

The Herald

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Sir Robert Borden's Visit

The outstanding political event in this Province, during the present Dominion election campaign, was the visit to our Province on Thursday last, of Rt. Honorable Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, and his cabinet colleagues, Hon. F. E. Carvell. The splendid reception accorded them was worthy of the distinguished visitors, of the positions they occupy and of the occasion of their visit. In the course of his admirable address, Sir Robert laid before his numerous hearers in unmistakable terms the necessity for the Union Government and the purpose for which it was formed. Hon. Mr. Carvell was equally clear and emphatic in explaining the reasons why he and other Liberals joined the Union Government. We have space for only a portion of Sir Robert's great speech.

Sir Robert Borden said: I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and to those who have joined in this address, for your very kind reference to me and my public work, and also for their appreciation of the labours and responsibilities that have devolved, especially during the past three years, upon the Government and upon myself as Leader of the Government. I felt it a very great honour nearly seventeen years ago when I was selected by the members in the House of Commons of the party which I have led during that period, to take the responsibility of leadership. I felt it still more an honour when, six years ago through the mandate of the people of Canada, I was called upon to form a Government. But today I do indeed feel it a greater honour that I can come before my fellow-countrymen in this time of national peril and danger, not as the Leader of a political party, but as the Leader of a Government which was designed to give, and does give, representation to all those elements in the population, of whatever party they may be, who desire to sustain Canada's effort in this war, and to stand by and support and reinforce the men who are fighting our battles overseas. I do not come before you this afternoon to speak on behalf of the Union Government in respect of any personal consideration pertaining to myself or to my colleagues, or to all of us put together. Those are very insignificant matters, and, indeed, the fortunes of either one party or the other, splendid as their past history may have been, shrink into absolute insignificance compared with the issues which you are called upon presently to determine. I speak, therefore, on behalf of the cause which the Union Government represents, and my first question to you today is: Why should there not be a Union Government in this Country? Is there any one among you who will take the responsibility of saying that, under these conditions which confront our country and the Empire and the whole world today, it would be better to have a party government than a Union Government? Who among you, man or woman, will say that? Not one of you! I have asked that question of many audiences; no one has taken the responsibility of speaking to the contrary. Therefore, so far as the principle of the Union Government is concerned, a principle which has been followed out in every Dominion of this Empire

and in the Mother Country and in many of the Allied Nations—so far as the principle of the Union Government is concerned; I believe you have not got it in the heart of any one of you to deny that it is a good principle. You may, however, assert that the personnel of the Government is not what it ought to be, or that its purpose and policy do not commend themselves to your judgment.

As to the personnel: I asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the month of May last to co-operate with me in the formation of a Government, and although the party which I have had the honor to lead in the past commanded then a majority of about 45 in the House of Commons, I said: "This is no time for arithmetical calculation; let us join in the formation of a Government giving each party a representation in that Government." But after two weeks he declined because he could not accept the principle of compulsory military service; and then I said to those leaders of the Liberal Party who were prepared to join with me: "I am prepared to give you a representation in the Government upon precisely the same basis." Some members of my own party said I was not doing justice to the Conservative Party in making that offer, because they alleged that making a Coalition with only a portion of the Liberal Party, I had no right to give to them the same representation as the Conservative Party; which was staidly behind me. I replied to my friends: "I deem it absolutely useless to attempt the formation of a Union Government in this country unless it is a real Union Government, and therefore I do propose to give to those Liberals who are willing to join in the effort to support the war, equal representation in the Government with me. If my Party is not prepared to support me in that, my party will have to look somewhere else for a Leader, because I see my duty only in one way." (Applause.) The negotiations were long and wearisome, they involved great discouragement. Many prominent men told me a Union Government could not be formed in such a country as this, where party lines are so closely drawn, and men so strongly wedded to their ties and associations with which they have been connected perhaps during a lifetime. It required a great deal of patience. It took five months after I had begun it but I never varied for one moment after I had formed the purpose. I never varied from it for one moment, and to have done so would have meant dishonour to the National Life of Canada. It would have been dishonour to the National Life of Canada. I repeat, and there are few of you here this afternoon who realize that adequately—if, at a time such as this and under such conditions as confront us, the public men of the country had not been large enough to put aside party and personal considerations and join in an earnest effort to give Canada their service when Canada most needed it. I am glad it has been consummated.

