

Last Night's Meeting.

Last night the Liberal-Conservatives opened the political campaign with a brilliant and successful meeting. Seldom have we seen a gathering more unanimous or more enthusiastic. Mr. Pope, in his address, dissipated the slanders which have been so industriously circulated with regard to his vote in the House on what has been called Protection. The crowded meeting heard his explanations with marked approval, and recorded its confidence in him by a strong resolution. If the cause of Liberal-Conservatism has, throughout the Dominion, everywhere gained as much as in Charlottetown within the last few years, Sir John may reckon on a grand triumph.

It will be needless for the Davies faction, which after all forms the pith of the so-called Reform Party, to attempt to understate the importance of last night's meeting. It was a demonstration of that nature which contains the very germs of future triumph—confidence in the cause, and a determination to achieve victory. Mr. Pope may well rest satisfied with last night's proceedings. He received what ought to be the highest ambition of every public man—the unqualified approval of his supporters. It was deplorable to hear him tell of the system adopted by the McKenzie Government, of listening to no one who asked for improvements in the Province, if he were not a supporter. The niggardly treatment which, on this account, the Island receives at Ottawa, is a subject well worth pondering over.

We are happy to see that a resolution provides for the complete organization of the party in this Province. So that, in a few days, the same determination and harmony which prevailed last night will be found working throughout the Province for the defeat of a Government which has invariably treated this Island as a step-child.

THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE of Summerside was in this city to-day.

C. C. GARDNER, Esq., has returned from San Francisco. He looks well.

MR. HILL, of Her Majesty's Customs has returned to Halifax.

Two sailors, who asked for protection at the Police Station last night, were the only appearances at the Magistrate's Court to-day. They were discharged.

DOMINION DAY.—Grand Temperance Demonstration and Tea in Charlottetown. See advertisement.

SPRING OPENING.—Weeks & Co., Queen Street, are opening to-day large lots of NEW SPRING GOODS, received by first steamer.—2w

BARRENTINE "Ethel Blanche," Graham, with a cargo of general merchandise from London to Peake Bros and Co., arrived here on the 4th inst.—24 days.

THE steamer Prince Edward sailed for Pictou this forenoon. She will there discharge the balance of her cargo, and return to this port to load.

VERY heavy rains, accompanied by thunder and lightning passed over this city at one o'clock last night. No damage was done.

THE ship Midas, owned by Messrs. James Duncan & Co., arrived from Glasgow with a cargo of general merchandise to-day, after a passage of 24 days.

ONE of the Island steamers will sail for Summerside and Shediac at 3 o'clock on Monday morning. A steamer will also leave for Pictou and Hawksbury at 5 o'clock, a. m., on the same day.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—Mr. C. P. W. Nims, of Boston, Mass., has kindly consented to give a Lecture under the auspices of the Reform Club, Reform Club Hall, to-night. Admission free; lecture to commence at 8 o'clock, p. m.

EXTRAORDINARY PEDESTRIANISM.—James Duff Henderson, of Toronto, started May 1st to walk a distance equal to the earth's circumference. He proposes to cover forty miles each secular day for two years, walking in the United States, Great Britain and the Continent, and is to receive \$10,000 if he accomplishes his task.

AN assault case was on trial before Theo. Desbrisay, Esq., J. P. yesterday. Donald McFayden was the Plaintiff, and Angus McEachern and Alex. McFayden, defendants. The alleged assault was committed on the West River Wharf on Friday last. Eight witnesses were examined in the matter. After which judgement was reserved till Tuesday next. In the postponed case of Leonard vs. Murphy, judgment was given against Murphy with \$2.00 damages.

At 8 o'clock last evening Coroner F. D. Beer, M. D., held an inquest on view of the body of Donald McInnis, who committed suicide in the jail yesterday morning. After hearing the evidence of Dr. McLeod, Messrs Geo. A. Harvie, William Semple, Donald McNeill and others, the jury returned a verdict as follows:—"That the deceased came to his death by cutting his throat while insane." The body of the deceased was delivered to his friends to-day, and taken to Strathalbyn for burial. We will publish the evidence taken at the inquest on Monday.

A LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN MARKET HALL.

SPEECH OF THE HON. J. C. POPE.

RESOLUTIONS THANKING AND AGAIN NOMINATING HIM UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Short Addresses by Daniel McKinnon, Esq., Hon. F. Brecken, and E. J. Hodgson, Esq.

On Friday evening the Market Hall was filled to its utmost capacity. Many leading citizens were present. A very large number of electors were unable to obtain seats. On motion of Councillor Harris, Artemas Lord, Esq., was called to the chair. The Chairman explained that the meeting was held for the purpose of giving Mr. Pope an opportunity of explaining his opinions upon the questions of the day—especially on that of trade—and of giving an account of his services in behalf of the public, since elected a member of the House of Commons. He then called upon Mr. Pope, who, upon coming forward, was received with cheers. Mr. Pope spoke to the following effect:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN:—I feel extremely happy to meet you all here again. I may say that I am greatly gratified at seeing present such a very large and intelligent audience and at seeing you all looking so well. My only regret is that the times are not better so that we might all be more prosperous than we are.

ON MY RETURN from Ottawa I deem it right to meet as many of my constituents as possible—more especially as we are within a few weeks or months of a general election—to explain to them the course I pursued while representing their interests. I have been accused by the Government press with inconsistency. I feel myself that I have done my duty to the country; and I feel confident, too, that when fully understood, my acts will be endorsed by my friends here present and throughout the Province. Last year the

QUESTION OF TRADE came up in the House of Commons. I am what is called "a Free Trader."—I am a Reciprocal Free Trader. Our great object is to get back Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States; and I think we should use every possible means in our power—we should make it our main object

TO OBTAIN RECIPROCAL FREE TRADE. Last year I voted against the following resolution:—

"That the said resolution be not now read a second time, but that it be resolved, that this House regrets that the financial policy submitted by the Government increases the burthen of taxation on the people, without any compensating advantage to Canadian industries; and further, that this House is of opinion that the deficiency in the Revenue should be met by a diminution of expenditure, aided by such a readjustment of the Tariff as will benefit and foster the agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests of the Dominion."

That was the resolution submitted last year. I voted against it. But I also voted against the duties upon malt and upon tea by the Government, because I believed that they would bear hurtfully and unfairly upon the country.

THE TAX ON BARLEY operated against our farmers, and while barley was taxed, millions of bushels of American corn were permitted to come into Ontario—duty free—to be manufactured into bad rum, whiskey and brandy.

THEN TEA WAS TAXED. I considered that the revenue required could be more fairly obtained from the wines, brandies, silks, ribbons, and other luxuries of the rich than from tea, the beverage of the laboring man. I will quote what I said last year upon this point:—

"While he was prepared to vote against all amendments and resolutions which favored protection, he felt equally bound to vote against the increase of duties proposed by the Government as bearing particularly hard upon the working and poor man, more particularly at a time of great depression, such as now existed, when he felt that the Government should do all in its power to relieve the laboring classes, instead of putting increased burdens upon them.

As regarded the tea question, it was well known that the more wealthy class took coffee for breakfast, dined late, and, perhaps, took another cup of coffee; whereas the laboring and middle classes had tea three times a day; consequently, the greater portion of the increased tax would fall upon those least able to bear it. If a larger revenue were wanted, why not put the additional duty on brandy, spirits of all kinds, high-priced wines, broadcloths, silks, satins, velvets, ribbons, feathers, etc., so that it would be paid by those who could best afford to pay it.

THE RESOLUTION THIS YEAR.

Now, this year a similar resolution came up for discussion. It, however, expressed that the object is to obtain reciprocity—and I am in favor of Reciprocity. The First Minister said: "I will take this resolution as a motion of want of confidence." I felt that it was my duty to vote against the Government; for if I voted confidence in the Government, I expressed satisfaction with their acts in general, to which I am strongly opposed, and with the unfair duties against which I protested and voted last year. Now, in regard to "free trade," I will read you what the Premier (Hon. Mr. McKenzie) said only last year:—

"There is no principle more consonant with the advance of human freedom: there is no principle more in accordance with the great prosperity that prevails in our time—the great intelligence that prevails in every country of the world—that the absolute freedom of commerce which I advance as the right principle, where it can be obtained or achieved, and if we are not able on this continent, in British America, to carry this principle into active operation, because of our geographical position,

and because of circumstances over which we have no control. That geographical position and those actual circumstances are such as to compel us to the adoption of a policy which can neither be characterized by the name of Free Trade or Protection."

To carry out "Free Trade" principles we must have a uniform tariff for the purpose of raising a revenue. Taxes must be levied upon everything alike. But, under the existing tariff, a very large proportion of the articles imported, are imported duty free. Why are they allowed to come in free? For the purpose of encouraging the industries of the country. The present Government when they got into power and began to increase the taxes of the people, tried to make the tariff more uniform. They tried to levy a tax of 17½ per cent. upon materials used in shipbuilding—which were before admitted duty free. But those who saw that the proposed tax would have the effect of crippling the shipbuilding industry combined against it, and represented the matter so strongly that the Government were obliged to withdraw their proposal; and now the highest tax put upon shipbuilding material is one of five per cent. on its value. But if the Government had been permitted to carry out their policy, what would have been the effect upon this Province? Why, \$500,000 a year, now expended among our laboring classes, would be lost to us. The men engaged in shipbuilding would have been obliged to leave the Province; and it is calculated that, on every intelligent workingman who leaves the country, it loses \$1,000 a year. Owing to the shipbuilding industry, the price of oats in this Province is from five to ten cents higher than it is in Ontario. In the fall a number of new ships, built during the summer, are ready for sea and must be loaded, and their owners must come into the market and buy oats. They must have oats; and, consequently, in order to get their vessels away in time, they are compelled to purchase oats at a much higher price than they otherwise would. The gain to our farmers on this account is from \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year. By carrying out the policy of the Government, the shipbuilding industry will be destroyed, and this great field of industry and source of profit will be taken away. The fact is that the revenue tariff of a country must be regulated according to the circumstances of the country. That is the kind of tariff I am prepared to support, and to help to carry out. In all new countries industries must, to a certain extent, be fostered, in order that the whole community may prosper. My venerable friend there (Hon. W. W. Lord) knows—and every public man in the Province knows well—that it has been the policy and constant practice of the Governments and Legislatures of the Island, to encourage local manufactures by permitting machinery and raw materials used in them to come in duty free. Why have we now so many articles on the free list? Simply and only to encourage home industries.

Now, as I said before, our main object is to obtain Reciprocity with the United States. How are we to get it? How did we get the Reciprocal Treaty under which the country once prospered? Why, we put on a hostile tariff, and we seized United States vessels which encroached upon our fisheries. The Government of the Colonies assisted the British Government in protecting our interests; and I believe that, by their active co-operation, the Government of this little Island did more towards bringing about reciprocity than the Governments of either of the other Provinces. Now, if you again want Reciprocity, you will have to make the United States see that it is to their interest to consent to reciprocity with you. But this you will never do while they have free trade with us and at the same time prevent us from competing in their markets.

Take the article of oats. You will be surprised when I tell you that the United States send into the Dominion, free of duty, very nearly as many oats as we in this Island export. Last year the oats shipped from this Island amounted to 1,718,707 bushels, while the United States sent into the Dominion, free of duty, 1,697,706 bushels. Then of barley they sold us, on the same terms, 368,426 bushels; of peas and beans, 8,042 bushels; of rye, 65,414 bushels; of corn—with which to make poisonous liquors—they sell us 8,290,039 bushels, and of wheat 4,589,027 bushels.—In all, 14,988,654 bushels admitted duty free. If ten cents a bushel were levied upon these articles, \$1,498,865 would either be gained to the revenue—and other articles might be relieved of duty to that extent,—or the United States would lose a large and lucrative trade; and, by losing it, would be practically taught that it is their interest to unite with us in pressing for a treaty of Reciprocal Free Trade.

