

The Benevolent Irish Society PRESENTS

The Blarney Stone

Mon. & Tues.—Mar. 18-19th at THE STRAND

Box Office opens at Strand Theatre Friday, March 15th at 10 A.M. Reserved Seats 50c. Rush 35c.

By Special Arrangement With Samuel French (Canada) Ltd.

Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest but advertising of a society nature may be inserted at a word strictly payable in advance.

CONFEDERATION LIFE INSURANCE

L-6799-7-12-3121.

LEISHMAN REPRESENTATIVE

will be taking special orders for men's clothing on Friday and Saturday at S. A. MacDonald's.

ABEGWEIT SISTERS' CAKE SALE

at S. A. MacDonald's store, Saturday, March 16th, at 2 p.m. L-5422

MONTAGUE HIGH SCHOOL vs. Queen Square School hockey

at Forum this morning, 10 o'clock. Admission 10 cents. L-5427

CONGRATULATIONS—On March 17th

elder Charles Dickenson, will have his 101st birthday. He and Mrs. Dickenson have just recovered from a bad attack of grippe, which has been very prevalent in this vicinity.

COURT OF APPEALS IN EQUITY

The argument in the appeal case of John MacLean and another, executors of the estate of the late Margaret Vessey, vs. Warren Vessey and another, executors of the estate of the late Richard Vessey, was concluded yesterday in the Court of Appeals in Equity.

TRINITY Y. P. S.—The regular weekly meeting of the Y. P. S. of Trinity United Church was held last night.

The devotion period was led by Miss Isabel Andrew, who took as her subject "love." At the business meeting which followed with the President, Mr. Woodworth in the chair plans for the St. Patrick's Tea to be given Saturday evening were discussed.

During the regular study period

of the Bible class conducted by Rev. Mr. Barbour studied the books of the Old Testament. The social problems class led by Mr. E. Chandler studied "the cause of unemployment in the industrial world." There was also a young peoples problems class conducted by Mr. Alex Matheson. A recreational period followed the study period.

The Misses Eileen Redmond and Enid McLeslan

leave this morning on a short visit to Summerside and vicinity.

The many friends of Mr. Henry Smith

will regret to learn that he is confined to his home with a heavy cold forcing him to postpone his visit to Vancouver.

TONIGHT

Saint Patrick's Tea, Trinity School Hall, Y. P. D., 25c.

Tours Promote Skate Sales

(C. P. by Guardian's Special Wire) OTTAWA, March 15—Canadian championship hockey teams which have toured Europe in recent years giving exhibition games in this country have, perhaps unconsciously, greatly helped to promote the sale of ice-skates throughout the world, according to the Department of Trade and Commerce.

REPORTED IMPROVED

(C. P. by Guardian's Special Wire) TORONTO, March 15—Col. W. F. Eaton, of Oakville, Ill. in Toronto General Hospital, was reported today "improved and getting better," though hospital authorities said there "for some time" Col. Eaton is a son of the late Timothy Eaton.

THANA, India—Banania Kakri

was apprehended and is now on trial on a charge of murder, three years after the tragedy and his commitment.

St. Patrick's Tea

Twenty-five cents, tonight, Trinity School Hall, Y. P. D.

LIVELY DEBATE

(Continued from Page 1)

Pointe former justice minister, gave his opinion the minimum wage law, although he favored it and would support it, was beyond the competence of Parliament. He predicted it would be tossed out by the courts because of the assumption of power through a convention of the international labor office.

Amendment Necessary, Claim

The only legal and rational way of obtaining uniform social legislation in Canada was through amendment of the British North America Act or agreement with the provinces, Mr. LaPointe said.

Liberal leader Mackenzie King repeated his suggestion of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada to determine the legal method of proceeding. The Government was raising false hopes in the minds of the people which would be dashed to pieces by a court ruling.

The Government, Mr. King said, was "building its hope on the sands of constitutional certainty and power there was not only a difference of opinion among members of the House on the constitutional issue, there was a cleavage in the Cabinet.

The Liberal leader threw a few verbal barbs of his own. He accused Mr. Stevens of "cheap claptrap and playing to the gallery" in his reference to Mr. LaPointe placing the constitution ahead of the welfare of the people. Mr. Stevens, he said, had no monopoly "on the milk of human kindness" of which the government as possessed by the former minister himself.

The government's "arbitrary and unconstitutional course," the Liberal leader predicted, would lead to more disunion and lack of harmony in Canada because it raised hopes and then dashed them. The Liberals' plan was to amend the B. N. A. Act or obtain agreement with the provinces.

Enters Lists

Sir George Perley, acting leader of the government, entered the lists and in the statement the Liberal leader was attempting to ride two horses. Mr. King had taken the untenable position of "attempting to fight the government and support the legislation."

The bill will be based on a draft passed at the International Labor Convention in Geneva passed in 1928 but so far not ratified in Canada. Seven Canadian provinces have minimum wage laws, Mr. Guthrie said, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick having none.

Mr. Guthrie said he had no doubts of the competence of Parliament to pass the wage law. The power flows from Canada's membership in the League of Nations and its signature to the Treaty of Versailles. Under the British North America Act, he said, the Dominion had power to enforce treaty obligations.

With the principle of a minimum wage in industry, Liberals were in all provinces. Mr. Lapointe in fact was pleased so many of the provinces had minimum wage laws and believed they were the authorities to deal with the matter. The Dominion should leave it to them.

Although a strong believer in the League of Nations, Mr. Lapointe said he saw a serious aspect of the government's practice of basing its constitutional right to enact this social legislation on the covenant of the League.

"It is a blow to the prestige of the League and its supporters in this country," said Mr. Lapointe. Canada accepted the covenant of the League which followed with the understanding Canada's obligations were fully set up. There was no expectation of using them to transfer power from the provincial legislatures to the Federal Parliament.

"No member in this House at the time agreed to enter the League of Nations with the idea it would have the effect of changing the constitution of Canada," said Mr. Lapointe. If the government and Parliament of that day and since were wrong then Canada had entered the League under a mistaken impression of its obligations.

J. B. Woodworth (Labor Winnipeg North Centre) was always scornful of the constitution, said Mr. Lapointe. He wanted to proceed without regard to it and yet the only reason he was allowed to speak in his own mind across the country was because his rights were protected by the constitution.

Welcomes Action

James S. Woodworth, C. C. F. leader said he welcomed the government's action in legislating for minimum wages. "Judgment," said Mr. Woodworth, "the constitution was made for Canada and the Canadian people and the Canadian people were not made for the constitution. Under those circumstances some efforts must be made to enable us to live."

Secretary of State C. H. Cahan said men had been differing for years on fine points of law. There could be no doubt Canada would assume responsibilities by ratifying the convention.

Mr. Cahan said differences of opinion would exist on the competence of Parliament to legislate as the result of ratifying a convention. He could offer no opinion of his own nor predict what the courts would rule.

Mr. Stevens said he was not concerned with narrow legal quibbles. If ever there was a time when these things should be considered from a human angle it was the present.

The question should not become a legal football, continued Mr. Stevens. He suggested Mr. Cahan, Mr. King, Mr. Lapointe and others would be better advised searching the B. N. A. Act to find how Parliament could grapple with the social problems of the day.

One of the causes of present conditions, Mr. Stevens said, was that Parliament had not fulfilled its duties under the B. N. A. Act. The Dominion sat back while the courts made rulings, instead of occupying a field which had been

C.N.R. ITEMS

(Continued from Page 1)

P. W. Clarkin, district passenger and freight agent for the C. N. R. Island division, has returned from Moncton where he attended a conference of division freight agents with regional officials.

Among the number of photos appearing in the current issue of the C. N. R. magazine is that of Wm. E. Mitchell, C. N. R. foreman in the motive power department at Stellarton, Nova Scotia, who recently retired under the provident fund after forty four years service. Mr. Mitchell is a native of Charlottetown, where he began his service, and is an uncle of our spare cleaner George M. McDonald, Souris.

E. W. McKinnon, C.N.R. Superintendent with Mrs. McKinnon and son Charles are visiting in Summerside, the guests of Councillor Nicholson, retired C. N. R. station agent and Mrs. Nicholson.

We regret to learn that V. R. Sanderson, section foreman at Albany, fractured his knee cap badly last week and will be laid off for an indefinite period. Miss Laura McQuaid, daughter of J. J. McQuaid, C. N. R. Station Agent, Alberton is visiting in Summerside, the guest of Mrs. J. J. McNally.

Miss Margaret Affleck of the C. N. Hotel staff spent the week end at Albany, the guest of her parents Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Affleck. Conductor George S. Ryan has returned from Moncton where he attended the quarterly meeting of the Provident Fund Board.

Among those from the Island division, whose applications for retirement were approved at that meeting are J. Edward Small, James D. Butler and George Vickerson, all under sixty years of age. Mr. Small entered the service as a pipelitter in 1904 and continued in that capacity for thirty years. About a year ago he met with an accident from which he never fully recovered. He is a veteran of the Boer War and one of the few Island survivors who returned from South Africa 38 years ago.

Mr. Butler entered the service March 1914 as a machinist helper. He served for a number of years in the World War where he was gassed. This greatly undermined his health and eventually he was forced to retire.

George Vickerson entered the service as a cleaner in March 1900, was promoted to fireman in 1910 and to locomotive engineer in 1922. For the past year he has been afflicted with chronic rheumatism, which rendered him incapable of performing his duties.

His many friends will be sorry to learn that W. H. Townshend, C. N. R. retired bridge and building master, is ill in the Royal Victoria Hospital, and hope for his speedy recovery.

Angus Cameron, C. N. R. locomotive engineer, has returned from Moncton where he attended a meeting of the Employees' Relief and Insurance Association. On account of the date of this meeting being so close to the end of the month, all members of the Island committee—Fred Power, district secretary, J. H. Monaghan and W. H. McLeod—were unable to attend. We understand these meetings will in future be held at a more convenient date.

G. W. Atkinson, General Chairman of the B. of L. F. arrived in the city Saturday and addressed a large attended meeting of the Brotherhood on Sunday afternoon. Among other matters discussed was the bill now before the Federal House, which provides that employees shall work not more than 48 hours per week. This will affect adversely, in some cases, trainmen and engineers, will have to lay off when they work 208 hours each month.

It is rumored that no more extensions will be granted to employees after they reach the age of 65 years, superintendents and higher-ups excepted. This looks like class discrimination, for why should the low-paid employee, who is qualified to do his work, have to get out at 65, while the high-paying drawing salaries are allowed to continue.

Amos Monaghan, C. N. R. station agent Wiltshire, and Mrs. Monaghan were visitors to Charlottetown first of the week.

James Michie, C. N. R. fire inspector, Montreal, paid an official visit to Charlottetown this week. He made a thorough inspection of the power plant and found everything very satisfactory.

assigned to it by the B. N. A. Act.

The act, for instance, assigned regulation of trade and commerce to the Dominion, said Mr. Stevens. But the courts had stripped much of the power from Parliament and nothing had been done about it. If the regulation of trade and commerce had been started 20 or 40 years ago, he said, he did not believe today's conditions would be so acute.

Could Obtain Power

Mr. Stevens believed the provinces would be willing to give the Dominion full power to enact nation-wide social laws, if approached in a conciliatory manner. The Dominion could take the lead and assume the responsibility that rested with it.

"In my opinion," said Mr. Stevens, "this House should support the government in the passage of this legislation." This was particularly so in view of the assurance given by Mr. Guthrie that the government intended to give full effect to it.

If anything was needed, Mr. King said, to support the Liberal view that the legislation should first be tested in the courts as to the authority of Parliament it was the differences of opinion expressed by members on the government side.

Mr. Stevens, he said, complained because action was not taken earlier. It was just condemning himself and the government of which he had been a member for four years.

The course advocated by the

Welcome Baden-Powell Campaign

The Committee wishes to acknowledge receipt of the following contributions which have come in during the last day or two:

- His Excellency Bishop O'Sullivan \$25.00
- Prowse Bros. Ltd. 25.00
- Ross United Drug Co. 5.00
- H. G. Rogers (Abergweit Investment Co. Ltd.) 25.00
- A Friend 15.00
- George Tweedy 5.00
- W. W. Lord 5.00
- John T. Martin 5.00
- Ross United Drug Co. 5.00
- D. A. W. M. Allen 5.00
- Dr. J. J. Blake 5.03
- Victor Saunders 5.00
- E. W. McKinnon 5.00
- Dr. J. P. Lantz 5.00

In addition to the above there have been a number of contributions under five dollars which the Committee gratefully acknowledge as well.

