

# Speech by Hon.

W. L. Mackenzie King

(Continued from page one)

when, as a young man, over 16 years ago I was chosen the leader of the Liberal party, they invited me to come and take a seat in this Island to represent one of the constituencies of Prince Edward Island in the Parliament of Canada. (Applause).

Ladies and gentlemen, I just cannot begin to tell you what it meant to me at that time to have that cordial welcome extended to me then; and with the larger experience that comes with the years, I began to realize even better than at that time, just how much it meant to have come to such a hospitable and kindly community as that which received me those many years ago.

## The Liberal Sweep

I am going to speak a little of the past tonight, but before doing so, I want to make mention of the one object I had very much in mind in coming to Charlottetown, and that was, to take as early an opportunity as possible as the leader of the Liberal party in Canada, to convey to your Premier and to his colleagues and to the Liberals of Prince Edward Island the warm congratulations of the Liberals of all Canada upon the great achievement which was recently accomplished in this political world in this part of our Dominion. (Applause).

This is a time when records are being made in different directions. We have just read in this morning's paper how Sir Malcolm Campbell has succeeded in driving some 300 miles within an hour's time. In other words, he has made a clean sweep and surpassed every record in the broad field of activity to which he has devoted so much of his energy and enthusiasm.

Well, this Island has had a clean sweep, if there ever was one, politically; and this clean sweep has sent inspiration to the Liberals in all parts of this country. (Applause).

Listening the other evening to an outstanding Liberal in Ontario, Premier Hepburn, speaking with regard to the victory which had taken place in Prince Edward Island in the provincial arena, and he said: "What they did there was simply this: The Liberals got hold of the Island at one end, tipped it up, and tipped all the Tories into the sea!" (Laughter and Applause).

That little simile has remained in my mind ever since, and I hope in the next few weeks, when the 14th of October comes around, all of you good people who have come to understand how well to handle the Island politics, you will again get at one end of the Island and tip it up and let our Tory friends drop quietly into some peaceful haven for the next few years and let the four gentlemen who have spoken to you tonight represent you as Liberal members in the House of Commons of Canada. (Applause).

## Support Official Candidates

There is a third reason why I am glad to be here this evening. I have spoken in numerous parts of Canada already and I wished to do so to give my support to the official candidates nominated in the present contest. We all know that in times of campaign we discover that it is with the greatest difficulty we can make selections from the large number of those who are prominent and which will include all we would like to include.

One thing about the Liberal party, it has got so many good men it is hard to choose a candidate, but when a convention has made a choice there is only one thing for all loyal party men and women to do, and that is to get around the choice of the convention and support them loyally and whole-heartedly. (Applause). I hope you will do that in this constituency and also in the adjoining constituencies.

I am sure you will return to Parliament my friend, Mr. McLean, has been one of the most faithful and ablest representatives any constituency could have in the Parliament of Canada. Mr. Grant also has had great political experience and Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Larabee are gentlemen who have had experience in the legislative life of the province and I am sure you will elect to our Parliament during the next five years they will give not only a good account of themselves but a good account of the Island to all parts of Canada. (Applause).

There are a great many things I would like to say further of an in-

follows after the leadership of one whom Canada has had no greater leader at any time, that responsibility is very great indeed.

When I was chosen leader of the Liberal party it was in the year 1919, and tonight may I say I am pleased to see so many of the younger people here, because I think they will be interested in a little review of all that took place in the years before they were as interested in politics as they are today.

Just imagine the feelings of a young man chosen to lead a political party and not having a seat in Parliament, and wondering where that seat was going to be given him.

## Offered Nomination

And then suddenly without seeking on his own part there comes the kindly gentleman—who was Premier of Prince Edward Island—the late Mr. Bell—and in the sweetest of ways says: "Don't be in a hurry about accepting a nomination anywhere else. I believe the people of Prince Edward Island would like to have you come down and begin your career in that office, which has the distinction of being the Cradle of Confederation."

