

The Herald

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Notable Quebec Tribute

L'Action Catholique, an independent paper of Quebec of Nov. 9th, 1921, has the following fine appreciation of Premier Meighen on the occasion of his recent visit:

Those who organized the meeting held in the Drill Shed yesterday evening, may well be pleased with the success that crowned their efforts, for the outcome far surpassed their highest expectations, and it was all due to him who was the hero of the demonstration, Honorable Mr. Meighen.

Close upon eight thousand people had invaded the hall, when the Prime Minister made his appearance, accompanied by his wife and a large number of his followers. The band from the garrison played "God Save the King" amidst the applause that greeted their entrance. Mr. Laliberté of Athabaska was the first speaker, and during his speech Mr. Meighen leisurely studied the audience.

When the Prime Minister rose to speak, he was received with courtesy by the entire multitude, and with warm applause on the part of his political friends.

This thoughtful consideration continued throughout his whole discourse. There were, it is true, occasional interruptions, but they were only questions politely put and which he met without any show of impatience. Indeed, he seemed glad of them, for to them is due a large measure of the success of his tour.

What one could call a "great orator." He is a dialectician of wonderful power, who reasons his way with the logic of a true philosopher. His voice is far-reaching, and certain tones remind one of Henry Bourassa's, but his notes are softer and deeper, his language clearcut, without even an appeal to the flowers of rhetoric. What he has to say, he says clearly, and on occasions underlines his words with a gesture that adds to their energy.

He began his address in French, and thereby created an excellent impression. He speaks the language much more readily and with a far better accent than did Sir R. L. Borden on a similar occasion in Quebec.

As we have stated above, his style is clear and his pronunciation faultless, and these qualities never fail to appeal to a crowd, and while his language is English his wit is purely Celtic. This was particularly evident in his manner of treating the interruptions levelled at him from time to time during his discourse, and this is how his interrogators contributed to his great success. Scarcely was the question put when the answer was given clear, precise, brief and excessively plausible, sometimes indeed with the energy of profound conviction, but always courteous and sincere.

The speaker himself did not fail to realize the effect produced by his apt answers, nor was he slow to appreciate the volume of real sympathy he thus acquired; and conscious of his strength in this regard he seemed to court interruptions, that served only to bring forth into the limelight the best that was in him.

In referring to the marine he continued his remarks to the Merchant Marine, and entered not into the question of naval affairs, and when from the audience there came a reference to

his last journey to England, he was able to side-step the question with consummate cleverness. Thanks to these interruptions Mr. Meighen was able to deliver an address, full of life and originality, to which the audience listened not only without fatigue, but rather with pleasure and interest that went on increasing to the end. Had he been permitted to make his speech without these interruptions it would have been far less interesting and its effect would have been small compared to the reality.

Another thing that contributed to Mr. Meighen's success is what we may call his "action under fire." He may not be a man who courts danger, but he certainly gives you the impression that he does not seek to avoid it. He plants his feet firmly before his adversary, looks him straight in the eye, and strikes out at once. This is the second and perhaps principal reason of his success at yesterday's meeting; for if he stood in the presence of an audience of whom four-fifths differed from him in politics, and to whom he could not hope to win but a portion, that audience he remembered, were French Canadians in whose veins flowed the blood of the heroes of Fontenoy, and who never fail to appreciate and admire the qualities of courage and bravery. Mr. Meighen will leave behind him in Quebec an excellent souvenir of himself, and it is only fair to say that he gained for his party every possible advantage. Despite his slender physique and his apparent youth, he leaves the impression that he is a man of great abilities and fitted with all the qualities of a great leader.

The Prime Minister

On Thursday evening, Nov. 10th, Premier Meighen was accorded a most enthusiastic ovation in Ottawa, when he addressed 3,000 people at two meetings.

In the agricultural hall he faced an audience of 6,000, and in another hall he addressed 2,000 more. His reception and the enthusiasm of demonstration which greeted him in his triumphal procession from his home to the Exhibition Building have never been surpassed in the case of a public man at the Capital. Among the aftermath of the occasion the Ottawa Journal cites the following: "I have no politics. I heard Meighen speak the other night and I heard Crerar and King speak a few days before. There is only one thing I can do. I am going to vote for the man. He is head and shoulders above the others. And the people see it. He is winning the country to him every day."

That is the confession of faith the Journal heard voiced by a man in the street on Saturday. In the streets, in the homes, in the places where men and women come together in Ottawa and elsewhere throughout this country it is being spoken by those with party politics and those without. The Prime Minister is winning the country to him. He has been winning it steadily to him from the time he took the stump. He is winning it because he has "taken issues as issues," and argued them as issues, "because he has appealed "on one consistent policy..... the same everywhere in the Dominion." Because he is big enough and fearless enough and honest enough to do it, and because his opponents have not even the shame to pretend they are not. "We know what we have got in Meighen; what have we got in the others?" asks the man in the street, the woman in the home.

The more the Prime Minister is heard in this campaign the more votes he makes for himself and the Government for which he is responsible. The more Mr. King is heard the more votes he loses for himself and his party. The only elements in this country

on whom the outstanding superiority and honesty of Mr. Meighen are making no impression are those who want office for the sake of office, those who want office for class advantage at the cost of other classes, those who want revenge on the Government for one reason or another, and the cranks who want nothing that they can possibly get and whom no sane person would trust with an influence on the country's affairs.

If Mr. Meighen is removed from the Premiership on December 6 it will be by chiefly the ballots of office seekers who are now stooping to a degree of dishonesty for the purpose of vote-catching that has never before disgraced the politics of this country, of the anti-conscriptivists, of the class-selfish, and of the irresponsible rainbow chasers. To those elements the one great question of the national interest makes no sufficient appeal. They are willfully blind to it. To them it is of no consequence that in Mr. Meighen the country has a man it can trust and in Mr. King and Mr. Crerar men it must experiment with. They are not concerned for the country but for themselves.

