

(1)

Gazette and Chronicle
Dec 19 21

D 5833

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King Speaks at Oshawa

LIBERAL LEADER ADDRESSES
LARGE CROWD.

29th
Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, leader of the Liberal party in Canada, was greeted by a crowd that packed the Armories to capacity at Oshawa on Tuesday night, when he spoke in the interests of the Liberal party and of the candidate in this riding, Mr. L. O. Clifford. Mr. King was given an enthusiastic reception, and a most attentive hearing during the hour and forty-five minutes which he devoted to a discussion of the election issues. Not once was he heckled, and on only one occasion was a question directed to him.

Protests Against Autocracy

In commencing his address, Mr. King reminded his audience that it has almost always been inevitable that a government, which has become accustomed to autocratic methods and the spending of huge sums of money during the stress of war, should continue that autocracy during peace times. And the result is also inevitable that the people rise up and refuse to submit. At the present time, said Mr. King, the government of Canada is usurping power in defiance of all pledges made in the last election. The people of Canada have been generous in giving the government a free hand during the war, but now when the people see that their confidences have been violated, there will be a return to the rule of government of the people, for the people, by the people, by the decision of the voters on December 6th.

Mr. King said he has observed that the tide of Liberalism is rising stronger and fuller to victory. He read a telegram from Amherst, N.S., signed by old-time Conservative, giving the view that opinion in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is going strong in the Liberals' favor.

"The Government of a country is best carried on by two great political parties, rather than by any methods of compromise, or log-rolling," said Mr. King. "The history of British institutions shows this, and I venture to say that the National Liberal and Conservative party, if it has a future ahead of it, will not have that future to-morrow. There must be a return to true party Government."

The Progressive party is actuated

by the desire for change for the sake of change, was Mr. King's opinion. It is possible to progress too fast, and Mr. King thought the Progressive party was putting men in the field without really knowing what principals they stand for.

"What Canada needs to-day is the avoidance of extremes—a Conservative extreme on the one hand, which would keep things as they are for specially privileged groups, and that is what Mr. Meighen and those associated with him are standing for; the Progressive movement at the other extreme, heading in an opposite direction, change merely for the sake of change. What the Liberal Party stands for is the middle course of a sane and orderly progress, prepared to look to the past and retain what is best in past traditions, but with its eyes mainly to the future, and seeking the development of the country along true Liberal lines."

Mr. King spoke in terms of indignation with reference to the Liberal and Conservative party's "usurpation of power". "Not a single man or woman here," he said, "has given the Meighen administration even an indirect mandate to carry on government during the past sixteen months. The real issue regarding the party is that it does not stand for anything except for the interests of a few men who have had a hand in putting it in power." He cited numerous instances of what he termed "autocracy." The Senate of Canada filled with representatives of the Meighen administration and the big business interests; the placing of the government railways under the control of a few government appointees without allowing the people of Canada or Parliament to know the terms of the agreement; the autocratic management of these same railways, by placing them under the administration of a board whose members are also directors of the companies with whom large contracts were made; the refusal of information to Parliament in this connection; these were further points dealt with at some length by Mr. King, who pointed out that Mr. Meighen had refused to put the railways on a basis that would ne-

(Continued on page 2)

cessitate an account to the public of all moneys received and expended in their administration.

"The affairs of Canada are in the hands of a little group of political autocrats and industrial plutocrats," said Mr. King, who cited many instances of the awarding of huge contracts to the Government's friends.

Mr. King declared that the failure of the Government to investigate the charges of Mr. Murdoch that the Cabinet had interfered with his attempts to stop profiteering, was an admission that the charges were true.

Mr. King charged that within the past two days huge contracts and orders had been let by the Government in its endeavor to buy its way back into power.

Dealing with the tariff, Mr. King declared that Mr. Meighen was trying to make "the issue" in order that the people may be drawn away from giving attention to his political sins. "I want to say to you that the Liberal party does not stand for free trade. Free trade means the absence of tariff. Canada cannot exist, cannot finance her way without a tariff."

"We propose to revise the tariff in a way that will help the home and the family—that is the viewpoint from which the Liberal party looks at the matter. On the other hand, the Government goes to the country and says that protection is the issue and gives the people absolutely no idea as to exactly what they propose to do in making the tariff a protective tariff. It is a shocking thing that the Minister of Finance has said absolutely nothing in the present campaign about what he proposes to do if he is called on to revise the tariff. We are getting absolutely no information from the Government Minister on their proposal in regard to the tariff."

"No manufacturer, earning a legitimate profit in this or any other community, need have any fear of a revision of the tariff by the Liberals. What we aim at is a revision that will serve the interests of producer and consumer alike, and not promote and build up fortunes for a few monopolies, combines, or mergers," said Mr. King.

"Agriculture is the basic industry of our country and unless agriculture prospers our cities and towns cannot prosper. Behind the Progressives