You can imagine how I felt at that time, to be asked to represent the constituency of Prince County, which had been so ably represented in Parliament.

When that invitation came to me there were many from other parts of Canada as well, but for some reason I felt an attraction to this Island greater at that moment than to any other place.

I think it must have been because there was a feeling of closer attachment to the people.

The Island being smaller gave an opportunity of getting a little nearer than would have been possible otherwise.

I have sometimes thought some of my ancestors must have lived in humble circumstances because I like a cottage more than a house or mansion.

There is something about it that appeals very strongly to my heart and to my soul, and it is the same with regard to this province.

The fact that you were the smallest province of the Dominion, the fact that here to some extent all were grouped together, detached at it were from the other parts of the Dominion, and having a great history, I felt that there was something about it that made a very strong appeal indeed. I have never been sorry that I accepted that invitation, and I want to say tonight that after sixteen years I am here above all else to thank you again for having started me on my political path as Prime Minister of Canada. (Applause).

## History Repeating Itself

A reference has been made from this platform tonight to history repeating itself. I wonder if any of you begin to appreciate how closely history is beginning to repeat itself in connection with this very election, associated with the period of which I have just been speaking.

I think it will be a surprise to you when I tell you what the parallel is. I must confess it was somewhat of a surprise to myself, when coming over this evening from the mainland I began to think of those years past, when I was associated more intimately with the Island, and again as the leader of the Liberal party. Let me just point out what actually were the circumstances at the time, to go back to the time of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier had fifteen years of rule in this country as the Prime Minister of the Liberal administration. Then we come to 1911 when we had the reciprocity campaign, associated with the desire to get wider markets, and markets near our doors.

I wonder if you haven't something of that kind in connection with this campaign—the need for wider markets and especially the markets near our door. But he was defeated on that great issue, and there ensued a conservative era under Sir Robert Borden.

Then we come to the period of the War, and the term of Parliament was somewhat lengthened. But after the war was over, the Union Government of Sir Robert Borden continued for a time and then it became, as many here know, simply a Conservative administration. It held on to office long after it was justified in so doing.

Isn't it something of a parallel there again? Sir Robert Borden had been chosen for the purpose of making a union government to help to win the war. When that object was accomplished, that Government should have ended; but it continued on year after year to 1921. Then the people, feeling the resentment they did at the Government continuing

of depression—third parties. Parties sprang up and formed themselves in certain groups, believing they would be able to formulate some policy that would relieve the situation, parties formed largely as the result of discontent with the times and government and capitalizing the discontent in order to gain power.

In 1906 it was Patrons of Industry. Naturally the farmers were the ones who suffered the most. I am not blaming them in finding fault. I am not sure if I had been a farmer at that time that I would not have been trying to be at the head of the party of revolt against any policy of restriction of trade and which may be described as buying in the dearest and selling in the cheapest markets. And you had also the Equal Rights party.

What happened? When the Liberal party came into office, you had these third parties disappear because better times came with the Liberal party, and before Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been very long in office and his trade policy was introduced, you heard no more of the Equal Rights party, or the Patrons of Industry, but you heard only of the Liberal party; and when 1911 came, the battle was not between the Patrons of Industry, the Equal Rights, and all the rest; it was simply between the two oldest historic parties, the Liberal and the Conservative parties.

When Sir Robert Borden came into office, what happened? Again you had the same sort of thing. You had the period of Conservative administration running on down after the war, and there came again hard times of depression, and what was one of the expressions of that depression?

Why, it was again the rise of another third party, this time the Progressive party. Once again the farmers, feeling that the restriction of trade policies were doing them harm, and being somewhat annoyed, many of the old Liberals joined along with the Conservatives of the former National Government and started up on their own and formed a third party, the Progressive party, a prominent and very formidable party, and carried a great many seats in 1921.

