

KING PROVES GOVERNMENT MERITS TRUST

Gives Eloquent Accounting of
His Stewardship At Leam-
ington Picnic.

REVIEWS 1922 ELECTIONS

Declares Progressives in West
Owe Impetus To Defeat
of Reciprocity.

Advertiser Staff Special.

LEAMINGTON, Aug. 8.—In his first public utterance since the pro-rogation of Parliament on June 27 last, Hon. William L. Mackenzie King, prime minister of Canada, today presented to thousands of Canadians gathered at Lakeside Park an eloquent and creditable accounting of the stewardship of the Liberal party since last December, when the reins of Dominion government were wrested from the Meighen administration by the electorate and entrusted to representatives obedient to the mandate of the people.

Salient features of the premier's address, which thoroughly covered all matters of interest to the voters were his unqualified statement that the Progressive movement in Western Canada owes its inception wholly to the defeat of reciprocity in 1911; that the government will announce the personnel of the board of directors who will operate all railways which are controlled by the Dominion in the near future; that the Liberal administration has pursued a course of economy during the seven months of its existence, with a resultant saving of millions of dollars on public works and the militia and defense department without sacrificing any essentials; and that concerted effort on the part of the government has brought forth assurance of early favorable action on the part of the British government relative to removal of the embargo placed on Canadian cattle for so many years.

Gets Warm Ovation.
While Premier King's address was the centre of interest for the thousands of enthusiastic people who attended the picnic, which was staged under the auspices of the South Essex Liberal Association, other statements of his administration were present, and were accorded a warm reception by the audience when they delivered speeches.

Those taking part in the program included Hon. George P. Graham, minister of militia and defence; Senator Archie McColg of Kent County; and R. Rinfret, M.P. for the constituency of St. James, Montreal, and editor of Le Canada.

Comparing the Liberal government to the Meighen administration, Premier King declared that Canada first and foremost demands a truly responsible government, and as the first citizen of the Dominion it has and will be his constant endeavor to carry out the wishes of the people. That the nation ejected a government last December, in power without any mandate from the people, which had usurped their rights by assuming and maintaining office in violation of pledges, was his contention, and the stinging defeat administered to Mr. Meighen and his colleagues was a rebuke to this attempt to play the role of the impostor.

Reviews 1922 Vote.
Reviewing the general elections of 1922, the prime minister pointed out that they completely changed the complexion of the House of Commons in more respects than one.

Reduction of the Tory and reactionary forces to the status to which they were entitled, with the coincident ascendancy of democratic forces was the most significant feature of the vote of the people.

This ascendancy returned the

democratic forces in two imposing groups, representing the Liberals and Progressives, each more potent than the reactionaries which they had helped to defeat, while the Liberal party succeeded in numbers the combined Progressive and Tory followings.

A new problem in government was presented by this complication, rendering efficient responsible administration difficult for his party.

"When as the leader of the party commanding a majority in the House of Commons I was called upon by his excellency the governor-general to form an administration, it was the complication of the House of Commons, as determined by the general elections that presented the first problems for consideration," said Premier King, in his opening remarks.

Explains Difficulties.

The next problem, the speaker explained, was that of making the ministry adequately representative of the House of Commons' personnel, and of all parts of the Dominion. One solution of this problem was a refusal to recognize the Progressive party in the formation of the government, the other to minimize or ignore it.

A third way out of the difficulty was to accept the situation with a broad and generous mind, inviting the Progressives to share in Dominion administration.

As the latter course appealed to him and his advisers as the only sound one in the interests of the nation and Liberalism, it was put into operation with the least possible delay, and without opposition within the ranks of the party.

Premier King outlined the geographical aspects of the problem, declaring that next to the defeat of Toryism, the outstanding feature of the election results, with the exception of New Brunswick and British Columbia, was the solid Liberal East, and a practically solid Progressive West.

Any attempt at governing Canada by emphasis, instead of reconciliation of differences between East and West, and Liberal and Progressive, would serve to destroy alike the possible unity of the country and its democratic control of government.

"Happily in reconciliation lay the solution of both problems," said the premier. "To reconcile the differences between East and West was absolutely the first of national obligations. That was the view I held at the time. It is the view I still hold. In accordance with that view I proceeded with the formation of the government, and the Liberal party has proceeded in conducting the affairs of the government since assuming office in accordance with that view."