The present Administration profess to be Free Traders. Here is an instance of the way in which they carry out Free Trade principles. They passed an order in Council permitting the Vine Growers' Association of the Dominion to manufacture 80,000 gallons of brandy and 240,000 gallons of wine, without paying any excise duty—thus giving them a protection in the manufacture of bad brandy and bad wine, and encouraging traffic in strong drinks. Besides this, they allow 8,000,000 of bushels of corn to come in free of duty, to be manufactured into bad whiskey and bad rum—thus encouraging to a still greater extent a traffic which does not certainly add to the wealth of the country.

Well I am a Reciprocal Free Trader. I said last year: "So far as his Province was concerned, they wanted reciprocity with the United States." That was my opinion last year. That is my opinion this year. And I say let every man do his best to get back Reciprocal Free Trade. The value of the goods which come in from the United States is \$51,390,479—more than half our whole imports. The total value of all the Dominion imports is \$96,300,483—showing that considerably more than half of all we import comes from the United States which prohibits us from selling to them the productions of our farms and our mines. We buy more from the United States than from all the rest of the world. If they will not reciprocate, we may as well not have a little more revenue out of them, and relieve from duty articles produced by other countries, which we are obliged to import. The burden will be no heavier on us, while an increase militating against the United States will tend towards Reciprocity. This is just as clear as that the

United States will never extend reciprocity to us, while they have free all the advantage of a larger export trade to the Dominion. The Government will, however, do nothing. They profess that they are Free Traders. But from which side do all the Protectionist resolutions come? The Resolution to protect flour was moved by a supporter of the Government and seconded by a supporter of the Government. The Resolution to tax coarse grains came from supporters of the Government. And more lately a supporter of Mr. McKenzie (McKay of Cape Breton) brought forward a resolution asking for protection of seventy-five cents on coal. These resolutions were brought forward for the purpose of injuring members of the Opposition who would not vote for the proposed duties except there was a general scheme under which other duties were lowered or abolished. We have money enough from the duties levied. It is not necessary to raise some duties without lowering others. It is true that the present Government have year by year had a deficit; but the late Government, under a 15 per cent tariff, had enough money and to spare. The present tariff ought to yield money enough. All that is needed is a

READJUSTMENT TENDING TOWARDS RECIPRO-CITY.

and reciprocity will be obtained, just as soon as the States see that their trade is beginning to be crippled. It is true we have not the Fisheries; but our trade with the United States has increased to such an enormous extent that its loss would be severely felt by them; and they will think twice before they lose that trade. By the award of the Fishery Commissioners a fixed value has been attached to our fisheries; and if we take the proper business-like course, there is no doubt that we shall again, very soon, be able to use them as a powerful lever in obtaining Reciprocity. I see it asserted in the Opposition press that a duty on flour will very largely add to the price of flour in this Province. I venture to say that such a duty will not increase the price of flour five cents a barrel, because the price of flour all over America is made in Chicago, and the prices in Chicago are regulated by those ruling in Mark Lane. But it is said that such a duty will destroy the carrying trade between United States ports and the Maritime Provinces. Well, four-fifths of the flour we use comes direct from Canada and pays no duty; and we can—if freights are wanted for our vessels—bring Canadian flour in bond from United States ports. Canadian flour is the best flour, and it is just as well to bring it here in bond from the United States as to freight our vessels with American flour.

THE POTATO MARKET.

The want of Reciprocity is never more felt than when searching for a market for our potatoes. Last year several merchants sent large quantities of potatoes to the English market. But they lost every cent they laid out. The year before we sent large quantities of potatoes to the United States; and our farmers paid in to the Treasury of the United States duties amounting to \$173,000—or, at least they would have been \$173,000 better off had they Reciprocal Free Trade. They would have been able to obtain the prices ruling in the United States, without being first obliged to pay 15 cents in gold on every bushel they sold in the United States. This shows that it should be our main object to obtain Reciprocity. That is what I attempted to do. That is what I hope to accomplish. (Applause.) I might, of course, do otherwise. Last year I was offered a seat in the Mackenzie Cabinet. But I would not take it. (Cheers.) I would rather stand by my country and my party, and endeavor to promote the interest of my constituents.