But what happened after 1921? The Liberal administration came into office, the country was lifted out of the depression with the substitution of better trade policies, and what became of the Progressive party? Most of the members merged in the Liberal party itself.

At that time I had the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing gentlemen who had been opposed to me in the House of Commons come and sit beside me, not merely in the House of Commons but in the Cabinet. Who were the leaders in the Progressive party? Hon. Robert Forke, Hon. Thomas Crerar. Both these gentlemen were colleagues of my own, both sat in the Liberal Cabinet, and around them and around me sat a large number of men who had formerly called themselves Progressives and who had come to see that the Liberal party was a party that was concerned with the well-being of agriculture, the well-being of the great basic industries, and realizing that this was the fact, they took the course which was the right one, the right one in their own interests, the right one in the interests of Canada as a whole, to co-operate with the Liberal members in carrying out the Liberal policies.

You have the third party disappear.

## Third Parties Re-appear Under Conservatives

What has taken place since? Since the Liberal administration went out of office we have had five years of conservative administration, and in that five years of Conservative administration, how many different parties have we had? First of all you have what is called the C. C. F., the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. That party did not exist, had not been heard of prior to the time Mr. Bennett took office. It held its first important meeting out in Calgary in 1932. It had another important meeting in Regina in 1933. It tried to bring together certain groups interested in labour, others interested in agriculture, others interested in activities of some kind or other, to form them all together on the basis of what? Of discontent with existing times and depression, to get something different, and they formed themselves into what has become and is now, under Mr. Wordsworth, a Socialist party.

These too, have come into existence under the Conservative administration of Mr. Bennett. Since proration we have had another third party—I suppose it ought to be called a party—the Reconstruction party with Mr. Stevens at the head of it. Where did that party come from? From what does it owe its birth? It owed its birth again to discontent, discon-

member of the party to 724 years and prepared to go into party caucus on the last day of the session, and within twenty-four hours came out and be the advocate of a new party?

It is simply a means of getting even with a leader who has opposed him and I must say that I am amazed with the course Mr. Stevens has taken. He may feel bitter toward Mr. Bennett, but what about his other colleagues? What about the great Conservative party which, after all, made him what he is? There is such a thing as gratitude in public life. I admire that independence of spirit which will assert itself when there is some great principle at stake, but when you think of it, Mr. Stevens was a defeated Conservative at the last election. He did not have a seat and his leader, the Prime Minister, got some one to give him a seat and as Leader of the Liberal party, I asked our friends not to oppose him, for I thought Mr. Bennett needed all the Cabinet material likely to help him at that time.

He came into politics without opposition after he had been defeated and kept on ever since with the Conservative party.

What I want to bring home is this, that when you are thinking of the situation this country is in today, how we are going to be led out of the situation, how we are going to improve conditions, don't imagine that a party that owes its origin to a decision of that kind is going to be able to succeed. A house divided against itself is sure to fall. (Applause).

There is nothing making for surer destruction of the House represented by the Conservative party than what is taking place at the present time.

It is all right for Mr. Stevens to call himself a Reconstruction party, but I tell him he is going the wrong way in making that particular attempt. (Applause).

## Social Credit Party

You will always see third parties spring out of periods of depression when you have a Conservative administration. There is the Social Credit party in Alberta. The Social Credit party, we are told, are going to put candidates in the field in Alberta. What originated that party? Just exactly the same kind of thing. When there have been hard times and in the stress of existing times, a man tells the people he has found a cure. I am for letting it have the best chance possible, but I do not think it would be wise to try that experiment in two fields at the same time. I do not think it would be wise to experiment in Alberta and in Ontario at the same time. If it gives the people what it purports to be going to do, if every man and woman going to receive \$25.00 a month from the state, and those who are younger going to receive a little less, if that thing is going to succeed it won't be long before all will want to belong to that party.