Pledges Future.

Continuing, the speaker pledged to his audience that future government by his party will be conducted in keeping with this view.

In the appointment of Hon. W. R. Motherwell as minister of agriculture and Hon. Charles Stewart as minister of the interior, the premier asserted that the Prairie Provinces were made to feel that their interests in the government would be ably protected.

"If one act more than another could have been calculated to express the goodwill of the province of Quebec towards Western Canada, and equally the broad and tolerant outlook of the Quebec Liberals, it was the election by acclamation of Mr. Stewart in the constituency of Argenteuil," he declared.

"I think I may say, without undue boasting, that the government which was formed on the 23rd of December, will, as a government representative of all parts of our confederation, compare more favorably with any government ever formed in Canada."

"Touching upon the tariff, the prime minister stated that there can be little existing doubt that the Progressive movement owes its origin in Western Canada to the defeat of reciprocity. The West, perhaps more than any other part of the Dominion, has suffered by the loss of wider markets, which the defeat of that policy rendered inevitable."

Raps Mistake of 1911.

"All parts of the country have suffered and are suffering through the mistake made in 1911," said the premier. "There is only one way to seek to retrieve a defeat or undo an error, and that is to try to regain

ground that has been lost. It was this motive that led Hon. Mr. Fielding to visit Washington almost immediately after the formation of the government."

"It was obviously in the interest of all that our neighbors to the south should be made aware of the significance of the change of government in Canada, and knowing that we were ready and willing to negotiate with them at any and all times on matters of mutual concern, and that if through a course of action on their part which might seem prejudicial to our interests we were obliged to seek markets in other directions, it was due to no lack of neighborliness or neighborly feeling on our part."

Describing the tariff wall of the United States today, Premier King asserted that our neighbors across the border can hardly take exception to the wisdom which produced a revision in tariff directing Canada's attention to a reduction of duties and an increase of British preference, and which for many years has been proven "so serious a handicap to this part of our import trade."

Wants Embargo Lifted.

Having failed to secure a more favorable immediate entry of Canadian cattle and other natural products into the American market, the government renewed its energies to effect a removal of the British embargo imposed by the British government, and which for many years has proven "so serious a handicap to this part of our import trade."

"All political parties in this country have vied with each other in an effort to secure the removal of this embargo," declared the speaker. "No cabled announcement has brought with it more hopeful promise to Canadian producers or larger promise of good-will toward the mother country than that which has summarized the recent discussion in the British House of Commons and House of Lords, and the assurances of early favorable action on the part of the British government in this all-important matter."

Dealing with the situation in Western Canada, the prime minister informed his audience that granting of control of natural resources to the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta is a matter of primary concern to the people of this long-standing grievance would be remedied by the Liberal party, that pledge was partially carried out, being temporarily suspended by the Manitoba elections.

Repeats His Pledge.

The speaker reiterated the Liberal pledge to adjust this difference with the West, with operations to be resumed at once.

Marketing of the wheat crop is another important problem in the eyes of Western Canada, the speaker pointed out. Representatives of that portion of the country made it plain soon after parliament had assembled that the West is a unit in demand for formation of a wheat board to deal with the situation.

"If Eastern Canada had any views at all on the subject they were unfavorable to the establishment of such a board," declared the premier. "The purchase and sale of any product under government authority involves a measure of paternalism, which, speaking briefly, is not in accord with Eastern sentiment."

"Had the Liberal following in the House of Commons cherished aught in the nature of resentment toward the Progressives of the West it would have been an easy matter for the party to have declined the responsibility of assisting in the formation of such a body. However, the attitude of the Liberals toward the Progressives is not one of resentment, but of co-operation wherever co-operation along Liberal-Progressive lines is possible."

Lauds Cut in Rates.

The speaker also touched on the Crow's Nest Pass agreement respecting rates to be charged on grain, flour and other commodities by Canadian railways. He commented on the concluding work of the session when a measure settling the basis of railway rate reduction was enacted by a united following of Liberals and Progressives.

That it is the government's duty to do all possible in the operation and control of Dominion-owned railways was the premier's contention, who declared that with such an end in

view the party decided as the first step to bring them under the control of a single board of directors, the personnel of which would be announced in the near future. He outlined the qualities required of the executive of this board to be selected only after rigid scrutiny in keeping with the interests of the people which must be safeguarded.

Cites Millions Saved.

Savings brought about by careful administration during the past seven months were instanced by Premier King, their aggregate reaching into the millions. In a single transaction whereby a Meighen government contract for an ice breaker to be utilized on the St. Lawrence River was cancelled, the Liberals saved the people one million dollars.

The total public works estimates presented to Parliament are less than those of 1921 by more than \$120,000,000. A saving of over \$3,000,000 has been made on the department of defense this year, and combination of several departments has made possible far-reaching economy in the interests of the people.

In regard to foreign relations, Premier King asserted that his party would deal liberally in their attitude to foreign powers. These would embrace the United States, China, Japan and other nations, and the recent visit of himself and Mr. Graham to Washington with a view to removal of grounds of possible misunderstanding was an instance of this policy.

Peace and Goodwill.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the century of peace and goodwill which has existed between Canada and the United States will serve as the criterion for other nations to accept in their contribution to the circle of world peace and benefit to mankind.

Senator McColg, one of the first speakers of the day, lauded Premier Mackenzie King as a man whose interest is in "the plain people of the land and not in corporations." He declared that when the tax was placed upon sugar beets the premier had lent his assistance readily when he perceived that this tax was hitting the producer.

Senator McColg declared that the premier had also rendered valuable assistance to tobacco growers of the Leamington district when they were about to be taxed heavily.

"There is another thing to which I think he will give his attention, and that is Senate reform," continued this speaker. "And when he introduces Senate reform he will have my hearty support." Senator McColg declared himself in favor of a revision of the income tax law.

Lauds Colleagues.

Commenting upon the excellent work of his two colleagues, Hon. W. C. Kennedy and Hon. James Murdoch, Hon. George P. Graham stated that undoubtedly their duties prevented them from attendance at the picnic. He complimented the premier for his brilliant work during the last session, declaring that he possessed strong, clear ideals, and the right principles of leadership. "I believe Canada can duplicate the fifteen years of prosperity which it enjoyed under the late Sir Wilfrid

Laurier," stated the minister of militia and defense.

Speaking both in French and English, R. Rinfret, M.P., voiced a plea for greater unity in Canada and elimination of national and religious prejudices.

During the afternoon the premier

and Hon. George P. Graham were presented with gold tiepins and cuff links by Miss Helen West and Gertrude Parker, Leamington young women, acting on behalf of the South Essex Young Liberals' Association. The presentation address was read by Willard Burke.

ALLEN THEATRES CREDITORS MEET

TORONTO, Aug. 8.—Creditors of the Allen Theatres, Limited, which was declared bankrupt on July 20 by

a court order, today met in the offices of E. R. C. Clarkson & Sons, liquidators, and decided to ask that the receiving order be set aside. A committee was named, representing creditors, to manage the estate, if the court will set aside the order.

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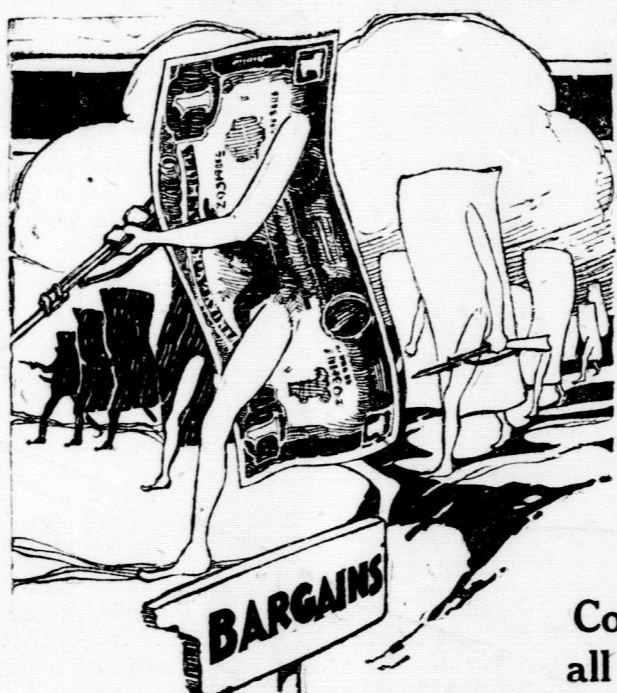
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