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W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Speeches-1922 - 1932

London Morning A

LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1932. —FOU

sands Hear Mackenzie At Exeter and Seaforth Liberal Leader Champions C.N.R.; Deplores Attempt To Make Issue Of Imperial Conference Agreement

Conservatives May Try To Form National Government,
But Liberal Party Will Not Enter It.

ADVOCATES MONETARY REFORM,
ALTERNATIVE VOTE AND "P.R."

Rebukes Mr. Bennett For Failure To Receive Farmers—
Urges Nation-Wide Commission on
Unemployment.

By Staff Reporters of The Advertiser.

Nearly half of the electors in South Huron heard the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King yesterday. In the afternoon at Exeter Mr. King spoke to 3,000 people, and at Seaforth at night an equally large audience jammed the rink to hear the famous Liberal leader speak in support of William Golding, the Liberal candidate in the by-election.

Will Not Enter Any National Government.

At both meetings Mr. King enunciated the Liberal policy for a new day, and in so doing committed the Liberal party to the promotion of far-reaching social, electoral, fiscal and economic reforms. He replied to Conservative ministers who have entered the campaign and suggested that their claims to be non-partisan might be followed by an attempt to form a "National Government" in Canada. With such a proposal Mr. King warned that the Liberal party would have nothing to do. "I stand by my policies and principles, and the only way to have those policies and principles prevail is to have a political party committed to them," he declared amidst cheers.

Mr. Golding Does Well.

The Liberal candidate, who delivered admirable speeches, was highly complimented by Mr. King as a worthy successor to the late Thomas McMillan.

At Exeter.

Dr. Thomas Donnelly, M.P., for Willow Bunch, Sask., was the third speaker and moved the audience to cheers and laughter, as he described with humor and yet with all seriousness the plight of the prairie farmers, who had been fed by Mr. Bennett in 1922 with promises of higher prices.

Reeve B. M. Francis, Exeter, presented Mr. King with an address of welcome on behalf of the council and citizens. B. F. Beavers, Exeter, was chairman in the absence of Dr. J. W. Shaw, Clinton, Liberal Association president. Long before the meeting started, the streets of Exeter were thronged. The Zurich Band provided music outside the rink, and inside during the meeting. On the platform were Reeve Francis, John Esary, Mrs. J. C. Gardiner, Reeve Gidger of Hensall, Hon. Nelson Parliament, Hon. J. C. Elliott, M.P.; F. G. Sanderson, M.P. (South Perth); R. E. Pickard, Charles Zwicker, Charles Fritz, J. G. Hunsbury, W. H. Taylor, M.P. (Norfolk-Elgin); Dr. Thomas Donnelly, M.P. (Willow Bunch, Sask.); W. G. Medd, M.L.A., and M. W. Rossie (London).

Standing Room Only At Seaforth.

At Seaforth, the crowd not only jammed the usual seating space in the arena, but clung to the beams, while hundreds more stood at the exits and doorways. Mr. King and Mr. Golding received tremendous ovations, and Seaforth paid a well-deserved tribute to a man who has served her in municipal life for 16 years.

Mr. King made reference to the reception accorded the recent farmers' delegation at Ottawa, which was refused a hearing by Mr. Bennett. He recalled that 25 years ago a similar gathering was held in Ottawa, and Laurier invited them into the House of Commons.

"From the floor of Parliament they presented their requests to Laurier. He listened to what they had to say. What they did say influenced Laurier in his reciprocity appeal to the country. That is worth reflecting on at this moment," said Mr. King.

Several of Mr. King's former cabinet colleagues were on the platform. The Hon. J. C. Elliott and the Hon. James Malcolm delivered short addresses. F. G. Sanderson, M.P. for South Perth, also spoke briefly. Mayor J. F. Daly tendered the civic welcome to Mr. King. It was his first appearance on a political platform. "When Bill Golding gives you his word, it is better than some signatures," said the mayor.

Among those on the platform were: Dr. Donnelly, M.P., Senator J. P. Rankin, Mr. G. A. P. Brickenden (London), R. J. Deachman, Mrs. Golding, Mrs. R. S. Hays, Mrs. J. H. Young (Victoria, B.C.), Mrs. William Ament, Mrs. J. Scott, Mrs. R. Smith, J. J. Dufus (Peterborough), W. H. Taylor, M.P., C. E. Riscley (Hamilton), Hon. Nelson Parliament, I. Hudgon, L. F. Bolton, Robert Smith, Dr. J. W. Shaw, Miss Floretta Pritchard, Miss Gertrude Rankin and Edward Pickering.

PLANKS OF LIBERAL PLATFORM.

Among the planks in the Liberal platform set forth by Mr. King are the following:

A progressive reduction in tariffs, to bring them at least down to the level of the Dunning budget.

Increasing the British preference on goods imported via Canadian ports to at least 50 per cent.

Abolition of the three per cent excise tax on imports.

Inauguration of an unemployment insurance fund to be maintained by the workers, employers and the state.

Reform in electoral system to provide for the alternative vote in single member constituencies and for proportional representation in the large urban centres.

Permanent voters' lists to reduce the cost of elections, such lists to be kept constantly up to date.

The creation of a central discount bank to make credit facilities more easily available at lower interest rates.

Maintenance of the Canadian

National Railways as a unified system, it being "the country's greatest asset." The C. N. R. to be given a fair chance to compete with the Canadian Pacific.

The Imperial Economic Conference was introduced by cabinet ministers early in the South Huron by-election campaign for one purpose only—to obscure the record of the Bennett Government in office, declared Mr. King.

"They ask you, when you are casting your votes on Monday next, not to oppose the Government on all that you know of its broken pledges and promises, and of its record since it came into office over two years ago, but to give it your support on something that you know nothing whatever about, something that is still to be made known and which, when it is made known in its entirety, may occasion even more in the way of bitter disappointment and chagrin," said Mr. King.

Purposely Avoided Discussion. The Government did not dare to make the agreements of the conference as they will become known in their entirety the issue of the by-election in South Huron," said Mr. King, asserting that the by-election was called for a few days before Parliament was to meet purposely to avoid discussion on the text of the agreements to be tabled in Parliament.

"They ask you, meanwhile, to vote in the dark, and to vote solely on what they tell you the agreements will mean. They give you only more in the way of promises," he added. "If you are deceived for a second time, you have only yourselves to blame."

The development of Canadian industry and commerce had been "thwarted and to a large measure paralyzed" by the "excessively high tariffs enacted by the present administration," he declared, and he today pledged his party to continue to seek the promotion of trade by the lowering of tariff barriers.

The Issues of the By-Election.

"A little over two years ago Canada was in the thick of a general election. A short time before, the Liberal Government of the day had introduced and passed through Parliament many important tariff reductions and readjustments as a part of the provision of what has come to be known as the Dunning budget. It was upon the provisions of this budget that the appeal was made to the country in the summer of 1930. Under the provisions of the Dunning budget many obstacles to freer trade between Great Britain and the British dominions, colonies and possessions had been swept away, and trade had been diverted to British countries from countries which had ceased to give to Canada the advantages of trade which she had formerly enjoyed with them.

Mr. King went on to show that the Dunning budget had been most enthusiastically received by all parties in Britain, but the Conservative party in Canada attacked it and raised the cry

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