

MR. ST. LAURENT CHOSEN LIBERAL LEADER

NATIONAL CONVENTION: Right Hon. Louis Stephen St. Laurent, former Minister of Justice and now Secretary of State for External Affairs in the Cabinet of Right Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, was chosen to succeed Mr. King as Leader of the Liberal party at the National Liberal Convention in the Coliseum, Ottawa, Saturday evening, July 7.

Mr. St. Laurent was elected Leader on the first ballot, defeating Right Hon. J.G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. C.G. Power, former Minister of National Defence for Air. His over-all majority was 469 votes, the result of the vote being as follows; Mr. St. Laurent 848; Mr. Gardiner 323; Mr. Power 56.

RETIREMENT SPEECH

In his retirement speech the day previous, the Prime Minister, Mr. King, had made it clear that he was retiring not only as Leader of the Liberal Party, but as Prime Minister of Canada. Once the new Leader was chosen, Mr. King said, it was his intention to confer with him as to the time at which he should seek from His Excellency acceptance of his resignation as Prime Minister.

In addition to Mr. St. Laurent, Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Power, six other men were nominated but all withdrew before the balloting commenced. They were the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott; the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin; the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier; the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton; the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, and Premier Garson of Manitoba.

The party platform which was adopted at the convention included 21 points.

The choice of Mr. St. Laurent as the new Leader of the Liberal Party ended exactly 29 years of leadership by Mr. King, who won the leadership on the same day three decades ago.

Aside from the selection of the new Leader and the discussions which took place on the various planks in the Party platform, the highlight of the Convention was the retiring speech of the Prime Minister on August 6.

In his address, Mr. King noted that the Convention met in serious times, stressed the need for nation-wide party organization, and reviewed briefly the comparative positions of the Liberal Party in 1919, when he assumed leadership, and today. He was gratified at the

attainment of a united party and said he left the leadership at a time when Canada enjoyed a level of employment and prosperity never hitherto experienced. And never, he said, had Canada enjoyed a higher place in the regard of the nations of the world.

After a review of the legislative accomplishments of the Party under his direction he declared Liberalism to be the "real bulwark of freedom," and concluded in part as follows:--

"The trend towards Totalitarianism, with the evils and terrors of which we are already all too familiar, is, I believe, the most serious of present-day world problems. For some time to come, this trend is certain to be as well the most dangerous of all. The supreme task of Liberalism today is to thwart the growth of Totalitarianism, and, by so doing, successfully to combat the menace of Communism.

MENACE OF COMMUNISM

"Communism is the greatest menace of our times, because Communism, more than all else, is destructive of Freedom -- the freedom of individuals and the freedom of nations. It is the most subtle of all evils, because its appeal is made in the name of Freedom, and it marches under the banners of Freedom. Its appeal is to the masses, whom it promises to deliver from their chains. It speaks in the name of enlarged opportunity and increased security. It asserts that its aim is world unity. It is, in reality, none of these. The immediate purpose of Communism is the complete control of the individual in the name of the State. Its ultimate aim is world domination. Beneath its mask are concealed the secret police, slave labour, and the concentration camp....

"It may be that, at any hour, the free nations may be called upon again, as twice already they have in the course of a single generation, to defend Freedom, not with their policies only, but with their lives. Nations have yet to decide which is to prevail: -- the law of blood and of death, even imagining new means of destruction, and forcing nations to be constantly ready for the battlefield; or the law of peace, work and health, ever evolving new means of delivering man from the scourges which beset him. Mankind has still to discover whether violent conquest or the relief of Humanity is to triumph in the end...."

BORDER TRAFFIC: Volume of highway traffic at the Canada-U.S. border in June was two per cent greater than the corresponding flow of traffic recorded in June 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics. American traffic entering Canada in June was six per cent higher in 1948 than in 1947, and Canadian traffic returning from the United States was eight

per cent lower. The aggregate number of border crossings was 881,900, consisting of 689,300 foreign entries and 192,600 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 192,000 vehicles entered on travellers' vehicle permits, 479,700 were non-permit or local entries, and 17,600 were commercial vehicles.