The Campaign objective is practically reached at the present time and all team captains are expected to make their final returns by Monday.

The Committee feel that there may be one who desire to contribute but have not been canvassed. Anyone desiring to make a contribution to this fund may do so by sending their contribution to the Campaign headquarters at 207 Weymouth Street. Returns from outside points received to date have been most gratifying, but full returns are not yet available.

Father And Son Banquet At "Y"

A very successful Father and Son banquet was held last evening at the Y. M. C. A. The function which was under the joint chairmanship of Mr. Jack MacLean president of the Hi-Y Grads and Mr. Raymond Hennessey, President of the Crescent Club, was attended by a large number of boys and their dads in all about 75 being present.

The supper was followed by a short song, Miss Thelma Burns presiding at the piano. A violin solo by Mr. Billy Rogers accompanied by Mrs. Rogers on the piano was a very agreeable treat.

Mr. Jack MacLean who welcomed the boys and their dads pointed out that get-togethers such as this have been lacking in the activities of the Y. M. C. A. The banquet aimed to give the fathers an opportunity to see what physical activities their sons took part in and put them in closer contact with the activities of the Association. He paid tribute to the General Secretary, Mr. Leck through whose efforts the banquet was possible. He then called on Rev. Mr. Outhouse to introduce the speaker of the evening, Rev. A. J. Chisholm, Hazelbrook.

Rev. Mr. Outhouse in introducing the speaker made reference to the work of the Y. M. C. A. which he heartily endorsed.

Rev. Mr. Chisholm spoke on the religion of Jesus Christ, practical and purposeful. He based his remarks on the words of St. Paul, I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Religion, which the speaker claimed to be the most interesting subject in the world, is in the beginning, he said, the beckoning of God and in the end is the vision of Him.

Concluding his address, in the course of which he paid tribute to the work of the Y. M. C. A., Rev. Mr. Chisholm emphasized the fact that the religion of Jesus Christ keeps one from worrying; and worry he pointed out is the cause of many lives being made miserable.

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. John McLean and seconded by Mr. J. T. McKee, was tendered the speaker for his excellent address. A toast to the King was responded to by singing "God Save the King." A toast to the "Dads" was proposed by Mr. Bob Stewart and responded to by Mr. A. B. Gillis. Speaking in response to the toast Mr. Gillis paid a glowing tribute to the Y. M. C. A. and referred to the founder, George Williams, who began his movement in London, England in 1844.

The very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by singing "God Save the King."

PROPOSE

(Continued from Page 1)

ing fund debentures) were \$955,522 compared with \$430,331 in 1933."

Interest On Both Issues

Interest on both the issues to be received by present holders is cumulative from Sept. 1, 1934, the announcement stated. The terms involve the issue to the existing holders of \$6,887,547 debenture, 6 per cent and \$4,408,000 8 1/4 per cent cumulative participating registered income bonds of the corporation and \$3,500,000 six per cent cumulative registered sinking fund debentures of the coal company.

The proposal also asks authority for an issue for the corporation of prior lien first mortgage securities, limited to \$3,500,000 in principal amount, to be used only for the purpose of collateral security for bank loans.

Liberal party, he said, was the surest and speediest method of achieving the end all parties had in view.

Cox's Insinuations Re Bond Transaction Nailed By The Premier

Liberal Member's Habit Of "Thinking" Aloud Lands Him In Hot Water In The Draft Address Debate. Summary Of Other Liberal Speeches To Date.

Insinuations against the Government in the matter of a bond transaction, made in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. H. H. Cox, brought a prompt challenge from Premier MacMillan and a hasty alibi from Mr. Cox that he was "only thinking"; that he couldn't "back up" his statements; that he didn't want them investigated; and that it "didn't matter" anyway! Attempting to shift to safer ground, the Liberal member got into hot water again a few minutes afterwards when he was caught "straddling the fence" on the question of guaranteeing the Potato Growers Association's debts. His alibi for suggesting such a course and then refusing to say where he and his party stood, was that he had again been "only thinking."