As regards its personnel: When Sir John McDonald formed a Union Government before this Confederation was established, I believe there, and only three, Liberals joined it, and yet it was regarded as a Union Government. George Brown, Wm. McDougall and Oliver Mowatt. We have not attempted to form a Union Government on any such basis of equal representation; and it was my purpose to have in the Government the strongest and most representative Liberals that could be found in Canada, from one end of it to the other; and I venture to think that attempt has been successful.

Go to my own province of Nova Scotia: A. K. McLean, a strong representative Liberal with twenty years public service behind him, occupying an important position in the Government. Take the neighboring province of New Brunswick: Where will you find a stronger champion of the best Liberalism than Mr. Carvell, who will speak to you this afternoon and who holds the position of Minister of Public Works? Go to Montreal: Mr. Ballantyne could have had a position in the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier years ago but did not desire to enter public life. He is now Minister of Marine and Fisheries and Naval Service in the present Union Government. In Ontario Mr.

N. W. Rowell put aside leadership in provincial affairs and took the post of President of the Privy Council, which I was glad to yield to him, General Mewburn, another outstanding Liberal, Solicitor General; Hugh Guthrie, seventeen years of public service behind him, Minister of Agriculture. Hon. T. A. Crearar, an outstanding Liberal in Manitoba, Saskatchewan; J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, one of the strongest men of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan; and in Alberta, Mr. Sifton laid aside the premiership and is now Minister of Customs. Who will now say it is not a Union Government?

I understand that an insidious cry is spread and the motives of these men are attacked. I know how reluctant and how difficult it was for some of them—all of them, I believe—to put aside their party ties. They have not put them aside any more than I have. These men have but one ideal: The ideal of duty; and one purpose: Service to the State. We have formed a No-Party Government and are sitting around the Council Board of Canada today. Not as Liberals or Conservatives, but as Canadians desiring to serve our Country. (Applause.) You might call yourselves the Second Battle Line of Canada. The first is over there in France and Flanders. Is there any thought of Liberal or Conservative among those men fighting your battle over there? Does one man refuse to go over the top because the man on his right is a Conservative or the man on his left a Liberal? There is nothing over there but unity of purpose and effort, and so it ought to be here! And the people of this country will never adequately realize their duty until they put aside party ties and associations and realize that the task before them, before the Empire and before the world is a supremely great task, a supremely difficult task, and that victory cannot be won by dissension and disorganization over the party formulas and shibboleths that have cursed the country in the past! We will not succeed while that spirit animates the country. You want here the same spirit that actuates those men who go over the top hand-in-hand with death whenever their duty calls upon them to do so.

As to the policy of the Union Government: it was formed to throw Canada's full effort into the war, and that purpose will be carried out by the Government as it is formed! (Loud applause.) We are occupied with many matters. As I said last night in Amherst, I do not believe the members of the Government have had ten or twelve days together since the government was formed some weeks ago, because a general election has been forced upon the country against my will and against the will of the majority of the people; forced upon us in war time by conditions which we could not prevent, by any attitude which under the Constitution, we had to give effect to. So here we are with a general election, with a more or less disturbed political condition the ordinary affairs of the country to carry on; the prosecution of the war and all the momentous questions that arise in connection with it; international matters continually coming up and difficult questions in connection with them; and matters of very great domestic concern which disturb public opinion, especially in time of war and to which we ought to have given more attention, if there had been an opportunity, than we have been able to give up to the present time. The Union Government has justified twenty-fold its formation by the work it has already accomplished.

