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Liberal-Conservative Executives Enthused Over Present Outlook

Addressed by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, R. B. Bennett, K.C., And A. L. Smith, K.C.—Regret Impossible for Mr. Meighen to Speak Here on Return on Account of Short Time Between Yale and West Hastings Bye-Elections—Meighen Describes Corrupt Election in St. Antoine, Quebec.

Deciding that it would be impracticable to endeavor to arrange any meetings in Calgary to be addressed by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen on his return from the Yale bye-election in B.C., on account of his having to proceed immediately to participate in the West Hastings bye-election in the east, a combined meeting of the men's and women's executive of the Liberal-Conservative party of Calgary held a lively session in the Board of Trade rooms Tuesday afternoon.

While disappointed over inability to have Mr. Meighen speak here again shortly, the members of the party present were enthusiastic over the present political outlook. They heard short speeches by R. B. Bennett, K.C.; Mr. Meighen; A. L. Smith, K.C., and Mrs. P. J. Nolan, according all four enthusiastic applause.

Review of Political Outlook

The meeting was primarily intended to discuss the subject of getting Mr. Meighen to speak here on his return trip. It rapidly developed, however, into a review of the nationwide political situation which all present saw in roseate hues.

There were about sixty members of the executives present, the men's section being handled by President F. L. Shoultice and Secretary H. S. Patterson of the Calgary Liberal-Conservative Association, and the women's section by Mrs. P. J. Nolan, president, and Mrs. Reg. Smith, secretary of the Women's Calgary Liberal-Conservative Association.

It developed that Mr. Meighen

expects to return from the Yale bye-election about November 7 or 8 but will have to proceed immediately to the West Hastings riding and may go by way of Lethbridge or Medicine Hat. Further, he will have only a day or two to spare and it is possible that he may not even have that much time, so it would be impossible to decide definitely on a meeting in Calgary at that time.

Some in From Country

There were quite a few members in from the country, including W. E. Payne of Red Deer, Dr. Elliott of Swallow, Messrs. Boyle and Wilson of Carbon, Torrance of Swallow, and others, together with most of the members of the two Calgary executives.

In addressing the meeting Mr. Bennett, after paying high tribute to the character of Mr. Meighen and his ability, attacked the methods employed by the Liberal party in the recent Quebec bye-elections, especially the attempt to hold Mr. Meighen up as the apostle of war and to arouse racial hatred between French and English-speaking Canadians. He urged the necessity of co-operation among the various provincial Liberal-Conservative organizations to endeavor to bring about unity in Canada. While deprecating the present depressed financial conditions in the country which he attributed to the fiscal policy of the Liberal government, he was inclined to look forward hopefully to a change before long both in the government and consequently in fiscal and financial conditions.

Revenues Reduced

Mr. Meighen also dwelt on this point of financial depression, pointing out the falling off of revenue of the government as a result of tariff reductions, causing the closing down of factories and throwing of men out of employment without corresponding financial benefit to farmers. What slight reductions had occurred in the price of implements were really brought about through the abolition of the sales tax as was readily evident from an examination of the reductions. He expressed very forcibly his conviction that a protective policy was the only one that Canada could safely follow in view of the huge competition of the United States with its highly organized industries, using Canada as a dumping ground.

Mr. Meighen also dealt briefly with the Quebec bye-elections. He characterized the campaign in St. Antoine constituency as one of the most desperate and corrupt in the history of Canada, giving examples of most outrageous repeating of voters. In many instances, single voters cast scores of votes for the Liberal candidate, and Mr. Meighen declared that if the actual vote cast had been properly recorded, the Conservative candidate would have won by a big majority. No less evil, he said, was the racial cry raised in Quebec, especially against himself. Mr. Meighen expressed the conviction that unity in Canada can never be achieved unless the practice of politicians of raising the racial cry for selfish purposes is dispensed with.

Conservatives in Fighting Trim

Nevertheless, said Mr. Meighen, the Conservative party in Quebec was never in better fighting trim than at present and Quebec Conservatives had been tremendously heartened by the big reductions in Liberal majorities achieved in the bye-elections. Mr. Meighen sincerely regretted the defeat of Mr. Bennett and Mr. Smith in 1921, saying that he had often wished that he had their support in the house during the last three years.

In a few brief remarks Mr. Smith said that there was no reason for members of the Liberal-Conservative party to feel downhearted in Calgary. He pointed out that on the basis of the new redistribution of seats fixing the boundaries of East and West Calgary constituencies, the vote that both he and Mr. Bennett had received in those areas now included in the present boundaries would have elected them by substantial majorities. Mr. Smith said that while he had been a Liberal, he had supported the Liberal-Conservative party in 1921, not so much from policy as for a sincere admiration for the character and attainments of Mr. Meighen, and he had never had any reason to regret his course; on the contrary, he pledged his support again to Mr. Meighen in the next contest.

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