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SAYS WEST WILL ABANDON TARIFF REDUCTION DEMAND WHEN DANGER IS REALIZED

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, in Address To Enthusiastic Gathering At Windsor, Declares When Residents of Western Prairies Learn That United States Will Grow At Rate of 100 Per Cent, Canada By Lower Customs Duties Than King Government Tariff On Farm Products Reductions Will Be Slight

GREAT WELCOME GIVEN HIS LIEUTENANTS B. AND R. COUNTY

By St
WINDSOR, April 5.—“The Western Provinces do not wish to purchase unity at the price of depletion of the population of this Dominion. Show the West that by tariff reduction the loins of Canada will be weakened—show them Canada will diminish and the United States will grow by yielding to their demands on the tariff—and the Western Provinces will stand true to Confederation.”

This is the considered opinion of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, who fought many election contests on the tariff issue in the West and spent most of his mature life in Manitoba.

“I have preached the cause of protection on the hustings,” he said, “and endeavored to show the people there that in calling for reduction of the tariff they were seeking something of no real advantage to themselves, but which, in the passage of years, would be a deathblow to the industries of Canada. But putting the tariff on implements so low as to drive our industries from the country, we would only be putting our farmers in the grip of monopolies in the republic to the south.”

Addressing a great banquet gathering in the Prince Edward this evening, along with colleagues from Ottawa, the Conservative leader predicted that the coming budget of the King Government will contain no announcement of tariff reduction on farm implements. Public opinion in opposition has made itself felt, and the Progressives will be fooled once again.

A PREDICTION

“The budget is to be down next week,” he said. “I stand here and assume, perhaps for the first time the role of prophet in this Dominion, and venture to say, having watched the whitening gills of the Government for the last three weeks, that when the budget speech is delivered, all the reduction you will see in farm implements you can place in the left-hand corner of a thimble. The Progressives will be fooled just the way they have been fooled every session since the Government came into power.”

In a constituency which has occasion to know a great deal about the tariff, in a local way, the Opposition leader dealt eloquently and forcibly with the national aspect of the question.

“Nobody wants an oppressively high tariff in this country,” he said, “but only one that will enable our indus-

tries to go on and employ hands and keep our people here. Until we have men of courage and political honesty to declare this in all parts of the Dominion, we may as well abandon all hope of national unity.”

The Opposition leader was accompanied by Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion, Hon. Rodolphe Monty, Frank White, M. P., London, and J. L. Stansell, M. P., East Elgin. Feeling that even the ballroom of the Prince Edward would not accommodate all who desired to hear Mr. Meighen, the Essex Conservative Club had arranged an afternoon meeting at the armories, with the amazing result that 2,000 persons attended a political gathering on a Saturday afternoon. In addition to the ex-ministers, Frank W. Wilson, M. L. A., Windsor, spoke at both meetings and at the evening gathering was warmly complimented by Mr. Meighen. Adolphus Armstrong, M. L. A., South Essex, and Mayor Frank J. Mitchell, who welcomed the visitors, were additional speakers in the afternoon, and E. R. Dennis, London, president of the Western Ontario Conservative Association, delivered a brief, but characteristically “peppy” address at the banquet, where he called for support of the “O. T. O.” or “On to Ottawa” slogan. He produced a momentary tenseness by pausing after the “T” and there was a roar of laughter when the audience found the third letter was not “A.” Dr. R. D. Morand presided at the armories, and his little daughter, Eleanor, presented beautiful floral tributes to Mrs. Meighen, Madame Monty and Mrs. Stodgell.

MR. DINSMORE CHAIRMAN

S. E. Dinsmore, president of the Essex club, was chairman this evening, but after the patriotic toast delegated the duties of introducing the various speakers to Walker Whiteside, Dr.

Paul Polsson, Lieut.-Col. E. S. Wigle, and Lieut.-Col. S. C. Robinson, who called upon Mr. Wilson, Hon. Dr. Manion, Hon. Hugh Guthrie and Rt. Hon. Mr. Meighen in that order.

As to banquet and reception arrangements in detail, every guest must have felt that the committees under Harry Neal and Col. J. Fred Reid did themselves proud.

Mrs. A. T. Edwards, president of the Women's Conservative Association of Western Ontario, and Mrs. H. A. Winnett, of the executive, were among those who came down from London.

Mr. Meighen and Mr. Monty spoke in French, as well as English, at both meetings, and there were references by F. W. Wilson, M. L. A., Hon. Hugh Guthrie and A. Armstrong, M. L. A., to the friendly attitude which the Conservative leader has always maintained to the French-speaking people of the Dominion. Col. H. R. Casgrain happened to be seated near the press, and that jolly old doctor was overheard to suggest a couple of months' residence at Stony Point as a prescription that would polish up Mr. Meighen's French accent and make perfect a delivery, which, gramatically, he admitted, was perfect.

LOUDLY APPLAUDED.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Dr. Manion and Hon. R. Monty were given splendid tributes of applause when they spoke, and there were cheers for each at the close of the banquet meeting. All dealt with the record of the King Government, but the fiscal issue was the prevailing topic, and Mr. Guthrie went into details regarding effect of the Fordney tariff upon Canadian trade. Mr. Monty paid a fine tribute to the ability of Mr. Meighen, and declared the Windsor gatherings, but the continuation of a triumphant tour in the districts of Montreal and Quebec.

It may not be the best of politics to come into a constituency and condemn the granting of money for public works therein, but Mr. Meighen did it to-day, and did it in strong language, in connection with the famous Belle River wharf, and North Essex cannot but realize now why admirers of the Conservative chief extoll his political honesty.

“I told Mr. Healy in Parliament I would do this,” he said, “and I am

going to do all I said and a little more. (Applause.) If you were asked by by-law to build that thing down there called a wharf, at a first cost, I believe, of \$35,000, would you do it?” Many in the audience called out “No,” but there was one “yes,” and Mr. Meighen continued: “I venture to say the one out of these thousands who says ‘yes’ does not pay very much taxes. (Laughter and applause.) This is the bribe offered by supporters of Mr. Healy

6

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