First: It has abolished the Patronage List, and the patronage list will never come back. No Government in Canada will ever dare bring it back.

Second: It has extended the Civil Service Act to the Outside Service with the result that men shall not be appointed in future to any position in Canada upon the recommendation of a party committee or for party service alone, but solely on the ground of merit by reason of capacity to undertake the duties assigned him. That has come to stay also, and I doubt very much whether any party government could have accomplished this thing.

Third: The War Purchasing Commission established by the late Government. All purchases

for the war have been brought through that Commission, and that shall apply to peace as well as war; so that in future all supplies required for the Government will be bought on business basis alone. That has come to stay; no Government will go back to the old system.

Fourth: The Income Tax: At the last session we fixed our standards the same as the United States Government. If we put our income tax higher than they have it in the United States we drive capital away from the country, and that ought not to be the purpose of a Government. They afterwards raised their standard upon the higher incomes and we decided our standard on the higher incomes must be raised and it will be raised, at the next session. The War Profits Tax established last session is higher than any in the world.

The use of food for certain purposes: We passed an Order in Council three or four weeks ago declaring that no article capable of being used for food in Canada should be used for the distillation of spirits or the manufacture of intoxicating liquors.

Excessive profits: There may be men among you who tell you that a Government in time of war has control over certain conditions which inevitably result from war. Let us be perfectly frank with each other. If you withdraw forty million men from productive activity, and if you increase the consumption of the necessities of life as war does, neither the Government of the country, nor all the governments of all the nations of the world combined can bring it to pass that the cost of a production of those articles will be the same as before, or that the price at which they can be furnished to the consumer will be the same as before. If any man tells you the contrary to that, he either does not know what he is talking about or the truth is not in his heart. The Government, however, can do certain things; they can prevent combination to increase prices. We passed an Order in Council to that effect a year ago this month. I have heard nothing more of Combinations to increase prices.

There is a tendency towards hoarding. We passed an Order in Council against that, and I have heard nothing more of hoarding. Excessive profits made by certain great packing houses. They had precisely the same difficulty in the United States, and I will show you very briefly how Canada led the way to the solution of that question. That question was dealt with by a Committee of the Cabinet—Mr. Bawell, Mr. Carvell, and some Conservative members of the Cabinet. They had to approach the question from every reasonable standpoint and see to it that no step should be taken that would encourage the raising of cattle and hogs, the production of raw material for the packing houses. You will all agree that it would not be desirable in the public interest to discourage that or to drive the packing houses out of business. But it was essential that the profits made by these people in time of war should not be such as to shock the public conscience, and they reached the following conclusion, made public: They decided in the first place that no packing house in the country should regain more than 2 per cent. profit upon its total output in a year. Two per cent. on total annual output might mean an enormous amount. We had to provide another limitation. One packing house made a profit, I believe, of 80 per cent. on its invested capital, but what profit was derived upon 3.5 of a cent per pound on bacon sold overseas and 2.5 of a cent per pound on bacon sold in this country, and the reason why the profit was so large was because the turnover was so enormous. Now the Government cannot alter conditions brought about by a war while thirty or forty million men are withdrawn from productive activity, while the consumption of the necessities of life is so much greater than it is in normal times. Any man who tells you that it can be remedied either does not know of what he is speaking, or else he is not speaking to you the truth as he does know it. But as I have already said, a Government in this country can do some things to remedy conditions brought about by the war. We took this matter up a year ago and I have heard nothing of a combination or raised prices since our Order-in-Council

