

MEIGHEN ASSAILS STAND OF DUNNING ON TARIFF ISSUE

Suggests Former Minister Has Changed His Policy Since Arrival in Ottawa

ATTACKS ROBERT FORKE

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Brandon, Aug. 12.—Mr. Meighen's meeting here last night closed his present tour of Manitoba. In four days in the Province Mr. Meighen travelled some hundreds of miles by automobile—in his own constituency of Portage la Prairie, in Provencher, Macdonald, Souris and Brandon, four constituencies represented in the last Parliament by Progressives. After last night's meeting in Brandon Mr. Meighen left directly for Prince Rupert. He speaks in Manitoba again and in all the Prairie Provinces on his way back.

Replies to Dunning.

In his speech last night Mr. Meighen turned to Hon. Charles Dunning, former Minister of Railways. "Mr. Dunning has been saying that I won't talk protection in the West," said Mr. Meighen. "Why, I have scarcely spoken on a Western platform in fifteen years when I have not advocated protection. But what of Mr. Dunning's own course on the tariff? In the Legislature of Saskatchewan there never was a Philistine more determined to slaughter the Israelites of protection than Mr. Dunning."

Mr. Meighen referred to resolutions passed by the Legislature of Saskatchewan — resolutions for which, he said, Mr. Dunning voted, resolutions which would have "virtually swept out the protective policy of our country."

"If Mr. Dunning speaks on this platform, ask him why he did not move in Ottawa the resolution that he voted for in Regina two years ago. Ask him if he has the courage to preach in Ottawa what he preached all those years in the safe haven of the Saskatchewan Legislature."

Says Liberals Abandon Policy.

Mr. Meighen charged that the Liberal party had abandoned its whole position on the tariff and would not do anything except to get Progressive votes. He described Progressives as "walking like nice little boys behind the band wagon of the Liberal party." He asserted that he was in favor of no brick-for-brick tariff policy with the United States except on farm products.

Mr. Meighen declared that Robert Forke stood arraigned "as having, for absolutely partisan purposes, taken a course designed to lower public life in this Dominion, and designed to make the party which he was commissioned to lead nothing but an adjunct, nothing but an annex to the Liberal machine."

"I have listened to his benevolent words of censure, which wouldn't hurt a kitten," Mr. Meighen proceeded. He described Mr. Forke as a "faded negative," who had not taken a step in Parliament which was not designed to enable the King Government to stay in office.

Mr. Meighen, amid laughter, spoke of Mackenzie King as being "filled with the virus of chronic constitutional inflammation." He put a question based on whether the Governor-General retained any discretionary power. Suppose, he said, the Government continued to ask for Governor-General's warrants to cover current expenditure, instead of calling Parliament as early as possible. In that event, Mr. Meighen questioned, would the Governor-General have the right to refuse to sign or would he not? If he refused to sign, Mr. Meighen went on, would he be reducing Canada to a Crown colony?

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