## Tory Promises

But don't forget the numerous promises made last time by Mr. Bennett. Don't forget the promises Mr. Stevens is making. When it becomes necessary for political leaders to hold out to the public what is equivalent to bribes with respect to money that has to be paid for out of their own pockets. Don't forget that the \$25 will come ultimately out of the pockets of the people themselves. Taxation is the only way in the end you can meet the situation, if you don't discover some cure-all that the world has not known up to the present. It is not a patriotic thing to promise you are going to do this and that when it has to come out of the people themselves. I have never done that kind of thing and I never intend to. I don't intend to do it now. I have been saying that certain policies will bring about certain results. I believe in them. I have watched how they worked in the past and I know how they will work in the future. With regard to Mr. Bennett's policies, we said they were wrong and they have led exactly where we said they would lead. (Applause).

Now I believe we can take that and apply it with equal force to the people of Canada. We know what certain policies have succeeded in doing in the past; we see no reason why they should not do the same thing again.

## The 1919 Period

I come more closely again to the 1919 period to show you just how history repeats itself and how things will work out. I have made it clear that history does repeat itself, in the fact that when you have a Conservative administration you have a time of great spending which ultimately leads to depression in the end, and you have also the rise of third parties.

lems satisfactorily? (Applause)

That is why I think it is so important to realize that the federal administration has a very strong bearing on the provincial administration.

That is one reason why I believe you see at the present time the provincial premier today taking an active part not only in his own province but other parts of Canada as well in this particular contest in the Liberal interests, because they all realize that unless we get a change in federal politics, the provincial situation cannot possibly be improved as it should. (Applause).

Now you have these Conservative administrations in some of the provinces as well as at Ottawa, and what took place during that period? In one provincial election after the other the Conservative party began to be wiped out and the Liberal party to take its place, until at the time that I am speaking of now, 1919, when Sir Robert Borden's Union Government had passed out, so far as its existence was concerned, or was at least taking the shape of a purely Conservative administration, you began to have a series of Liberal administrations in the provinces.

Now, let me recall this to you. I remember it was when I was chosen leader at Ottawa in August 1919. On the day of that great convention the premiers, the leaders of the Liberal provinces of Canada, were the men who were in office at that time and were present at that conference representing the province. Whilst you had a Tory administration in office at Ottawa, you had in eight provinces out of the nine Liberal Governments, which came into being largely as a protest against what was taking place in the federal arena. (Applause).

Let me recall them. In this Island Hon. Mr. Bell was Premier, in Nova Scotia Hon. Mr. Murray, in New Brunswick Hon. Walter Foster was the Premier, in Quebec Sir Lomer Gouin, the head of the Tory administration in Ontario, the one exception, was Sir James Whitney, I think, and Mr. Hartley Dewart was the Liberal leader of the Opposition at that time; in Manitoba Hon. Mr. Norris was Premier, in Saskatchewan Hon. Mr. Martin, in Alberta Hon. Charles Stewart, and in British Columbia Hon. John Oliver.

## Not One Tory Provincial Premier

Here is a position identical, so far as the number of provinces is concerned, with what we have today. Eight provinces out of nine have Liberal administrations, with this difference, however, that in 1919 you had one Conservative province left in Canada; today you haven't got one! (Loud applause).

No wonder Mr. Lea asked what is the necessity of coming to Prince Edward Island to speak. You might ask that same question with regard to Canada in general. The people have made it quite clear, so far as they are concerned, that we should not have the reactionary kind of administration that we have been having during the past few years. (Applause).

## Support of Every Liberal Premier

I mention this for the reason that there is great significance to it. When as a much younger leader of the party I accepted that responsibility, I was naturally greatly concerned about what it was going to be possible to do.

One of the things that gave me confidence in believing that it would be possible to do great things for this country if the Liberal policies were put into force, was that I saw I would have the support of every Liberal Premier from the Atlantic to the Pacific in furthering the great Liberal principles and ideas throughout our country. I have that same feeling today with regard to a much graver situation.