was passed. The Government provided, first, that a packing house might retain up to 7 per cent. of invested capital;—between 7 and 15 per cent., the packing house may retain half and the other half goes into the public treasury for the benefit of the people of this country. So that the maximum profit of a packing house would be 11 per cent., out of which the house would have to pay, under the War Profits Act, 1 per cent., leaving a net maximum profit to the packing house of 10 per cent. But above 15 per cent. all profit goes into the public treasury for the benefit of the people, so that if a packing house in the future could make so enormous a profit as that which I have mentioned—80 per cent.—the net result, would be 10 per cent. of the profit would be retained by the packing house, while the other 70 per cent. would go into the public treasury to swell the revenues of the country. I venture to think this is the most advanced and progressive legislation in such matters that has been enacted in any country in the world, and I commend it to you, because I think it indicates that notwithstanding the enormous responsibilities and burdens imposed upon the Government of the country when a general election, against my will and the will of the majority of the people of Canada, has been precipitated in this country,—notwithstanding all these burdens and responsibilities, we have given attention to matters of vital domestic concern and have achieved results which ought to commend themselves—and, I believe, do commend themselves—to the judgment of the people of the country as a whole.

Canada's efforts in the war: Shall we give reinforcements now, or have a referendum and a delay of fifteen months? I believe that the action of the Government in August, 1914, was approved, not only by Parliament—unanimously approved there—but by the majority of the people of this country. I sent a telegram to the British Government on the 1st of August, 1914, on return to Ottawa from an interrupted holiday, when I had little opportunity to consult any of my colleagues. I thought I realized the spirit of this country and I sent a message to the British Government to this effect: While Canada earnestly hoped that war would not come, nevertheless, if war did come in this country, the people of this country would stand with the other Dominions and with the Mother Country in that war to the end! (Applause.) And the spirit of the people of Canada, as it was manifested afterwards, made it abundantly plain I had made no mistake. We asked for men—20,000. Thirty-three thousand came? (Applause.) We sent them all overseas, because I realized the need for them would be immediate. You know the record they have made since we went on with the system of voluntary enlistment. The greatest financial authorities in the world said the nations could not stand the pressure of such a war for more than a year, and voluntary enlistment had great success. From the 1st of January, 1916 to the 15th of April more than 100,000 men joined the colours in this Dominion. (Applause.) I saw the Canadians opposite Messines Ridge at "Plugg Street," as the soldiers call it. There was one Canadian Division then. I had the honour of speaking to them within sound of the German guns. I saw them again in March, 1917. There was not one, but for Canadian Divisions then, 10,000 men in reserve—and that was just about three weeks before they once more signalled the name of Canada by taking Vimy Ridge, heretofore deemed impregnable, and driving the Germans back. (Loud applause.) And in this Province the spirit was as splendid as it was all over Canada. But after that great enlistment during the summer and autumn of 1916 it fell off. We endeavoured to stimulate it by the National Service campaign. It increased for a while, and it diminished in the winter. I saw the Canadians at the front, saw their commander, knew what their need was, and came back to the country with two very distinct alternatives before me. (Enthusiastic applause.)

King's County Dominion Election

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
Electors of King's County.

Greeting:
Two years ago I was unanimously chosen by a large and representative convention of King's County Electors as a candidate for that County for the House of Commons, to support the Government led by Sir Robert Borden.

The Borden Government, as then constituted, had my unwavering and hearty approval. I consider the attitude of that Government towards our Province deserving of the warmest support of all reasonable and patriotic citizens. The increase in our annual subsidy; the financial assistance granted our Agricultural Department; the improvements in the winter navigation of the Strait and in our connection with the Mainland, all secured through the Borden Government, merit our hearty and grateful approbation.

The Military Service Act, and all other measures enacted by the Borden Government for the relief of the improvement, in any way, of the condition of our soldiers at the front have my unqualified endorsement.

To carry to a successful issue Canada's part in the war as provided for in the enactments of the late Parliament, the Union Government has been formed. To this Union Government I pledge my unqualified support, and appeal to you as a Win the War Union Government candidate.

On the foregoing declaration of principle I most respectfully solicit, Ladies and Gentlemen of King's County, your support at the forthcoming Dominion Election, and I beg to assure that if you do me the honor of electing me to the Federal Parliament, I shall exert all my energies and devote my humble abilities to the advancement of your best interests.

