

LIBERAL CONVENTION.

351. The Liberal party of Canada met in convention at Ottawa, June 20-22, 1893. It comprised about 1,500 delegates, among whom were the Premiers of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Interesting addresses were given by prominent leaders of the party, including Sir Richard Cartwright and Ex-Premier Joly, of Quebec. Sir Oliver Mowat, the Premier of Ontario, who was called to the chair, urged the adoption of tariff reform and as great a measure of reciprocity with the United States as could be obtained without the sacrifice of the principle of Canadian national existence. He denied that the Liberal party were prepared to accept annexation and to desert the idea of a national future, if they could not get better trade relations otherwise.

Resolutions were passed declaring (1) that a customs tariff should be based upon the requirements of the public service, and not upon the protective principle. (2) For the most friendly relations and broad and liberal intercourse between Canada and the United States—the Liberal party being “prepared to enter into negotiations with a view of obtaining a fair and liberal reciprocity treaty, including a well considered selection of manufactured articles, and are satisfied that any treaty so arranged will receive the assent of Her Majesty’s Government, without whose approval no treaty can be made.” (3) “That gross corruption has existed in the management and expenditure of the public moneys.” (4) That the public debt has increased in an alarming way—that the controllable annual expenditure has unduly increased, and consequently the taxation of the people has been unnecessarily large. Therefore, the Liberal party “demand strict economy in the administration of the Government of the country.” (5) That trial of serious charges against Ministers of the Crown should be by the House of Commons, and not by Royal Commission, the Convention affirming “that it is the undoubted right of the House of Commons to inquire into all matters of public expenditure and into all charges of misconduct in office against Ministers of the Crown; the reference of such matters to Royal Commissions created upon the advice of the accused, is at variance with the due responsibility of a Minister to the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the Executive Government.” (6) That the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to actual settlers only, and not to speculators, upon reasonable terms of settlement and