

The RT. HON.
W.L. MACKENZIE KING

The Liberal Watchwords Are Unity and Progress

Vincent Massey Stands for a National Tariff—
Mackenzie King Appeals to Young Idealists

FROM the beginning, Canadian unity has been one of the aims of Canadian statesmanship. When the old legislative union of Upper and Lower Canada worked badly, its place was taken by a Federal union, providing a more flexible instrument of government and facilitating expansion from Sea to Sea.

"The Act of Union," said Governor Monck, in 1867, "has laid the foundations of a new nationality." But the work was only begun. The outlines were there, to be afterwards filled in. The whole was yet to be vitalized, to be converted from a mere legal entity into a living organism. To this end, the Intercolonial Railway was built, to connect the Maritime Provinces with Old Canada and, afterwards, the Canadian Pacific Railway, to afford communication with the Prairies and British Columbia. So much for unity, in a material or geographical sense. Racial and religious differences created a problem of spiritual unity. It was not ignored by Sir John Macdonald, but the statesman who had it most steadily in view was Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

He regarded national unity as his life work. At the outset of his career, he warned his own people, as Roman Catholics, against dividing the community upon religious lines. Many years later, he said, "What this country needs, above all, is Peace, Concord and Union between all the elements composing its population. Let us also be true to our double origin, true to the memory and the reverence of the great nation from which we have sprung and true, also, to the great nation which has given us freedom. And, in all the difficulties, all the pains and all the vicissitudes of our situation, let us always remember that love is better than hatred and faith better than doubt, and let hope in our future destinies be the pillar of fire to guide us in our career."

Fighting Against Prejudice Laurier United All Canada

Standing firm for moderation and conciliation, Laurier was more than once denounced in Ontario as French, in Quebec as English; in Quebec as Imperialist, and in Ontario, as too cold in Imperialism. In the election of 1911, for instance, his policy of Reciprocity was assailed in Ontario as intended to destroy British connection. At the same time, in Quebec, he was attacked as the author of a naval policy designed to in-

volve Canada in British wars. This was the motive of Quebec Nationalism, with which Conservatism allied itself to destroy the influence of Laurier. To-day, the same tactics are repeated. The Conservative Party, seeking gains in Quebec, rests its hopes upon a Nationalist movement led by Mr. Patenaude, a movement whose mainspring is anti-Imperial.

This election trick, however, is only a feeble echo of the thunders of 1911. Laurier's work was well done, the infernal fires of race and religious hatred are no longer burning with their old fury. The problem of unity now presents itself as one of economics and geography.

The Railway problem is largely one of reconciling the views and interests of various sections of the Dominion. Mr. Vincent Massey strikes the key-note, when he declares the Tariff question to be one of national unity. The Tariff is commonly discussed in terms of percentages of duty or of free trade or protection theory. But it is very largely a question of reconciling the highly-industrialized Provinces of Ontario and Quebec with the Prairies and the Maritime Provinces, where manufacturing industry is much less highly developed and where it is said that the burdens and not the benefits of protective duties are felt.

A National Tariff is Needed to Serve Canada as a Whole

It is from the point of view of national unity that Mr. Vincent Massey's declaration in favour of the King Tariff Policy, as against that of Mr. Meighen, has profound significance. Mr. Massey is an Easterner who understands the Western view. He is a manufacturer, who understands the farmer's view. His attitude goes far toward reconciling the views, not only of different sections of Canada, but of farming and urban industry. Moreover, as a business man, he must have come to the conclusion that the King policy is the more workable of the two. Other manufacturers may well consider that their interests are promoted by stability and that stability can exist only where there is moderation. Will talk about a tariff as high as Haman's gallows will not solve the problem. If the tariff were raised to an extreme height, there would be continual agitation for reduction. The West would be arrayed against the East and manufacturing industry would be subject to all the vicissitudes of politics.

Scientific Tariff Adjustment Will Reconcile Varying Views

In this connection, the appointment of an Advisory Board is one of the utmost importance. It is not intended that the new Board shall usurp the functions of the House of Commons or relieve the House or the Government of responsibility. But it may collect information upon industrial conditions in a systematic, instead of a haphazard way, and afford light and leading to those whose duty is to frame tariffs. In this way, tariff stability will be promoted; for changes

will not be made, save in the light of full information. Stability does not mean finality. Industrial and economic conditions are constantly changing and a tariff which is fair this year may be unfair or unwise next year. But changes will not be made upon guess-work or because of mere propaganda or persistence in demands upon the Government.