As the time between now and polling day is not very long, and as weather conditions may not be the most favorable, I may not be able to see all the electors, however much I might wish. I therefore ask you to be so kind as to take the wish for the deed, and to kindly remember me when you go to mark your ballots. With best wishes and kindest regards I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully,
JAMES McISAAC.
Charlottetown, P. E. I., Nov. 14th, 1917.

Political Meetings In King's County

The undersigned will address the Electors of King's County on the public issues of the day at the undermentioned places on the dates named, viz:

- Heatherdale Hall, Monday, the 26th November, at 7 p. m.
- Montague, Tuesday, the 27th November, at 7 p. m.
- Cardigan, Wednesday, the 28th November, at 7 p. m.
- Dundis Hall, Thursday, the 29th November, at 7 p. m.
- Launching Hall, Friday, the 30th November, at 2 p. m.
- St. George's Schoolhouse, Friday, the 30th November, at 7 p. m.
- Little Pond School House, Saturday, December 1st, at 2 p. m.
- Peakes Station, Monday, December 3rd, at 7 p. m.
- Morell, Tuesday, December 4th, at 7 p. m.
- St. Peter's, Wednesday, December 5th, at 7 p. m.
- St. Margaret's, Thursday, December 6th, at 7 p. m.
- Bay Fortune, Friday, December 7th, at 2 p. m.
- Souris, Monday, December 10th, at 7 p. m.
- Kingsboro, Tuesday, December 11th, at 2 p. m.
- North Lake, Wednesday, December 12th, at 2 p. m.

JAMES McISAAC.
J. J. HUGHES.

Give Footwear THIS Christmas!

No present appreciated like FOOTWEAR, because it is a sensible and serviceable Gift.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS

Felt Boots, Felt Slippers, Moccasins, Rubbers, Felt or Knitted Socks, Lumbermen's Rubbers, for the Man or Boy who works outside.

These are only a few suggestions of what we have. We carry the largest line of FAMILY FOOTWEAR on the Island.

SPECIAL LINES FOR CHRISTMAS

— TRY US —
ALLEY & CO.

— AGENTS FOR —
DAINTY MADE RUBBERS AND AMBERST SHOES

MOORE & McLEOD, Ltd.

119-121 Queen Street, Charlottetown

We want to show you the Best Overcoat \$15

You Want a New Overcoat

You have been planning to get one for weeks now, and of course you want to get the Best Overcoat that your money will buy.

You will be helped to the best \$15.00 Overcoat—in this big men's store of ours.

Here are the specifications:

FUR COLLAR OVERCOAT.....\$15.00

Men's Black Beaver Cloth Overcoat, made in a 50 inch Double Style, with barrel buttons and loops. The fur collar is of 1-piece Black Persian Lamb, warm quilted lining, 2 outside pockets, and a feature about this coat is the heavy knitted wristlets. All sizes. Price.....\$15.00

Have you seen our range of \$15.00 Winter Overcoats? You will say they are the best you ever saw. As many have said they are big values for little money. They are made from a good heavy English Tweed, full lined, double breast style, convertible collar that will button up closely round the neck. These coats have a good appearance and will supply the very best in winter comfort. They come in fancy browns, grey and mixed tweeds. Length 50 inches. Breast 36-44. Price.....\$15.00

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon, on Friday, the 11th January 1918, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week. Over Rural Mail Route No. 4, from Cardigan, P. E. Island, from the 1st April next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Cardigan and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN E. WHEAR,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Charlottetown, P. E. Island,
December 5th, 1917-3.

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SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon on Friday, the 11th January, 1918, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week. Over Rural Mail Route No. 4 from Souris East P. E. Island, from the 1st April next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Souris East and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN E. WHEAR,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Charlottetown, Nov. 1917,
December 5th, 1917-31

