

AYLESWORTH ON THE STUMP.

New Postmaster General Eloquenty Discusses Issues of Campaign in North York.

He is Entirely Opposed to Pensioning ex-Cabinet Ministers.

Newmarket, Ont., Nov. 2.—A promise to use his influence to secure an amendment to the clause of the indemnity bill granting pensions to ex-ministers and a general declaration that he would follow the policy laid down by Sir William Mulock, marked the great speech of Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, who today opened the campaign in Newmarket. The reception to the new postmaster general distinguished a predecessor was most cordial and the manner in which he met the people and made his answer to his swash-buckling critics was so gratifying as to win frequent cheers from a rural audience. His clear, logical utterances, flowing in simple eloquence in an uninterrupted stream captured and held his hearers from the moment of his rising, and when the meeting closed there was a burst of cheers that showed how he had won the hearts of the people. Mr. Aylesworth's speech was one of unaffected, candid sincerity, and as he met the more malignant criticisms of one and another as he demolished them, and the sympathy of the audience warmed to him and he made friends of scores who before had only known him by his national reputation, the campaign has now opened with every promise of success. Mr. Aylesworth is in the riding to work to the end, and there is every outward indication of a large majority in his favor.

Mr. Aylesworth's Speech.

Hon. Mr. Aylesworth said it had been urged that he ought to be rejected because he was an outsider. For thirty-five years he has lived in Toronto, which was the county town of the county of York. (Applause.) It was also declared by a Toronto newspaper that he was a corporation lawyer.

"I wonder, gentlemen," observed the postmaster general, "if an advertisement from a corporation were offered to a newspaper such as I am speaking of, it would be rejected because it would be corporation money that would be paid for it. (Cheers.) Indeed, I think that it might be said that the virtuous World newspaper is owned by a corporation." (Hear, hear and cheers.)

MULOCK HIS MODEL.

It has also been vaguely charged that he was a reactionary, and less progressive than his predecessor. "I come in," said Mr. Aylesworth, "as Sir William Mulock's successor, with his mantle to some extent descending upon my unworthy shoulders. I come into the administration of his department, entirely inexperienced, and I know no one that is a better model as an administrator of that department than my predecessor. (Cheers.) My highest hope is that I may be able to some extent to carry on to their fruition the plans and the policy which have been inaugurated for me upon the lines laid down by that man who now is universally acclaimed as the best postmaster general this country ever had." (Cheers.)

It had been said, the speaker went on, that his appearance before the Telephone Committee as counsel for the Bell Telephone Company would interfere with his administration of the postoffice department. One of the first things that he had done upon becoming minister was to write a letter putting an end to his connection with the Bell Telephone Company. It was in the interests of whoever might be in the telephone business to develop the system and make it self-supporting, whether individuals, companies or the government. "And just so soon as the progress of this country warrants either the business men who are pushing forward the undertaking of the government or the extension of the telephone into the very thinly settled parts of the country, and into, it may be—and I hope the day may come when it will be the household of every farmer in the land." (Cheers.)

SURPLUSES FOR RURAL DELIVERY.

Mr. Aylesworth said that the question required very careful consideration. There were other questions of greater, or, at least, equal importance, and he did not know that the surplus income of the postoffice department could be better invested than in that direction. In regard to these questions he had no preconceived prejudice, and desired to follow out the policy of his predecessor. He came to them as a candidate of the Reform party, Mr. Aylesworth said, then he briefly reviewed the government's record on a few points, such as the development of the west, the administration of the postoffice department, the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and added that he would deal with the school question at another meeting.

THE SALARY GRAB.

He then referred to what had been called the "salary grab," or the increased payments to members of parliament, and the pensions to ex-cabinet ministers. On that question he intended to speak his mind. Whoever might be blamed for what had been done, at any rate his skirts were clear. (Laughter.) But that was no answer. He was there as a member of the government, and he was cheerfully willing to share whatever responsibility rested on the government. (Applause.) Were Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues to be

condemned? What about Mr. Borden and his colleagues in opposition? There was absolutely nothing to choose between the two parties in the House in that respect, except that the government of the day, having a majority, could say that they would resign if it was forced upon them. With regard to the merits of the question, he agreed with Mr. Arch. Campbell, M. P., who said that \$2,500 was overpay for some members, as \$1,000 would be overpay for some, but the trouble was that they could not discriminate. But to more than one, perhaps, to the majority, even \$2,500 was not remuneration for all that they lost by their position.