RISE IN MANUFACTURING INVENTORIES

42.1 PER CENT TO APRIL: Total value of manufacturing inventories increased steadily during 1947 but levelled off during the early months of 1948, according to index numbers released by the Bureau of Statistics. The overall rise from December, 1946, to the end of January, 1948, was 40.1 per cent and to the end of April, 1948, was 42.1 per cent. This rise in the value of inventories reflects some element of price change. Though changes in the index of wholesale prices are not directly correlated with variations in the index of inventory values, it may be noted that the rise in the former during 1947 was 31.5 per cent, with a further rise of five per cent by the end of April, 1948.

Total consumers' goods inventories and two of its three main categories, non-durable and semi-durable consumers' goods, followed the trend of total inventories. Durable consumers' goods and capital goods inventories show a continued rise up to April, 1948, while inventories of producers' goods show some decrease in value since November, 1947. Construction inventories, which have fluctuated somewhat during the period covered, show a steadily rising trend through April, 1948.

CAPITAL GOODS

Among the main groups, inventories of industries producing capital goods showed the sharpest increase. This was entirely due to the large increase in inventories of the shipbuilding industry. Because of the nature of ship construction the inventory in this industry may include almost the entire value of

current production over a period of time up to the point where deliveries are made, and this must be borne in mind when considering that its inventory has increased by over 225 per cent during the period under review. In contrast, other capital goods industries have shown considerably smaller increases. In fact, in using the dollar value totals from which the individual index numbers are constructed, it is evident that there was an increase of only 37 per cent in capital goods inventories other than shipbuilding, or slightly less than the average for all industries. The producers' materials group shows a significantly less-than-average rise in the value of inventory, which, in view of the rise in prices, probably indicates some decline in stocks. The rise in the value of inventories of construction materials is probably more than balanced by the sharp advance in building materials' prices, indicating a decline in stocks in this group as well.

In the consumer goods, the leather tanneries show the greatest advance in value of inventories -- 86 per cent since December, 1946. While large inventories are normal during the winter months in this industry, the rise in the index of 39 per cent from November to December, 1947, reflects an increase in stocks due partly to unusually large cattle slaughtering earlier in the year and partly to the falling-off of sales when the rise in price of leather became effective last October. An increase of stocks is also apparent in the rubber industry.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 29 totalled 34,799,000 bushels compared with 36,601,000 on July 22 and 55,762,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended July 29 amounted to 2,851,000 bushels compared with 1,255,000 in the preceding week.

AIR MARSHAL EDWARDS HONOURED: The award of the United States Legion of Merit, Degree of Commander, to Air Marshal Harold Edwards, CB, former Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, RCAF Overseas, was announced August 11, in Ottawa.

The award was made for A/M Edwards' outstanding co-operation with the American forces in Britain and particularly for his close liaison with the American Air Force while AOC-in-C.

A/M Edwards was born at Chorley, England in 1892. He came to Canada as a youth and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy at the out-

break of World War I. Later he joined the Royal Naval Air Service and flew as a pilot in France. He was taken prisoner and spent two years as a prisoner-of-war. Twice he escaped but each time was recaptured.

After the war A/M Edwards went to Russia where he served as a flying instructor. In 1920 he returned to Canada and joined the Canadian Air Force. In 1937 he commanded a detachment at the coronation of King George VI and in 1939 was in charge of Air Force arrangements for the visit of Their Majesties to Canada.

In Feb. 1940 he was appointed Air Member for Personnel of the Air Council of the RCAF and advanced to the rank of Air Commodore. In September, 1941 he was promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal and in November, 1941 became Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the RCAF Overseas. In June, 1942 he was raised to the rank of Air Marshal.

A/M Edwards retired from the RCAF in 1944 and at present is residing at St. Sauveur des Monts, P.Q.