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Subject

**PROG. CON. MEETING
HERE LAST NIGHT**

**Attacks Levelled Against King
Government and C. C. F. by
Four Speakers.**

Vigorous attacks were levelled against both the Mackenzie King Government and the C. C. F. by a quartette of speakers as the York-Sunbury Progressive Conservatives climaxed a six weeks election campaign with a largely attended public rally at the Capitol Theatre here last night. Besides Gen. E. W. Sansom, who was introduced by the chairman, W. J. Quinn, the speakers were F. C. Squires, M. P. P., Woodstock, C. Hedley Forbes and W. J. West, K. C.

Leading off for the quartette, Gen. Sansom claimed it was unfair to ask the men who had fought overseas to volunteer for the war against Japs. John Bracken, he said, has promised that the men who have fought in Italy and eastern Europe will not be sent to the Pacific first.

He reminded his audience that, he had been chosen to investigate the re-inforcement shortage by the Mackenzie King cabinet, and charged that on arriving overseas had found that Canadian infantry units had been forced to wait until men wounded in one battle had been discharged from the hospital before the unit had sufficient men to go into the next battle. He had also found, he added, that men trained for the artillery, tank corps, and the other services due to lack of replacements had to be sent into the lines with the infantry units. It was unfair, he said, as these men were not trained to defend themselves as infantry. The General also claimed that despite the fact he had handed his report on the re-inforcement situation to Mackenzie King and the War Committee of the cabinet on his return from overseas in April the Prime Minister had up to the present failed to make public its contents.

In closing, Gen. Sansom, re-iterated that he stood for an all-round increase in both the Family Allowances and Old Age and Blind pensions. He charged that the Family Allowances

put into force by the King Government did not go far enough and represented a death-bed repentance of Mackenzie King.

W. J. West, K. C., scored what he termed a Liberal whispering campaign that the rehabilitation benefits and veterans' pensions would be taken away from them if the Progressive Conservatives were elected to power on Monday next. He charged that both Premier McNair and Mackenzie King were masters at subterfuge and urged his audience to help "get rid of King" on Monday. McNair's turn, he added, will come later.

The inability and inefficiency of King and other leaders before the war had been largely responsible for the outbreak of the conflict and claimed that the York-Sunbury candidate, Gen. Sansom, was listed by a prominent Canadian periodical as "cabinet timber" if Bracken was elected to power at Ottawa.

C. Hedley Forbes claimed that the King Government had made no attempt to re-habilitate or provide jobs for the fighting men returning from overseas. He also cited one instance of a Fredericton boy who had been sent back into the lines after being wounded twice in previous engagements. On his last trip in, Mr. Forbes said, he had lost his right arm below the elbow and left leg below the knee.

He challenged Mackenzie King to do away with the Union Jack as Canada's flag and urged those present to "vote for Sansom and a square deal for the returned men."

The final speaker, F. C. Squires, M. P. P., labelled Premier McNair the political grandson of Mackenzie King. He charged that big business and the international trusts had beaten the Bennett government and that Mackenzie King was not the poor man's friend at that time. In a brief reference to the C. C. F., he said, that Mr. Coldwell had been against Canada's entering the war until Russia came in and then was for an all out effort.

W. J. West

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950,
MG 26 J 4, Volume 331, pages C228957-C229365

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