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UPPER CHAMBER SUPPORTED BY MR. MEIGHEN

Warns Premier to Be Cautious in Clipping Senate's Wings

KEEP CANADIANS AT HOME

Danger of Next House of Commons Being Controlled by Progressives

Special to The Gazette.

Quebec, October 18.—Rt.-Hon. Arthur Meighen came to Quebec today and met the re-invigorated young Conservatives of this city at a banquet at the Chateau Frontenac, at which the keynote was enthusiasm for the party leader. Seated at the head table were leaders of the Quebec district, and of Montreal, veterans such as Senator Thomas Chapais, Senator L'Esperance, former Liberal fighters of renown, such as Armand Lavergne and L. J. Gauthier, one time M.P. for St. Hyacinthe-Rouville; Conservative fighters such as Romeo Langlais, K.C.; two of Mr. Meighen's Montreal colleagues, Hon. R. Monty and Hon. Andre Fauteux and other local leaders, such as Alex. Chateauvert, Gedeon Gravel, Eusebe Belleau, K.C., Maurice Dupre, K.C., Arthur Larue, P. Drouin, Jos. Savard, R. Bolduc, Dr. N. A. Dussault, Dr. A. Langlois, Vanier Montmorency, Jos. Emard, J. O. Lacroix, Elzear Baillargeon, L. Marand, A. Dobell, K.C., P. Audet, Emile Demers, Geo. Dussault, Antoine Langlais, Jules Langlais, M.L.A., G. Gagnon, H. Bernier, C. J. Lockwell, A. Dion and others.

The points stressed by Mr. Meighen were that Premier Mackenzie King had better be cautious in attempting to clip the wings of the Senate; that the best means of securing immigrants was to keep our own people at home and make the country prosperous, and a warning against permitting the next House of Commons to be made up in such a way as to give the Progressives control therein.

FRANK AND BRAVE.

Mr. Meighen had two qualities which were much appreciated in Quebec, those of courage and frankness, said Antoine Rivard, president of the Quebec Junior Conservative Association, in his speech of welcome. Mr. Rivard's speech was of a fighting quality, a veritable call to arms under a leader of whom the young Conservatives were proud. If Mr. Meighen wanted generals Mr. Rivard was not prepared to supply them; if he wanted soldiers, they would be forthcoming.

In the course of his French speech which lasted 29 minutes, and was frequently interrupted with rounds of applause, since with the acquirement of the French tongue the Opposition leader has also taken on something of French wit, Mr. Meighen said that the people of this province had always given him kind receptions, even in the most sombre days. He recognized no barriers between one or other race in Canada. Since he had been last in Quebec the Rimouski by-election had taken place which contest he had not taken part in because he felt he could not be effective by reason of insufficient command of French, though he would have been glad to join the many Quebec friends who had gone to Rimouski and labored for the cause. In that campaign the adversaries had resorted to the old ruses, repeated the old falsities, and invented several new ones, and once again had imposed upon the people of the province. The Liberal candidate would find that he had lost more than he had gained. The Conservative party, said Mr. Meighen, was the party of Confederation, of unity and harmony in effect and action, rather than in words and promises. It was the party of the commercial integrity and industrial integrity of Canada, of increased population and a much greater Canada.

Cartier and Macdonald had built on the principles of unity, greater commercial prosperity and equal rights, and it was by these means that the Canada of today was built up. Those fathers of Confederation had not given way to a sectional domination. In no place more than in Quebec were the principles of these two leaders approved, and as leader of the Conservative party, he promised a treatment that was equal and generous, whether in power or in opposition.

Turning to English, Mr. Meighen said no party could be said to be in despair which possessed young men of the type and calibre of Mr. Rivard. He was proud and delighted to see the ranks close up, and when the call came they would be able to meet the foe and give him at least some measure of what he merited.

The issue before the country today was the commercial one, said Mr. Meighen, but he was not unaware of the herculean efforts being made to divert attention, and they could be sure that when the battle was joined every effort would be made to keep the public gaze from the issue.

THE SENATE ISSUE.

"The Prime Minister is traversing the West, and finds himself enthusiastic as to the Hudson Bay Railway, but regrets exceedingly that he cannot build the road at once because the iniquitous Senate would block the bill. All I can say on this point is that it would be at once more honest and honorable if he were to frankly say that his followers in the House of Commons would not support it, and it is only playing with their sympathy and friendship when he makes the statements he is making. The Prime Minister is engaged in a campaign to maim and abbreviate the powers of the Senate, so that it can do no harm. He is never happy unless he can ring in something about democracy. He has set out to curb the power of the Senate so that it cannot prevent the passage of a bill after going through the House of Commons twice. What is the purpose? I am not aware of bills being defeated three times in the Senate after being passed that number of times in the House. Certain measures last session were allowed to drag in the House of Commons, a bill with provisions for bonuses and other clauses regarding the soldiers. It was almost strangled in committee, and finally, in the last week of Parliament, it went through the House, and 12 hours or 24 hours before the time fixed for prorogation it was hurled into the Upper Chamber, though it was a bill which involved much expenditure. The Senate took the view that could have been expected of any body sitting as trustees. The Government leader, Hon. Mr. Dandurand, by his words virtually invited the Senate to destroy it by saying there was no time for consideration. The leader of the Conservative party in the Senate urged that though there was no time to properly deal with it, they might be able to agree as to some of the necessary provisions, and urged that a committee be formed so that such parts of the bill could be saved, and this course was decided upon. The committee was composed of four on each side. This committee did as directed, and saved the bonus and essential features, and amended other matters which could not be considered, but could be carried over, and returned the bill to the Senate, which passed it, as amended, with the support of the Government leader. When the House got it there was a request for a conference, which conference the Senate refused. The course pursued was that followed at the suggestion and outlined by the Government leader in the Upper House, and because of this the Prime Minister is out to clip the wings of the Senate and has entered upon his campaign. Could anything be more pitiful? Imagine a government pretending to be indignant about a body which followed the advice of the government leader.