ONE SORROWFUL CASE.

He knew that the case of a doctor elected last fall in Manitoba, who last session gave another doctor \$1,500 to take his practice, spent six months at Ottawa with his wife, paid a \$900 hotel bill, and went home to find his practice ruined. In what position would he have been on \$1,500 indemnity? The members from the west and the far east had to leave their business for the whole season of five or six months. Did they want parliament on the same basis here as in Britain, where the members were not paid, and where only rich men could go to parliament? That was not desirable in a democratic country like Canada. Would Mr. McCallum, if elected be able to bring about a change? Did they think he would try? "Does he want to?" asked an old gentleman in the audience, amid laughter.

Mr. Aylesworth said he heard no objection to the increase in Judges' salaries. He knew as a lawyer that the low salaries which had been paid to Judges for years had not been to the advantage of the men whose misfortune it had been to go to law.

THE PENSIONS CONDEMNED.

"But," he continued, "I do think there is one feature in regard to which amendment may be well looked for, and it is in regard to the system of pensioning ex-ministers of the Crown. (Applause.) As I said before, I was not there, and I am not personally responsible, but I want to say on this occasion as a Minister of the Crown, or speaking as an individual, that personally, I am opposed to the whole superannuation system. I can see personally no more reason why a public servant should have a superannuation allowance than any farmer who is working hard all his life, or blacksmith or merchant, should have a superannuation allowance. It seems to me that the man who looks forward to a superannuation allowance has before his eyes only a program of spending from year to year every cent he makes, and no reason for saving or of being economical."

Mr. Aylesworth went on to say that he had tried strenuously to put these views into force in public bodies with which he was connected, such as the University of Toronto and the Law Society at Osgoode Hall, but had found it impossible to make head against the stream that was surging forward. Superannuation is carried on in banks and many other institutions, and the majority of people in those bodies thought there must be some provision for old age.

AN AMENDMENT NEEDED.

"Well, gentlemen," Mr. Aylesworth continued, "I am not so prejudiced as to think that because I found myself opposed to pensions the other people are wrong and I alone am right. I found upon the statute books of this country provision for a superannuation allowance for public officials who have enjoyed their salaries as public servants. It may be, for a lifetime. But while that system seems to be ingrafted upon the administration of affairs in this country, it does seem to me a thing that could well be amended, and it is a thing in regard to which any influence that I may have shall be exerted to bring about an amendment to the provision that there should be upon the retirement of every minister of the crown after five years' service a pension, as passed by parliament at the last session. It does seem to me that it ought not to be bestowed indiscriminately, without regard to any other question than length of service; the mere fact that a man has been a minister of the crown for a stated period should not entitle him to a life pension. It may be that the man is wealthy. Surely there is no reason that there should be additions to his wealth, taken from the taxpayers of this country."

ROOM FOR DISCRIMINATION.

"It is a different question altogether if a man who has devoted his whole life to public service found himself at last worn out, and through no fault of his own, is not in a position to support himself. There are cases of merit, and if some system could be devised by which there could be pensions and proper discrimination, and by which the man who needs and the man who deserves could have some means of living afforded, fitted to the position that he has occupied, then it does seem to me that it would be beneath the dignity of a great country, a nation like Canada, that these public servants should be left to end their declining days in poverty." (Hear, hear.)

"Therefore, speaking for myself, it is my firm intention to do anything that I can to bring about some

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While no woman is entirely free from periodical suffering, it does not seem to be the plan of nature that women should suffer so severely. Menstruation is a severe strain on a woman's vitality. If it is painful or irregular something is wrong which should be set right or it will lead to a serious derangement of the whole female organization. More than fifty thousand women have testified in grateful letters to Mrs. Pinkham that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound overcomes painful and irregular menstruation. It provides a safe and sure way of escape from distressing and dangerous weaknesses and diseases. The two following letters tell so convincingly what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will do for women, they cannot fail to bring hope to thousands of sufferers.

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change whereby, at least, it would not be possible that such a thing as this could happen, that a man should be dismissed from office and disgraced, as it may be, for a public crime, and yet, because he has served his country, he should be entitled for life to a pension. (Applause.) That, it seems to me, would be a thing so monstrous that the people of this country ought not to be asked to support it. At all events, it seems to me, there is room for amendment in regard to which the exertions of any member of parliament may well be directed." (Loud cheers.)

The meeting closed with ringing cheers for the King and for Mr. Aylesworth.

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