Following is a summary of the Opposition speechmaking, continuing from yesterday's Guardian report of Thursday night's proceedings:

MR. W. H. DENNIS

Mr. William H. Dennis (Liberal, Second Prince), followed the time-honored custom of complimenting—sincerely, he said—the mover and seconder of the Address. He had hoped to welcome into the House two Liberal members from the constituencies now vacant but the Government had "heartlessly" deprived him of that pleasure by not issuing the byelection writs. He commented favourably on the forthcoming King's Jubilee and the Carter celebration at Charlottetown last summer. The only criticism he could offer was that the returned men might have been given a more prominent place. He was pleased at the activity of the Boy Scouts on that occasion and commended the Scout movement as one deserving every support.

The White Commission subsidy award Mr. Dennis said was "all right" provided it was accepted as a payment on account and not a final settlement.

Comments Premier

While he did not agree with the policies of the Government he wished to offer the Premier his humble thanks for what he had done for this Province. "I know he has worked hard and faithfully and it is only fair that those who think so should at least express themselves to that effect in the House." (Applause.)

The Empire Conference at Ottawa in 1932 was a wonderful achievement, Mr. Dennis admitted. Canada should benefit greatly from the agreements. However, there was the exchange handicap, upon which he proceeded to expatiate. No man knows where we are today in regard to our financial system.

Mr. Lea Corrected

Mr. Bennett, he charged, had promised to end unemployment and to introduce unemployment insurance. "If he is going to end unemployment what does he want unemployment insurance for?" he asked. Mr. Bennett "smart" in winning the elections, and he admired him for that but not "for integrity or worth."

Mr. Bennett, he added, was our "uncrowned king." Mr. Lea: "Oh, no!" Mr. Dennis: "Pardon me. I am saying he is."

Mr. Lea: "The Governor General is that." Mr. Dennis: "We have nothing to do with the selection of the Governor General and Mr. Bennett is our uncrowned king." (Applause.)

He honoured Mr. Bennett "for the position he held. He honored all those whom Providence had placed over us, but we needn't keep them longer than Providence intended they should stay."

Discussing the dust nuisance on the highway, Mr. Dennis referred to the material known as "dead clay" which cannot be packed into a substantial road. We have a lot of this clay on the roads. He suggested the Government get new "raw clay" from the subsoil and have this material packed.

He agreed with the Minister that it was difficult to attend to all the roads in proper time with the machinery available. He would put on two shifts of men, working eight hours each a day, and in this way twice the amount of work could be got out of the road machines in the spring. Work should, if possible, be avoided on the roads after mid-summer.

He has been covering up tens of thousands of dollars worth of gravel every year with the road machines," Mr. Dennis maintained. This expense he condemned as unnecessary.

Anti-Police "Rumors"

The R.C.M.P. were, he said, a fine body of men. They had made a name for themselves in years gone by. If they have fallen from grace, as certain statements made in this House would indicate, it was "too bad." He claimed under the law they were responsible to the Attorney General. He did not see why all the blame and odium should fall on the police.

Premier MacMillan: "What blame are you talking about?" Mr. Dennis: "I think I have indicated it." Premier MacMillan: "Oh, no, you have just recalled a little bit of gossip."

Continuing, Mr. Dennis complained that the Government was

better bring it here and read it."

A Slight Mistake!

16,000 new jobs, Mr. Cox maintained, had been created since the Government took office. He didn't blame the Premier because he had "made a good job for himself" and perhaps Mr. Cox, would have done likewise.

Premier MacMillan on a point of order said the hon. members statements were incorrect. Mr. Cox corrected his statement to read "sixteen new jobs."

The Government, he claimed, had raised the gasoline tax on the fishermen and farmers.

He cited instances of heavy financial difficulties and stated he did not believe conditions were improving. On the contrary they were worse than they were last year. "Good times will come faster in a year or so under the good old Liberal Government," he predicted.

Resuming the debate on Friday morning, Mr. Cox said he had been asked by the Premier to produce a statement in the Guardian but he had been unable to find it. The Premier had made it just the same. Premier MacMillan: "I am not denying it."

Mr. Cox: "What did you put me to all that trouble to go and hunt up the Guardian, then?" Premier MacMillan: "The reason I wanted you to read it was to make sure you would get it correct." (Laughter.)

