

Borden's Tour

Continued from Page 19

Mr. Borden in replying expressed his appreciation of the patriotic as well as forceful manner in which the views of the grain growers of the Regina district had been presented, and said he was prepared to grant their requests when he came into power except with reference to reciprocity and the tariff. His ideas on the tariff were that it should be so arranged as would raise the necessary revenues of the country without permitting of extortion or oppression by trusts and mergers, and would at the same time encourage the development of the natural resources of Canada and their manufacture into finished products by the labor of the Canadian workmen.

The public meeting at Regina was the largest of the tour so far, the audience, which filled the skating rink, being larger than at Winnipeg. The speakers were Dr. Roche, of Marquette, Mr. Borden and J. G. H. Bergeron, ex-M.P. for Beauharnois, Quebec. Mr. Borden was well received and given a good hearing, but failed to arouse much enthusiasm. There was nothing new in the speeches, in fact Mr. Borden and his party have said practically nothing in their speeches which they did not say at Winnipeg and Brandon.

At Lethbridge

A week of strenuous campaigning has brought Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative party, to the fair city of Lethbridge, where he will rest over Sunday—if the citizens will allow him to rest—and then continue his speech-making at High River, Calgary and Lacombe on Monday. Mr. Borden has addressed twelve public meetings since he left Winnipeg on Tuesday morning, in addition to making shorter speeches to half a dozen delegations of Grain Growers and acknowledging civic addresses of welcome at most of the towns and cities which he has visited. The

end of the first week of the campaign finds Mr. Borden a little weak as to his vocal organs but well pleased with the success of his tour and the very gratifying reception he has been everywhere accorded. The welcome to Mr. Borden has indeed been cordial, political friends and opponents joining everywhere to do him honor. At every place where he has stopped bands and automobiles have met him and he has been whirled around and shown city and prairie, wheat field and brick yard, in an almost bewildering panorama.

Definite Statements

To the Grain Growers who have waited upon him at all the principal towns and cities so far visited, with the exception of Medicine Hat, which is a ranching and industrial rather than a grain growing center, the leader of the Opposition has spoken frankly and directly. Except in regard to the tariff, the British preference, reciprocity and the amendment of the railway act, Mr. Borden has definitely promised that when he gets into power his party will grant the demands of the Grain Growers. He had, in fact, previously committed himself to the government construction and operation of the Hudson's Bay Railway and government assistance to the gillnet meat trade, and his conversion to government ownership and operation of the terminal elevators which he voted against in the House of Commons three years ago is a distinct achievement on the part of the Grain Growers and those members of his party who have been urging the matter upon him for some years past. Mr. Borden frankly acknowledges that the Conservative party is not a unit on the question of government ownership of elevators, and states that he expects some difficulty and opposition carrying out this policy, but nevertheless has definitely made it a part of his platform.

Favors Co-Operative Bill

Mr. Borden has also, since the tour began, announced himself as in favor of the enactment of legislation which will provide the necessary machinery for the organization of co-operative societies, but apparently he has not yet grasped the special difficulty of which the Grain Growers have complained with regard to the railway act—the fact that the present law does not adequately protect the owner of stock which is killed on the track but allows the company to escape liability in ninety cases out of a hundred. Mr. Borden overlooked this matter altogether at the earlier meetings and first referred to it at Regina on Thursday evening when he apparently gathered that the railways were able to avoid the payment of compensation because of the money and legal talent they were able to employ to fight the claims. Mr. Borden's suggestion was that the farmers should fight such cases through a central organization which might be as powerful as the railway company, but he will probably get more light on the subject while in Alberta and a definite pronouncement will doubtless then be forthcoming.

Unsatisfactory on Tariff

On the tariff, in which Mr. Borden does not agree with the Grain Growers, he has been definite in only one respect—his opposition to the reciprocity agreement—and he stated plainly that if he were offered the premiership on condition he supported the pact he would refuse it. As to the British preference, Mr. Borden has studiously avoided, except to point out that the present tariff does not give British goods a preference of 33 1-3 per cent. in all cases. Whether he is in favor of increasing the preference or decreasing it, whether he is in favor of retaining it as at present or wiping it away altogether, he has not said. Neither has he given any intimation as to whether he believes in a higher or a lower tariff on agricultural implements or on imports generally. Instead he promises to appoint a permanent tariff commission of experts and to frame a tariff on a basis of ascertained facts, stating that he believes a tariff can be arranged in such a way as to raise the necessary revenues of the country without oppression or extortion on the part of trusts and mergers and at the same time encourage the development of the natural resources of the country and their manufacture into finished products by the labor of Canadian workmen.

Fails to Convince Farmers

On all of these questions Mr. Borden and the other members of his party have

Continued on Page 48

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R. L. BORDEN

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