

Mail & Empire Toronto Oct. 23/24

065283

COLLINGWOOD GREET CONSERVATIVE LEADER

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen
Addresses Immense Gather-
ing of Party.

TARIFF TO BLAME

Points Out That Present
Fiscal Policy is Injuring
Country.

Special to The Mail and Empire.

Collingwood, Ont., Oct. 22.—No reigning sovereign could have received a more enthusiastic welcome than that which greeted the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen on the occasion of his first visit to the riding of North Simcoe. Met at the boundary of the town of Collingwood by the Collingwood Kiltie Band and a large gathering of citizens in autos, the ex-Premier was escorted to the Exhibition Buildings, where a great concourse had assembled. Among those on the platform were Earl Rowe, South Simcoe; W. A. Finlayson, East Simcoe; Charles E. Wright, Centre Simcoe; Edgar Jamieson, West Simcoe, all members of the Legislature; W. G. Middleboro, ex-M.P. for North Grey; M. A. Duncan, M.P., North Grey; W. A. Boys, M.P., Col. J. A. Currie, M.P.P., East Toronto, and a former member for North Simcoe in the Federal House, and all the leading Conservatives of the riding. John Forgie, president of the riding association, occupied the chair.

Short speeches were made by Messrs. Finlayson, who predicted an early return of the Conservatives to power; Col. Currie, who returned thanks for the splendid majority given him by the town of Collingwood when he ran for the Dominion House, in 1921, but was defeated by Mr. Ross, and W. A. Boys, M.P., who stated that they would offer themselves candidates for North Simcoe.

When Mr. Meighen rose to speak he was greeted with a tremendous ovation and the playing of "Canada" by the band. His entire speech was punctuated by outbursts of cheers. Before he was permitted to speak, however, Mayor Arthur, on behalf of the corporation of the town, welcomed him to Collingwood in a few well chosen words.

Mr. Meighen expressed his gratification that the people of Collingwood and the surrounding country had turned out in such numbers to greet him. He congratulated the riding on Mr. W. A. Boys' decision to let his name go before the convention as candidate for the riding and gave him a strong endorsement. He traced the party's war record and evoked cheers when he stated that in the last three years the present Government had not been able to find fault with one single item of their program during that period. No fiscal policy was endorsed by the present Ministry when they came to power, they had one policy for Quebec and another for the West.

In the recent by-elections similar tactics were employed, particularly in Rimouski, where speakers openly asked if the voters would elect a supporter of the leader of the Conservative party, a man whose hands were red with the blood of their sons. This unholy alliance with the Progressives was only maintained by throwing overboard all the party's pre-election promises, a course that was openly repudiated by the Hon. Mr. Fielding, whose absence from the House removed an honorable foe. Their pledges would have brought ruin on Canada and they knew it and had no intention of carrying them out.

Capital Has Lost Confidence.

Not free trade but freer trade was the motto of the Liberals now. Capital had lost confidence and business men were aghast at the present trend of affairs. Despite the enormous crops of the last three years no good times had resulted and no revival of prosperity like that to the South had. The farmers did not get their implements one cent cheaper despite the reduction in the tax, than they did three years ago, in fact he had figures to prove that they were paying ten per cent. more. One-half of the textile workers of Canada were out of work owing to the reduction of the tax on textiles, but no one got linens one cent cheaper. Canada must maintain a level of wages with the United States if she wished to keep her workers and to do this protection for her industries was essential. Fifteen thousand Canadians were crossing into the States every month and already over one hundred thousand of the Canadian veterans of the Great War reside in that country. Prosperity for the farmers depended on well-

peopled towns and active industries which were only possible under a protective tariff. The wave of prosperity that flowed over the States in the last three years had had no reflex in Canada. The lesson that was to be learnt from this was that Canada must stand on the bedrock of the policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

288 3

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 112)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA