

LAURIER ON THE ISSUES.

Premier Delivered Powerful Address of Mr. Hunt's Candidature in Compton.

CANADA ENJOYING GREAT PROSPERITY UNDER RULE.

Speaking at Cockshiere, Quebec, on Saturday, in support of the candidature of Mr. Hunt, for the House of Commons in Compton, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was given a rousing reception, said:

"In November, 1904, there was a general election in the Dominion of Canada, and the good old County of Compton changed its allegiance and passed from the ranks of the Conservative party into the foldings of the Liberal party. He did not think that the people of Compton County made any mistake. There had been considerable fluctuation of opinion, and many who had previously voted Conservative had come over to the ranks of the Liberal party. He had only to say that there was as much joy in the Liberal party over the conversion of Compton County as there was in the kingdom of heaven over the lost sheep. There is still joy in store for some of them as was shown by the meeting there that day. He could hardly wish that all those that were present were friends of Mr. Hunt's. He could see a few that were not yet converted. He had no fault to find with those who gave a conscientious vote. He would ask them to reflect upon the condition of the country and the record of the present government during the past nine years and that of the Conservative party. When a man has so reflected he was sure that the majority to be given to Mr. Hunt on the 4th of January would be twice 295.

COUNTRY PROSPEROUS UNDER LIBERAL RULE.

"The condition of the country in 1904 was prosperous. No man could deny that. Today it was more prosperous. He did not intend to weary them with figures. Once upon a time fourteen years ago, when he was in the cold shades of Opposition he was in Toronto attending a meeting of business men, and the then Finance Minister gave statistics mountains high in order to convince the people that the country was prosperous. When it came his turn to speak he said that he had listened to the figures which had been given by the Finance Minister to show that the country was prosperous, and said that when the Liberal party was returned they would not require blue books to convince the people that the country was prosperous but that they would feel it in their pockets. The Liberal party had been as good as their word.

"At the time of the last election in November, 1904, the first five months of the fiscal year, that is, from the first of July to the first of December, the total trade figures were \$205,000,000, and for the same period this year the total trade was \$225,000,000. That was an example of prosperity. But they would be told by the Conservative party that the Liberals had nothing to do with it; that it was the work of Providence had been very good to them, and he appreciated that kindness. If Providence was with them it was no reason why Compton County should be against them. Because Providence was lavish with them it was no reason why they should go back to Conservatism. The Liberals were poor, miserable sinners, and he was pleased that they remain as they are with Providence on their side.

THE BRITISH PREFERENCE.

"There must be some good reason for this prosperity. He believed that the prosperity of the country dated from the time when Mr. Fielding introduced his tariff in 1897. From that date there was a change and there has been a change going on ever since. The British preference introduced in the tariff of the 23rd April, 1907, it changed the face of the country. It was a revolution and a revelation. In that first tariff preference on British goods was given. That preference has acted as a regulator and was the means of keeping down prices which would otherwise have been maintained. By this preference it meant a reduction on the price of goods to the extent of 20 per cent., which went into the pocket of the consumers. That was one of the measures that the Liberals had introduced for the benefit of the people. They were going to have a revision of the tariff in a few months, and they would continue to keep up the British preference, because it was one of the best regulators of the market. This preference had not only been of great benefit to the consumer, but it also had the effect of developing immensely the trade of the country with Great Britain. Great Britain was the best market in the world, and could absorb every pound of cheese, butter, every pound of bacon, every bushel of wheat that Canada could produce. Trade invited trade. Great Britain at the present time was buying much more largely from other countries, and it was the aim of the Liberal Government to displace all foreign goods by those from Canada. He believed they could do it. At present the policy of the United States was to sell not to buy. The policy of Canada was to both buy and sell. There was another feature of their policy.

Canada up to nine years ago was

known only as a small colony and hardly known outside of Canada itself. The people of Great Britain had a vague idea of Canada. They perhaps could tell you that it was somewhere on the continent of America, and that it was noted for cold and snow. If they went to Great Britain to-day they would find that Canada was in the forefront. Canada is known everywhere, and they had thousands of people coming from the British Isles that formerly went to the United States. The day following the introduction of this preference it was known all over the world that Canada had taken a great step in uniting the Empire. John Bull is a matter of fact man, but the fact that one of his boys had done so much towards uniting the Empire, the name of Canada has gone forward. The preference had also given a great impetus to emigration. For sixty years and more Canada had lost the best flesh and brawn of the country by the young men of the country going to the United States. Now all that was changed. For sixty years the travel had been from North to South. Now it was the other way. They had people coming in from the United States in thousands bringing their money and energy to develop the country in which was that policy of the Liberal Government to which he invited their attention. What reason was there that they should turn their back on Mr. Hunt upon this occasion. He did not think they would, but that on the fourth of January the verdict would be in favor of Mr. Hunt and the Government by a largely increased majority.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier then referred to what had been done in the Department of Agriculture. He hoped that he was not injuring anyone when he said that before the advent of the present Government this department was never in the hands of a farmer. It was sometimes in the hands of a lawyer and doctor, who, he ventured to say, did not know the difference between a heifer and a steer. They now had a Minister of Agriculture that understood his business, and the result has been a greatly improved condition of the farmer. To-day the farmers were disposing of the products, not in the markets of the United States, as was formerly the case before the McKinley tariff, but in the Old Country, where they were carried by an improved system of cold storage. Agricultural prices had reached a point that they had never before reached.

