

1912 WAS MACKENZIE'S LIFE NOT ALL IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN?

Dr. Le Sueur in a Letter to Publishers of His Book Says He Purposely Withheld Incidents Discreditable to the "Old Man," and Asks Mr. Morang Not to Tell His Grandson, Mr. Lindsey, About Them.

WANTED TO PICTURE PATRIOT AS HE WAS

"Is it your idea that beneficent despotism is a proper form of government?"

This was one of the questions asked by I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., in the course of the continued searching cross-examination to-day of Dr. W. D. Le Sueur in the suit of Mr. George Lindsey to restrain the former from publishing a life of William Lyon Mackenzie. Mr. Lindsey claims that Dr. Le Sueur, because of his political views, was unfitted to write a life of the famous Reformer, and Mr. Hellmuth was endeavoring to find out what Dr. Le Sueur's political views were.

A number of very interesting letters, written during the composition of the book in 1907 and 1908, were read. Dr. Le Sueur was recommending to Mr. Morang that a Life of Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson, one of the chiefs of the Family Compact, should be included in the series.

"It is a thoroughly good book," Le Sueur wrote in August, 1907. "Gentlemanly, candid, charitable. I would like to get both Robinson and Strachan (first Bishop of Toronto, and an ardent Tory) into the series. Strachan is quite as deserving of a place as Ryerson (Egerton Ryerson, the great educationalist and a Methodist divine). Ryerson was mainly a man of words. Strachan essentially a man of deeds."

Referring again to Robinson's Life, Dr. Le Sueur wrote: "I wish it could appear before mine, for which purpose it would be excellent."

"You recognize it would be useful to introduce your book?" asked Mr. Hellmuth.

"It would have been good indeed."

Mr. Hellmuth continued to read. "Leading up to it wonderfully, and giving it a better chance. If my book came first, it would give an edge to criticize Robinson." In the same letter Dr. Le Sueur spoke of "the enemy being on the warpath."

Mr. Hellmuth: "Who are the enemy?"

Dr. Le Sueur explained that he was a little jocular.

Feared a Row.

"Mr. King has had a man at the archives for weeks, if not months," the letter proceeds, "and some one has been at it in the Parliamentary library. So there is probably going to be a row. I have no doubt that my book can take care of itself and the row will force it into notice. It will not be written in a spirit of partizanship. I wish you would write to Shortt and get his opinion of Mackenzie in a few words. Don't let him know I suggested this inquiry."

Professor Shortt's opinion is given in Mr. Morang's answer to this letter, dated September 5, 1907. This is it:

"By his extravagant and reckless agitation, he did more than all of the enemies of reform to retard those Liberal measures which the conduct of the Family Compact had rendered indispensable."

Mr. Morang then makes some suggestions about the biography.

"I do not think it would be judicious," he says, "to do any more than suggest your opinion of Mackenzie by quoting documentary evidence here and there. King has worked up a good deal of interest in it, and I fear some of our friends think you are going to slaughter his distinguished grandfather."

In submitting his manuscript, Dr. Le Sueur wrote briefly of his views:

"I have written it from the general point of view indicated in the Hughes notes. The book, as written, is the only one I can write, however much certain parties may object to it. I have the highest regard for Mr. George Lindsey as a man of sense, and I shall be sorry if he takes offence at it. My impression is that he will see his grandfather as he really is for the first time."

Conservative "in Temper."

"The book comes at a good time, when a Conservative feeling is beginning to be apparent through the country," he continued.

Dr. Le Sueur explained that this was not Conservative in politics, but in temper.

"They are beginning to realize," the latter goes on, "that merely to call government responsible is not to make it so. There is, I believe, much alarm at the mounting rate of public expenditure."

"I suppose you read Willison's 'News.' You see queer things there about the working of responsible government. My book, while leaving out modern instances, will show what responsible government really is, and make it clear that for real responsibility the public will have to depend on character. Mere machinery will not give it."

Mr. Hellmuth turned abruptly to the witness.

"Is it your idea that beneficent despotism is a proper form of government?"

"Not at all."

"But you felt that character was necessary, and not the scheme or methods of responsible government, if the people were to have good government?"

"That is my idea in part. The other part was that so long as the people held their blind faith in the mere fact of having what is technically called responsible government, and failed to recognize that it was merely a name for party government, the people must be on the watch against abuses. Just

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
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