GUARD PLEDGES.

"I do not propose to further discuss the merits of the proposals of the Prime Minister in this regard, except to say that it is not a matter of such transcendental value as to warrant the interest of Canada being diverted to it, but I do add that the pact of Confederation rests on the basis of agreement to which all sections and all parties agreed, and no mere majority of the House of Commons has any right to impair or destroy that pact save with the agreement of those parties who sat at the table and arrived at these terms. No mere majority of the Commons can rashly invade the pact of Confederation into which this province, and Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces entered. This truth I ventured to utter to the Prime Minister when he made his attack. This principle I urge him not rashly to invade, or he may run into difficulties he does not contemplate today."

Mr. Meighen did not believe that the Government forces in Rimouski had laid the commercial issue before the electorate, but from his reading of the speeches it was a case of old prejudices being stirred again and revamped, denunciation of the leader of the Conservative party and other chiefs of that party, denunciation that was of the dastardly kind, "and I almost said blackguardly," added Mr. Meighen, "and to the effect that our hands were dripping with the blood of our fellow-Canadians. To those who can sink so low let me recall that if our hands are dripping with blood, they have sat in Cabinet with colleagues whose hands are also dripping with blood. They have bestowed Government favors on men who were honorably by our side in those days. By these means our adversaries carried Rimouski, and by these means they propose to carry other counties of the province, and use principles as bad to appeal to other counties in Canada. I do not want to go into old issues, except to say that we stand by the course we followed as having been the right course, and by that course we would be compelled to stand if the same thing—which God forbid—were to happen again. Never have I uttered language such as attributed to me, or insinuated by my political foes. Never have I organized or encouraged by word or act any campaign

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Mr. Meighen went into the financial record of the government, and the manner in which the reputed surplus had been arrived at. His estimate of the deficit for the current fiscal year was 100 millions. He next turned to the fiscal policy, showing that though the "breaks" had been with the government, especially in the matter of three bountiful harvests, conditions were not good in Canada. Mr. Meighen said he was not a pessimist, and still believed that Canada was the best place in the world for a young man to make his way, but facts were facts, and should be treated as such. Canada was weaker commercially today than when the present government took over. These conditions had brought about the exodus, the general uneasiness and hesitation of capital. No benefits had resulted to the Canadian farmers by the reductions in duties, yet great harm had been caused to the industry in Canada. The exodus in the last six months had been 14,900 a month, and while they leave Premier King was boasting that 4,000 a month were returning. The Premier did not state how many of these 4,000 were coming back to get their families to take over, but the statistics as regards exports of settlers' effects were significant. As to immigration, the government claimed that 7,000 to 11,000 a month came in, "but I ask the people of this audience what is the hope of retaining in this Dominion those who come to us from far off lands, some from Britain, some from northern and some from Central Europe, when we cannot retain at home the sons of Canada? What is the hope of finding work for immigrants, whom we have to train to the ways of the country, if we cannot find something to do for the sons of Canada at home? Let me say that I never believed in a very wide intensive policy of immigration. The best policy of immigration is a sane fiscal policy for the people for the people who are here. Bring about such conditions that business men will have confidence, that money can be procured for enterprises, then we will keep people in Canada, and when those on the outside see a contented people here they will be glad enough to come, and if they don't I would rather have one son or daughter of Canada at home than five immigrants. So I say, let us turn our vision to a great Canadian self-dependent policy, and let us look after our interests in the commercial and industrial sphere the same as other countries are looking after themselves."

BRITISH PREFERENCE

Mr. Meighen made it clear that his belief was that Canadian industry should be protected against goods from all the world including Britain. There had been no return for the preference we had given Britain for many years.

"We owe it to the Canadian workers to keep the tariff high enough against Britain or otherwise, to enable Canadian concerns to compete against rivals in any country in the world." What might be left of the British preference should be only left to encourage Canadian ports, and with that end in view he had voted for an increase in preference on goods coming through Canadian ports. Mr. Meighen referred to the special need of encouraging the places at the extreme parts of Canada. To encourage the far away provinces to reach their market he believed the extra burden due to these distances should be partly borne by the older provinces, and in that way do away with antagonisms. All these things, said Mr. Meighen, were not new principles, but principles laid down by Cartier and Macdonald, and principles on which the Conservative party would continue to stand.

Mr. Meighen referred to what might happen in the next Parliament. The Liberal party today had half the members of the Commons, and was in a state of semi-independence. The general elections would certainly strengthen the Conservative party, even if it did not come to power, so it would mean a Liberal government depending for power much more than today on the Progressives.

"I appeal to the patriotic people of our Dominion to reflect on the certain result," he warned.

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