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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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Subject.....

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REVIVING WORN-OUT CRIES

At this stage of the campaign the constitutional question is worn threadbare. So far as Winnipeg is concerned Mr. Meighen's audience of 7,000 of Winnipeg people showed their feeling regarding it when the name of His Excellency was mentioned. They gave his defence—the climax of that clear-cut statement in his defence—the greatest round of continued applause that has been heard here during the present campaign.

But a peculiarly framed misrepresentation, peculiar in its wanton offence against fact and common sense—appears in a Saskatchewan Liberal newspaper and, perhaps, calls for a passing notice. "The chief complaint against Mr. Meighen in this particular connection (constitutionalism) is that he continued to hold office after being ordered by the House of Commons to vacate. How does he justify that course? The House of Commons saw fit to rule that Mr. Meighen and his temporary ministers had no moral right to constitute themselves as a government. That motion—which was a vote of censure if ever there was a vote of censure—carried, but Mr. Meighen saw fit to ignore it. He should have resigned at once. But the adverse verdict of the elected representatives of the people meant nothing to him. He hurried back to the Governor-General and got permission to dismiss the Parliament which had dismissed him."

As a matter of fact Mr. Meighen did everything he is accused of not doing.

He surrendered the control of Parliament, and accepted its very dubious one-paired-man's deciding vote. There was nothing else but dissolution in the offing; Mr. Mackenzie King, "censured" by the same Parliament, was not available—this is conveniently overlooked in the newspaper.

What else was Mr. Meighen or His Excellency to do than bring about an appeal to the people? Why should Mr. Meighen have resigned at once, under these circumstances? Who had a better right to carry on? The "adverse verdict of the representatives of the people" (especially Mr. Bird and his people) meant much not only to Mr. Meighen, but to the West generally, because these elected representatives of the West, controlling a majority in Parliament, upset their own appellation and blocked their own particular program, which Mr. Meighen—with Progressive aid to start with—was trying to put upon the statute books.

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