

THE FREDERICTON DAILY HERALD is published every evening (Sundays excepted) by THE HERALD PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, (Ltd.) at Fredericton, New Brunswick. Subscription, \$4.00 per annum.
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DAILY HERALD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1901

ELECTIONS ORDERED

The Canadian parliament has been dissolved, and the date of the general election fixed for Monday, Oct. 26, with nomination Oct. 19.

The actual campaign will therefore be short, but both parties have been preparing some time for the announcement of dissolution.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier appeals to the country with every prospect of a renewal of the verdicts of 1896, 1900, and 1904.

Indeed the Liberals never went to the country more convinced than they are now that a splendid victory awaits them at the polls.

From all the provinces the news is of the most cheering character, and on the evening of Oct. 26th, it will be found that the constituencies have declared by an overwhelmingly majority that Canada wants five years more of Laurier, Peace and Prosperity.

YORK LIBERAL CONVENTION

The Liberal convention to nominate a candidate for parliament in York will be held at the Opera house in this city at 1.30 p.m., Saturday next, Sept. 19, instead of at the Arctic rink as previously announced. There is every indication that the attendance will be large and representative.

The Liberals of York are not made of the stuff that is cast down by defeat, and they will enter upon the pending contest with all the vigor at their command, and with the resolve that victory shall crown their efforts.

The convention's business will be to put the strongest candidate in the field, and to back him up with a united effort to win, and at the conclusion of the nominating proceedings, the gathering will be resolved into a public meeting, at which addresses will be delivered by the candidate, Hon. Dr. Pugsley, Mr. E. H. McAlpine and other attractive speakers.

THE TORY MEETING.

There were not over 700 people in the Opera house at any time Wednesday afternoon to hear the Tory muckrakers and slanderers, who were brought here to bolster up the cause of Mr. O. S. Crockett.

That was a pretty poor compliment to the galaxy of political stars who had been advertised for some weeks as positively to appear on the occasion.

It was announced all over the constituency that Mr. Borden, the Tory leader, Premier McBride of British Columbia, Prov. Sec'y. Hanna of Ontario, Premier Roblin of Manitoba, and Premier Hazen would deliver addresses, and it was anticipated that so many stars would draw many hundreds of people to the city that standing room would be at a premium long before the opening of the meeting, but as a matter of fact there were many vacant seats in the auditorium, and no demand at all for standing room.

Mr. Borden and his associate visitors must have been grievously disappointed at the small dimensions of the meeting.

There have been more people gathered on Phoenix square to hear the lectures of a corn doctor than cared to occupy seats at the opera house to hear the Tory orators.

And if the meeting was disappointing in size, it was even more disappointing from the lack of enthusiasm.

What cheering there was proceeded from the cheap and noisy heelers of the Tory party—men without influence, but with plenty of lung power, who are holding petty offices under the Hazen government.

The matter of the addresses was also very disappointing. Electors went to the meeting to hear a fair and reasonable discussion of public questions, and they were treated to slanders against the Liberal government—exploited charges which no Tory member of parliament dare take the responsibility of making on the floors of the House, where they could be met and answered.

Mr. Borden himself engages in gentlemanly discussion, he endeavors by fair argument to establish a case against the government, but the other members of his travelling show are merely muckrakers and slanderers, and this applies particularly to Mr. Hazen, whose whole speech was a miserable, dirty, uncalculated attack on Hon. Dr. Pugsley.

Mr. Hanna, who in his own province of Ontario has the reputation of making statements behind his opponents' backs which he dare not repeat to their faces, occupied his time in attempting to resurrect the North Atlantic Trading company scandal, which was fully exploded before a

committee of parliament two years ago, and Mr. Roblin fairly fashed the air and frothed at the mouth in his denunciation of grafters and middlemen, thin whom there are none more notorious than the same Roblin, whose efforts to rob the Liberals of Manitoba of their franchise is notorious from one end of Canada to the other.