Continuing, Mr. Cox compared the qualifications of the "Farmer Premier" Mr. Bennett with the "Doctor Premier" now in office, and decided in favor of the former. The present Premier, he complained, had no experience as a business man. He had first-class professional qualifications, and would make a good job of an operation on the appendix or of the gall bladder. He could do all kinds of operations.

Premier MacMillan: "There are some I can't operate on." Mr. Cox: "No, the case is too far gone." (Laughter.)

Mr. Cox Challenged

The million-dollar bond transaction, he maintained, was evidence that the Government had "had no business sense." He, Mr. Cox, was suspicious that there had been "another go-between" in that transaction, that "somebody" had got a "rake-off."

Premier MacMillan: "Are you making that charge?" Mr. Cox: "No, no, I am just saying there might be." Premier MacMillan: "It is just an insinuation?" Mr. Cox: "No, no, I am only thinking." (Laughter.) "I can think what I like."

Everett MacMillan: "But you can't back it up." (Applause.) Mr. Cox: "No, I can't back it up. It wouldn't be worth while. I am only saying what I think." (Laughter.)

Premier MacMillan: "It wouldn't be worth while to investigate?" Mr. Cox: "No, I don't say I can back it up." (Increased laughter.)

Continuing, he cited Ontario bond issues and claimed the Government should have borrowed on short term loans when it funded the overdrift.

\$36,000 in architect's fees for Falconwood Hospital was "a nice little sum of money. It would take the Minister of Education seventeen and a half years to earn that, and this man got it in less than a year."

The 1931 Conservative platform, Mr. Cox described as "a cute little piece of paper," but the pledges made had not been implemented. Why, he asked, had they promised to reduce the price of school books? He did not approve of free school books because the Province could not afford it, but the Government should have implemented its pledge.

Challenged Again

Discussing the Potato Growers' Association's difficulties, he said it was a very deserving organization and it would be too bad to see it go under. "Suppose," he added, "the Government helped them out, would it be such a terrible thing?" He didn't think so.

Premier MacMillan: "Would you do it?" Mr. Cox: "I don't say I would, but wouldn't it be a good thing?" (Laughter.) "I don't say that I would, mind you, but I was just thinking. Though the Association made a little mistake I think they will come back stronger than ever."

Mr. J. A. MacDonald: "Are you straddling the fence?" (Laughter.) Voice: "He's pretty wobbly!" Mr. Cox: "No! I am not wobbly." Mr. J. A. MacDonald: "On that question, you are straddling on both sides."

Mr. Cox: "Not at all! Not at all!" Mr. MacDonald: "You would like to help the farmers, but you wouldn't?" Mr. Cox: "I would help the farmers every time."

Mr. MacDonald: "Set you won't say what you would do?" (Laughter.) Mr. Cox, without further reply, took up the road question. He stressed the obligations resting on road inspectors and complained of negligence in some cases. The power machines, he said, were being used notwithstanding that the Conservatives had strongly criticized their use when in Opposition. "That's just like me," said Mr. Cox, "they always take over the Liberal policies when they get in."

He strongly commended the work of the Women's Institutes in his closing remarks.

MR. J. A. CAMPBELL

his congratulations to the mover and seconder. He had not intended to speak, he said, but the debate had been carried on to such an extent that it became necessary for each one to stand up and say something. Looking around the Chamber, he was reminded of the words of the prophet in Holy Writ: "Get thy house in order; thou shalt surely die." That, he maintained, was the situation the Government was in. Its present good resolutions sounded very well; the pity was that they had not been introduced earlier.

The Throne Speech, he thought, "did not amount to anything." He had read these addresses for a number of years and to his mind it was all a matter of form. Some paragraphs in the Speech were not in line with conditions as they exist today.

Commenting on the debate, Mr. Campbell said he had thought the time of partyism was over, but he found that while we start off "with bouquets" in this House, "we end up by giving the other fellow parolular heck."

He believed that when the true state of the finances is sent out to the people, they will have all the information they need. Debates such as the present were of little or no use, he declared.

The Opposition had been denounced by the member for Third Queen's for wasting time, but the member for Third Queen's (Mr. J. A. MacDonald) had taken up half an hour talking about a Liberal convention in Charlott