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## LIBERALS BROKE PLEDGES AND BETRAYED THE PEOPLE SAYS HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN

Former Premier Addressed Large Meeting In St. Romuald—  
Was Accompanied By A Number Of Other Speakers—  
Laborer Under The Present Regime Was Having A  
Harder Struggle Than Ever Before To Earn An Honest  
Living, Said The Leader Of The Opposition

The Right Hon. Arthur Meighen spent a busy time yesterday across the river. After visiting most of the local industries he wound up a full day by addressing a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in the Exhibition Hall at St. Romuald.

The chair was occupied by Mayor William Kiely. In introducing the first speaker, Mr. Perre Audet, he said how glad they were to listen that evening to the representatives of a great party and a great policy. In the past they had been deluded by foolish issues and instead of striving towards the good of the country they had worked for the success of a party. In 1921 the Liberal party had made many promises, but none of those promises had been kept. Not only had the administration struck a terrible blow at industry by their manipulation of the tariff, but they had injured agriculture too by their reckless expenditure.

Mr. Pierre Audet dwelt upon the defections of the Mackenzie King Government. In 1921, he said, they had promised to reduce the cost of living. Instead of reducing the cost of living they had increased it and at the same time they had increased internal taxes and reduced the tariff.

Mr. Rivard, the next speaker, made an impassioned plea for a sound fiscal policy. They had been weaned in deceit and nourished on falsehood, he affirmed, and it was time they looked about them and changed the existing order of things and elected a party with principle.

Mr. John Sullivan, K.C., of Montreal, said how pleased they were to see that Mayor Kiely appreciated the position of the Conservative party. It was good to feel that they were among friends who took them at their true worth. One thing particularly he had noticed during their stay in the Quebec district and that was the scrupulously fair attitude of the press with two exceptions. The morning papers had refrained from any kind of comment, but the speeches were accurately reported and this gave citizens, unable to attend the meetings, an opportunity of learning the truth.

### The Industrial Position.

The Hon. L. G. Belley confined himself to the industrial position of the Province during the Liberal regime. He pointed out that since the Liberals had been in power the agricultural products of Quebec had dropped over two hundred millions of dollars. It might be said that this was due to a drop in prices. Such a theory might be partially true, but he was quite sure that it was not wholly true. The real reason was that the present Government had indulged in ridiculous extravagances and instead of lightening the burdens of the taxpayers they had added to them. The young men of the Province had been compelled to seek work in the United States, industries and agriculture was at its lowest ebb.

Mr. L. G. Gravel introduced the speaker of the evening, the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen. After thanking the audience for the enthusiastic manner in which they had received him Mr. Meighen said that the achievements of the Liberal party might be likened to the widow's mite. Unlike the widow they had promised many things, but they had given very little indeed. Continuing in English he said he feared they would forget both the graces and eloquence of their own language if he continued with his murderous French. He assured them that his deficiencies were not due to lack of effort but rather to lack of practice.

He was particularly glad to be in St. Romuald since it gave him an opportunity of thanking Mr. Gravel, who had so nobly carried the standard of the party through the dark days of 1921.

### Would Like To Explain.

He would like to explain, he said, the reasons that had made him take the unpopular measures he had been forced to take during the dreadful days of war. Unfortunately the time at his disposal was short and instead of dwelling upon the past he would talk about the present, which he felt was important.

He had been held up to them as a monster merely because he had supported equality of military service to bring the country through a great crisis. He wondered what they thought of those measures at the present time.

What he particularly wanted to know, however, was what the people of St. Romuald thought now of the pledges that were made by the Liberals in 1921. There was not a single pledge they had kept—of that he felt certain. They had been promised the sunshine of prosperity. That prosperity had not arrived. They had made promises to the farmer, but at the present time the farmer was buying in a dearer market and selling in a cheaper one than he was in 1921.

### Hard To Make A Living.

The laborer too was having a harder struggle to earn a living. He defied anyone to say that his condition was improved.

"How is this?" asked Mr. Meighen. "Tell me why we have a flood of emigrants to the United States? These things were not the same two years ago." He went on to say that the reason was that the Liberals had played ducks and drakes not only with their pledges but with the accepted policies of the country. To secure the votes of Quebec they had promised to maintain the Laurier-Fielding tariff. They had not done so; they had reduced the tariff and as a result men and women were thrown out of work by the hundred. The tariffs on boots and shoes had been reduced and as a direct result nine million dollars worth of boots and shoes were imported into the country during the first year of operation of the new tariff.

Mr. Meighen regretted that he could not deliver his full speech, but he pointed out that he had to be back in Quebec at an early hour. After touching briefly upon the extravagances of the present administration the speaker concluded with a stirring plea for Canada and the Empire.

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