In this connection, it will be well to let Mr. Massey speak for himself. At Orono, in Durham County, he said, "We have against us, in this contest, one idea only and that is the wrong idea! On the other hand, we Liberals have a programme which I conceive to be really national, really constructive and a platform wide enough and strong enough for thinking men and women with sincerity and conviction to stand upon in whatever part of Canada they may live."

In a published interview, he described Mackenzie King's programme as National, in the fullest sense, and he added, "The vexed question of the Tariff is to be dealt with for the first time as an economic question to be subjected to continuous scientific investigation. It will be approached in the interests of all and not in that of any single group. The Tariff Advisory Board, composed, as it will be, of experienced officials on the one hand and carefully selected representatives of all interested groups, on the other, will be able to hold the balance fairly as between our industries, their employees and the consuming public." In a word, the Liberal Policy is National and Rational.

Liberal Invitation Extended To Independent Thinkers

The Massey incident has caused something like a sensation and there has been much conjecture as to its meaning. There is probably far more in it than the fact that Mr. Massey is the head of a great manufacturing concern or that he approves of the Tariff policy of the Mackenzie King Government. Mr. Massey is a man of broad views, whose intellect and imagination extend far beyond his business. He is an enthusiast for education. He is interested in Imperial and international affairs. He is a student and an idealist. All this, the Prime Minister knows and it would not be wide of the mark to regard his invitation to Mr. Massey as a gesture of friendship for new, constructive and fertile ideas bearing upon public affairs. It is a compliment to a serious thinker and, through him, to all serious thinkers. It is in this way that the incident appeals to the Ottawa "Citizen", one of the most thoughtful and independent of Canadian journals. It says:—

"It is a great stroke toward National unity, on the part of the Prime Minister. It means an entry of younger Canada into active political life.

"Throughout the West, the belief is general that people in this part of Canada are all reactionaries. It is especially held that men in business are interested only in exploiting the West; that corporation directors are concerned entirely with getting special privileges for themselves. Until the progressive views of captains of industry like Mr. Massey find expression in Parliament, the misunderstanding is likely to continue.

"There is far more advanced Liberal thinking in this part of Canada than people in the Western Provinces appre-

ciate. The old order is passing; of necessity, it must be to hold the Dominion together.

"The immediate acquisition of strength to the Liberal Party by the inclusion of Mr. Massey in the Cabinet is important. It is, however, in looking ahead to the greater possibilities of promoting National unity that Premier King is to be congratulated on this happy appointment."

Premier King Believes in Taking Counsel with Idealists

The appointment is no mere election device. It is thoroughly in accord with Mr. Mackenzie King's view of his own position as a leader. He has no ambition to be a dictator. He is a good example of the student in politics. He thinks constantly and patiently, but he does not aspire to do all the thinking for the Liberal Party. He wants to know what other Liberals are thinking. True, he must make decisions and take full responsibility for them, but he desires that these decisions shall be based upon broad foundations of thinking. His invitation to Mr. Massey is an earnest of his desire to take counsel with all the thinking men and women of Canada. He seeks not only their votes but their ideas. In a true democracy, men and women in private life would not play a merely passive part, thinking only such thoughts as political leaders suggest. They would think for themselves and, by the free expression of thought, give their leaders the best kind of aid. We do not know from what city, village or township in Canada, from what man or woman, may emanate some idea that will enrich Liberalism and promote the welfare of Canada and its people. And the best leadership is that which stimulates thought.

Therefore, in the invitation to Mr. Massey and in his acceptance, we have the promise not only of national unity but of national progress. Liberalism cannot afford to stand still. It must always have in mind Tennyson's saying:—

"Men, my brothers, men the workers,
ever reaping something new;
That which they have done but earnest
of the things that they shall do."

Liberals are Looking Forward With the Eyes of Youth

With such leadership the Liberal Party appeals with confidence not only to its old friends, but to all whose minds are open to new ideas. Women have not long enjoyed the franchise. There are evidences that they are thinking very seriously of their new duties as citizens, and that their minds are open to conviction. The Liberal Party extends to them not a grudging but a warm welcome. It asks not merely for their votes, but for their views, their contributions to thought on public affairs. In a peculiar sense, they represent the home and the family, the quality of which is the surest test of the character of our civilization.

The Liberal Party appeals to all who are young, in years or in mind and heart. It seeks the help of men and women of vision, who value the privilege of citizenship in this great and growing nation, and who are eager to take their part in building up here a temple of civilization worthy of our traditions and our opportunities. The foundations of that temple were well and truly laid by the heroic pioneers and the wise statesmen of the bygone days.

Honor them and carry on the work which they began. The Liberal Party is the broad, national party, the party of union and progress. It asks for your help, not only for the party but for the nation.

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