Happy to say I have had much experience in the interval that means very much and gives me a feeling of confidence, but I must say when facing the possibility of trying to take this country out of the depression into a period of greater prosperity, I can see nothing that promises more of certain hope than the fact that I know I shall have from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia the greatest co-operation of every Government in Canada.

I have spoken in four provinces thus far in this present campaign. In the Province of Ontario at the first meeting to the audience by a Liberal Premier. When I spoke in New Brunswick two nights ago I was introduced to the audience by the Liberal Premier of the Province of New Brunswick.

When I spoke last night in Halifax I was introduced to the people by the Liberal Premier of Nova Scotia, and tonight, when I come to speak in Prince Edward Island I have the

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WHEELER-WOOLSEY in "NITWITS"  
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PLUS LOWELL THOMAS AT 4.30 AND 8.30 P. M.

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MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY  
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about it but these are facts and are true and it is well to look them squarely in the face.

## The Strangling of Trade

Mr. Bennett by putting up tariffs has caused other nations to resent our tariffs and the effect has been to strangle trade.

You can't go shipping goods out of a country all the time unless you are prepared to take commodities into the country.

You can't deal with another nation in a way which says we are going to put goods on your market but won't allow you to put your goods into ours.

Some countries can produce certain things which they can sell with profit to other nations and which to other nations it is to their profit to buy. Exchange is the very essence of prosperity. Take it in individual lives. Trade is nothing but exchange. Of the large number I see before me tonight who is there of you who has to do with any commodity at all who could make headway unless you could sell it and obtain for it what you need. If you are going to make it difficult for a man to exchange you will bring about the condition we have in Canada at the present time. (Applause)

## Bennett and Blasting

There is another thing I think has been very unfortunate in the last five years and that is the attitude of the Government.

After all attitude is an important matter, I mean the way you go about doing a thing. I do not know how you feel, but in the last campaign when I heard Mr. Bennett say he was going to blast his way into the markets of the world, I began to wonder what he was thinking about, when he could use language of that kind.

Suppose a man said "I am going to blast my way into your home, into your house, into your shop," what would you do. You would say "O, no, you are not. If you are going to come into my house you will knock at the door and I will open it," and that is what has been happening all over the world. One country after another has been barring its doors more tightly against Canada during the last five years. You need an entirely different approach to

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GEORGE O'BRIEN in "WHEN A MAN'S A MAN"  
PLUS LOUIS VS. CARNERA HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT  
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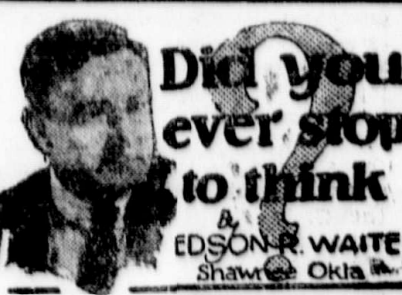
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MON - TUES - WED.

Mat. 3.15 P.M. Eve. 7 & 8.45 P.M.

CAPITOL MAT. 11.0-26c.

EVE. 26c-32c.



Rogers, Ark. - Quite an interesting city. The Harris Hotel is known as the Palace of the Ozarks and is truly named. Rogers is surrounded by interesting places. Drove to some of them: Bentonville, Monte Ne, Buena Vista. Everett W. Pate, editor of the Rogers News, says if you spend your vacation here you will live longer.

There are more newspapers printed and read in the United States and Canada than in all the rest of the world put together.

Some cities need more attention to business and less oratory; more application of business principles to affairs concerning their city and less devotion on the part of some of its citizens to self-glorification.

It is quite interesting to reflect how many popular myths have become political gospel and are sincerely believed by a great mass of the people, but have little real foundation in fact.

Newspaper advertising is a powerful force for good. Men who advertise have learned that it is a force which must be carefully guarded for the good of the people as a whole.

Too many men put in too much time thinking about the other fellow's salvation and too little about their own.

The art of "passing the buck" seems to be practiced much by many of our office holders.

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