Referring to the Transcontinental Railway Sir Wilfrid Laurier said a railway was being built that would rival the C. P. R. and develop this country to a great extent by giving an outlet for the products of the Dominion and would also be the highway for the products of Asia and Enaland and vice versa. They were at work on this policy, but it would take some years before it could be brought to maturity.

AUTONOMY LEGISLATION

During the past year they had brought two new provinces into the Dominion, and the legislation in considerable discussion. Mr. Pope in discussing the question did not take one side or the other. He wished to discuss the question with them for a moment. In the Act which was brought into force they introduced legislation which exists at the present time in the other provinces. They had no power to do otherwise. The constitution was such in regard to the minorities that it should not be in the power of a province to abridge it. Mr. Pope blames him for that. He said that the Government should have given the same rights as had the Protestant minority in the province of Quebec. But Mr. Pope's position could hardly have been maintained. Mr. Pope said that he would not have voted with Mr. Borden. Sir Wilfrid said that he was as good a Catholic as Mr. Pope, but whether Protestant or Catholic it was possible to go outside the constitution. "I am not here," said Sir Wilfrid, "to attack the prejudices of any man, I am a Catholic by education, and belief, but I respect the Protestant faith as much as my own. (Applause.) I would fight for the rights of the Protestant just as soon as that of my own faith. No man, whether Protestant or Catholic, has the right to ask more than the constitution gives him. There are minority rights and privileges to which they are entitled—nothing more, nothing less." Sir Wilfrid then reviewed the Confederation Act, and pointed out how the claims of the minority were to be respected. Mr. Pope, in the argument which he had set up, was more Catholic than the Pope himself. There were extremes in both parties. His health was good to-day, but he did not have so much hair on the crown of his head as formerly, but what was left on either side was pulled by these extremists. The extreme Protestants pull on one side and say, "Look at that man, Laurier. He has betrayed us to the Catholics." Then on the other side there is the extreme Catholic, which says, "Look at Laurier; he has betrayed us to the Protestants." (Laughter.) He had stood for the rights of the people whether they were Protestant or Catholic. He had done it before and he would do it again without fear or favor.

Mr. Pope had stated that the French language should have been introduced in these two provinces. The French constitutionally had a right

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ALLENDALE.

Dec. 29.—Not seeing much news if any from here lately, in the Herald we thought to send you a few lines to let our friends outside know that we are still here. We had very heavy thunder and sharp lightning here last night which made our repose uncomfortable.

T. S. Madden and sons are this winter for Mr. G. Grant. Mr. Andrew Adams of this place is away spending Christmas with his daughter Mrs. T. C. Connelly Benton.

There is quite an addition to the population of this place lately in the persons of Mr. George Welch, Mr. John Kitchen his wife and five children. They have taken Squire Connelly's farms to work on the shabes. Mr. D. W. Doherty is yarding up some fine logs on the side of Allen der Road. Mr. Sandy Simmons is not far behind if any in yarding some fine logs for the bank of the river.

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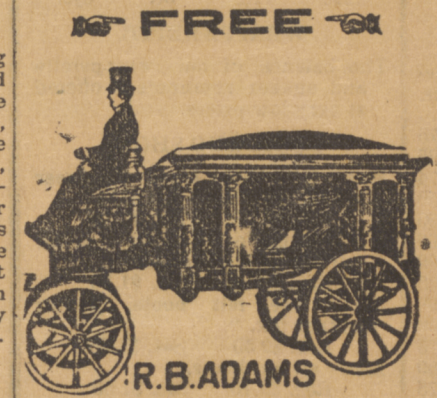
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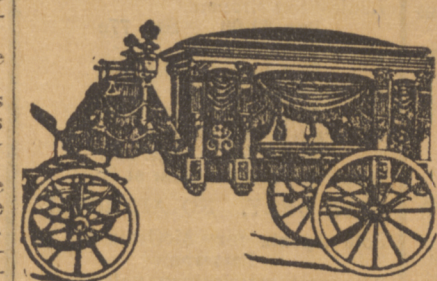
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