For the sake of ordinary decency such muckrakers as Roblin, Hazen and Hanna should be hooted off the platform, and such a line of attack will do Mr. Borden more harm than good among the independent men of Canada. It may arouse ignorant heelers like those who led Wednesday afternoon's applause to a condition of dementia, but it will fail to strike the ear of the better elements of the Canadian electorate.

ABOUT "STALWARTS."

The local graft organ talks glibly of the "Stalwarts" that were present at the Tory nominating convention and the after meeting. Let us have a look at some of them. There was Dr. Mullin, who moved a eulogy of Mr. Borden and his policy. Up to a very few years ago Dr. Mullin was a very enthusiastic Liberal, and his conversion dated from his dismissal by the late local government from the position of chairman of the York board of health, for reasons which need not be discussed here, and which were furnished to the government by Grit and Tory alike. Ex-Warden Scott and ex-Coun. W. L. McFarlane, who were on the Tory platform with Dr. Mullin, will remember the circumstances, for they were among the men who demanded Mullin's dismissal.

There was another "Stalwart" in the person of Mr. O. S. Crockett himself, who betrayed the Liberal party on the appearance in the federal arena of the late Hon. A. G. Blair, who had dismissed one of Mr. Crockett's near relatives from office.

Mr. Borden himself and Premier Roblin, are men who were Liberals until it became more profitable to themselves to become Conservatives. Mr. Borden made Liberal speeches, and was a member of the Halifax Young Men's Liberal club, until the legal firm, of which he was a member, commenced to pull in many thousands of dollars as agents of the Tory Minister of Justice at Halifax.

Mr. Roblin was such a good Liberal some years ago, such an intense admirer of the present Liberal Premier of Canada, that he bestowed on his first born the name of Wilfrid Laurier Roblin, and the young man's cognomen is a standing advertisement of Premier Roblin's desertion of his party.

"Stalwarts," says the local graft organ. Where was the delectable sheet itself four years ago, when the federal elections were called on, but in the Liberal ranks, and drawing generous subsidies for printing from the Liberal governments at Fredericton and Ottawa. "Stalwarts" indeed, the men who are making the most noise in this constituency today on behalf of the Tories, are those who rattled from the Liberal party because they were not permitted to rule its counsels or to secure graft from its funds.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Mr. Borden was a great disappointment to his friends in York. The Tory leader, besides being a tiresome speaker, is absolutely without personal magnetism, a quality most necessary in a political chief. It is hard for the most balatant Tory partizan to grow enthusiastic over Mr. Borden. The man is a frost and will never lead his party to victory.

When Mr. Hazen was strutting up and down the opera house platform challenging Dr. Pugsley to public discussion, the Stanley major, who received the hurried visit from Mr. Hazen during the Northwest rebellion of 1885, was probably thinking, "How brave my friend is now—as brave as when the half-breeds were threatening the dissolution of Canada."

Pretty good job that Premier Hazen gave his "Uncle Harry" at the public works department—\$75 a month for reading the papers, and Mr. Hazen wanted to make "Uncle Harry" deputy surveyor general.

Mr. Borden at the opera house sought to make sport of Mr. Fisher, as Dominion Minister of Agriculture, and was rewarded with black looks from Mr. Hazen, who took his leader's words as a veiled attack on Mr. Hazen's own commissioner for agriculture, who is a very good country doctor, but absolutely ignorant of agricultural matters.

The local graft organ had a column of fulsome adulation of Mr. O. S. Crockett, from the pen of one C. Frederick Hamilton, a Toronto News reporter, who is accompanying Mr. Borden on his tour, and who is a stage writer at so much per column. It must have cost Mr. Crockett or some of his friends as much as \$2.65 to secure the article which is published as an editorial over Mr. Hamilton's name. Mr. Crockett has added to the staff of his personal puffery bureau this young Mr. Hamilton, who knows absolutely nothing about the political situation in this county and province.

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