The election talk that is to be heard in the streets today gives encouragement to the belief that it is not the office-greedy, the class-selfish, and the cranks who predominate in Canada but the clear-headed, open-minded citizens who think in terms of their country.

Result of Premier's Tour

Hon. Arthur Meighen recently completed his tour of the eastern provinces. His campaign of five weeks in Prince-Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, where he addressed over a hundred meetings and more than 300,000 people, was the most strenuous and convincing in our political history.

The prime minister's marvellous vigor and vitality has given the greatest encouragement to his friends and dismayed his opponents, who have been predicting that he could not maintain such a strenuous pace. He is now even more vigorous and convincing than at the beginning of his tour. During the campaign he has so far held twice as many meetings as the combined efforts of the leaders of the Farmer-Liberal entente, Messrs. Crerar and King. He has gone west to carry on an even more strenuous campaign, and returns to address thirty-nine meetings in Ontario before polling day.

The prime minister's tour has had a marked and permanent influence on public sentiment. His courage, sincerity and frankness have won support in every quarter and every class. With a definite national policy he has had his shifting opponents at his mercy, and the electors have quickly realized that a strong premier with a national policy is essential to Canada's stability, progress and solvency. His strength is displayed in seizing the issue raised by his opponents, incorporated in their platforms, and forcing the fight on these lines. His opponents admit that in ability and statesmanship he far exceeds the shifting opportunists, who have a policy for each class, section and race, and dare not repeat in Ontario what they say in Quebec nor in the West what they say in the East. Premier Meighen has won Eastern Canada, and not by promises or patronage, but by a fair presentation of the administrative work of the Government and also of its Canadian policy.

For four years the government have carried the tremendous war burden and the difficulties of reconstruction amid a world-wide

depression, without time or thought for politics. During that period two political parties, Farmers and Liberals, jointly and severally, have devoted their time to political organization. When parliament dissolved they had their organizations ready for the fray, while the government had to create a political organization. In a few weeks' campaign the government is supreme in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, and have rallied a magnificent fighting force that is successfully challenging the Liberal "solid Quebec," while Messrs. King and Crerar are confronted daily with serious defections and embarrassing factional fights. In Nova Scotia, Liberals in September claimed fifteen out of sixteen constituencies; in October, after the prime minister's tour of that province, they reduced this claim to an even division; and now they are worried over the danger of defeat to Hon. W. S. Fielding, Hon. A. K. McLean, E. M. Macdonald and William Duff. And the same cheering conditions are reported from all the other Eastern provinces. When the electors have been faced with a national decision, carping criticism has ceased, class and racial demagogues have been discarded, and they are rallying to the strong appeal of the prime minister for stability, unity and progress; for Canada for Canadians and the maintenance of our fiscal and political independence. Neither in 1873, 1890 or 1911 was there such a marked inclination on the part of the electorate to support a protectionist policy as there is displayed in the present campaign.

The government enters on the last four weeks of the campaign in a wonderful position. They have placed their opponents on the defensive. The five eastern reports from the tour are all of a cheering nature. The coming of victory is with the government and the victories of 1878 and 1911 will be repeated.

Bad Fire Yesterday At Ch'town Hospital

Hundreds of citizens assisted the city fire brigade in a hard battle against the bad fire yesterday which at one time threatened to wipe out the Charlottetown Hospital, on the Esplanade. The conflagration, which started just above one of the two boilers in the basement of the building, crept along the walls to the elevator shaft and chapel, and swept fiercely to the top of the building before the fire fighters had got well to work. By splendid work inside the burning building the firemen were able after four hours struggle to get the fire under control. In the meantime the patients were being removed to the vacant Convalescent home. Motor trucks, ambulances, run abouts and every type of car was utilized to carry bedding and equipment from the building and thanks to the efficient work of the hundreds who assisted in the evacuation operations every patient was removed safely and practically all moveable equipment salvaged.

The fire was first noticed by Sister St. Bertha. It had then worked its way up from the basement in the air space on both sides of the chimney and the second floor, as well as the maternity ward, were menaced. There were thirty-three nurses, including fifteen Sisters of Charity, in the hospital and these heroically stuck to their posts and assisted in the work of evacuation. The patients were first taken to the Connolly House and St. Anthony's Villa which adjoin the hospital. They were later removed to the Convalescent Home, where many of the voluntary workers were busy preparing for their reception. This hospital was placed at the disposal of the Charlottetown Hospital trustees by the Provincial Government.

The building is partly insured to the extent of some \$25,000. It was splendidly equipped as a hospital and underwent repairs this summer.

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Rail & Steamship Service To The Mainland

Canadian National Railways Connecting October 31st, S. S. Prince-Edward Island will make one round trip daily (except Sunday) between Borden and Tormentine. Connecting Train leaves Charlottetown at 6.45 a.m. CONNECTIONS AT SACKVILLE WITH OCEAN LIMITED For Quebec and Montreal connections at Montreal with "Continental Limited" for Ottawa, North Bay, Cochrane, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Vancouver. Connection for ST. JOHN AND BOSTON by No. 13 Train leaving Moncton at 2.30 p.m. W. K. ROGERS, City Ticket Agent. W. T. HUGGAN, District Passenger Agent. W. M. FLYNN, Station Ticket Agent. October 26th, 1921-21

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Political Meetings in King's County

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Location, Time. Includes meetings in Murray Harbor South, High Bank, Cambridge, Georgetown, Morell, St. Peter's, Bear River, Lower Montague, and Sturgeon.

James McIsaac, J. J. Hughes. October 26, 1921-tf

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