meeting with the most gratifying reception, prominent electors who were opposed to him in his former contests, are rallying to his assistance in this campaign, and the indications are that he will achieve one of the greatest political victories ever recorded in this constituency. The work of Liberal organization however is proceeding with thoroughness of detail that will ensure the best possible results at the polls. Nothing is taken for granted, and Liberals are bound that no legitimate effort shall be spared to make Mr. Gibson's victory complete and overwhelming.

The Telegraph has executed another sudden change. From an alleged independent newspaper it has developed into a Tory organ. It is better for the Liberals however to have an open enemy than one in ambush. The Telegraph has been such a wobbler that its influence with the people of New Brunswick long since disappeared.

The Sun is begging Mr. Loggie not to contest Northumberland. The Tory organ has evidently heard reports from that county similar to those that reach the Herald. Mr. Loggie will remain in the field, and our advice are that he will certainly defeat Mr. Robinson.



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