There are a large number of articles now admitted free from the United States which might just as well as not be levied upon for a duty to add to the revenue, while other articles coming from other countries might be relieved of duty. There are the articles of cotton wool, candle wax, cotton and flax waste, which alone would yield \$66,000 towards the revenue, if a duty of ten per cent. were imposed upon them. A duty imposed upon these articles would enable us materially to lower duties upon other imported articles.

SUGAR.

There is the article of sugar, in the manufacture of which a large number of men, vessels and capital might be employed if the duties were lowered upon raw sugars. But, by their policy, the Government have killed out the sugar manufacturing industry as completely as they would have killed the shipbuilding trade, if they had had their way with it. The men engaged in it have left the country, the capital invested in it has been lost, and vessels no longer carry on a profitable trade between Canada and the West Indies. The Government refuse to lower the duties and the country suffers.

COAL.

The Opposition Press has raised a great hue and cry respecting the cost of coal, if a duty calculated to make the United States coal owners join us in asking for Reciprocity, be imposed. With coal mines over in Cape Breton and Pictou, what difference would the imposition of a duty on coal make to us—especially if the duty on other articles be proportionately reduced? We import very little coal, and we would therefore pay very little duty. Nearly all the coal we use comes from our own country, which is one of the best coal producing countries in America, and which only needs reciprocity of trade with the United States to make her coal mining industry flourish as it did before the Reciprocity Treaty was abrogated.

TO SUM UP.

The resolution submitted this year looks forward to Reciprocity. That of last year did not. If I had voted against it, I should have voted confidence in the McKenzie Administration, and expressed satisfaction with the unfair increase of taxation levied by the Government last year—because McKenzie made the resolution a motion of want of confidence. I had no confidence in the McKenzie Administration. I am strongly in favor of Reciprocity. And I believe that I acted more consistently and more in accordance with the wishes of my constituents by voting for it, than I would if I had voted against it.

OTHER MATTERS.

Mr. Pope spoke at some length about the work (and play) of the session. He showed how the public business had been retarded to investigate the Moylan matter. He explained that matter—showing how Moylan in 1862 performed work for the Government for which he had never been paid by the Government of the late John Sanfield McDonald; how his accounts had been mislaid by that Government; how Sir John, pressed by Moylan for payment, and being unable to investigate the matter thoroughly, had advanced him money on account of printing to be done for the de-

partments—leaving the debt still unpaid; how Moylan had not done the printing, and had not been paid the amount due him; how the McKenzie Government had appointed Moylan to an important office, and kept him in office and paid his salary, and had never even asked for repayment of the money advanced; and, with a full knowledge of the circumstances, had frittered away time which ought to have been employed in transacting public affairs in endeavoring to fasten suspicion of corruption upon Sir John McDonald. Mr. Pope also explained the "Nixon Scandal," and referred to the foal libel promulgated by the Hon. Mr. Mills, the "Globe" and other papers, to the effect that Sir John Macdonald was drunk during the twenty-seven hours' session. To the libel he gave a flat denial. He detailed the circumstances connected with the twenty-seven hours sitting,—showing that Mackenzie—at the suggestion of his Quebec followers—refused to adjourn at the usual hour, and tried to force on a division in order that the vote might have political effect in the Sunday afternoon meeting held throughout Quebec, that the Opposition determined to sit and did sit until the Government gave way—and that it was supporters of the Government who, for the purpose of interrupting Opposition speakers, made the noise and confusion which disgraced the proceedings. Mr. Pope pointed out that if the Opposition were triumphant in the coming elections, Prince Edward Island would obtain the seat in the Cabinet to which she is entitled, but of which she has been deprived by Mr. McKenzie. He also directed attention to the shabby treatment the Island is receiving in the expenditure of public money. While millions are being spent upon the canals of Ontario, Prince Edward Island is only allowed some \$35,000—\$20,000 of which is to make good the loss of Souris Breakwater—which might have been prevented if McKenzie had taken the advice of his own friends on this Island. Mr. Pope concluded by expressing his appreciation of the honor of representing the large and one of the most intelligent constituencies in the Dominion, and his hope that the course he had pursued in their interests would meet with their approval. (Applause.)

Daniel McKinnon, Esq., of the firm of McKinnon & McLean, Esdale Foundry, proposed the following resolution:—

This meeting having heard, with great satisfaction, the able and exhaustive speech of the Hon. J. C. Pope, fully approves of the course pursued by him since his election to the Dominion House of Commons. We believe that he has not only ably and faithfully represented the interests of Queen's County, for which he was elected; but that he has been indefatigable in advocating the rights of the whole Island;

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered the Hon. J. C. Pope for the services he has rendered;

Resolved, That the Hon. J. C. Pope receive the nomination of this meeting, as one of the Liberal Conservative Candidates for Queen's County in the approaching election for the Dominion of Canada;

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to confer with delegates from various sections of Queen's County, to nominate a candidate in conjunction with the Hon. J. C. Pope.

He said he had very great pleasure in moving the adoption of the resolution. He was well pleased with the explanation of Mr. Pope, respecting his action on the ticklish and intricate question of trade. In this country, we cannot have either Free Trade or ultra Protection. But we must have a judicious re-adjustment of the tariff. All will admit that Mr. Pope is the best man—the right man to represent Prince Edward Island. Before Mr. Pope was elected the Island was misrepresented—or rather not represented at all. Mr. Pope has at least done one good thing—he has made the dumb speak. While it is evident that Mr. Pope is the right man, it is also self-evident that the corrupt and hypocritical combination at present in power is the wrong Government.

W. C. Bourke, Esq., of the firm of Messrs. Bourke, Son & Co., seconded the resolution.

Each part of the resolution was put separately, and each was carried with the utmost possible unanimity and enthusiasm.

Mr. Pope acknowledged the compliment given him. He said there is nothing so gratifying to a public man as a public recognition of his services. His only thought had been how he could best carry out the important trust confided to him; and his only regret was that—owing to the refusal of the Government to do anything for any representative who was not also their supporter—he had not been able to do more for the Province than he had done. He hoped, however, that under another and better Government—in which the Island would be directly represented—the Province would receive more substantial justice than has heretofore been accorded to it. With regard to his nomination for Queen's County, Mr. Pope asked his friends to let that matter remain open for a few days.

Hon. F. Brecken being called upon, said that there was at least one gratifying circumstance resulting from the election of Mr. Pope. The Ministerial Party never before thought it worth their while to send an "editorial correspondent" to Ottawa. He thought, however, that the attempt of that correspondent to prove that Mr. Pope was a disgrace to the Province, while all its other representatives were able men and good speakers, was rather "too thin" even for the most credulous of Reformers. Mr. Brecken spoke at some length upon the Trade Question—showing that the "one-sided bargain" with Brother Jonathan would never be changed under present conditions. He argued strongly in favor of reciprocity.

E. J. Hodgson, Esq., went forward after repeated calls. He came to the meeting to hear Mr. Pope give an account of his stewardship—not to speak. He thought it extremely proper that Mr. Pope should do so—especially as he was about to deliver up the trusts confided to him by the people of Queen's County. Mr. Hodgson said he would never have forgiven Mr. Pope had he voted confidence in the Government which tried to deprive our young men of the franchise. With respect to the disgraceful scenes enacted on the floor of Parliament, are they to be wondered at, while vulture rules where once the eagle reigned? Mr. Hodgson condemned the narrow sectionalism of the men who now disgrace the Cabinet; and concluded a short but eloquent and forcible speech, with an expression of his hope and firm belief that the country will, after the general election, be relieved of the intolerable incubus of the "Organized Hypocrisy."

On motion of the Hon. F. Brecken, the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to the chairman, three cheers were given for Mr. Pope, and the meeting adjourned.

W. L. COTTON, Secretary.