

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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Subject.....

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LIBERAL CLAIMS ARE REFUTED

DISSOLUTION ISSUE DIS- CUSSED BY MEIGHEN

Most of Legislation Passed at Last Session is Now in Effect

VIRDEN, Man., Aug. 11.—That the dissolution asked for by Rt. Hon. MacKenzie King would have killed all the legislation which was subsequently killed by the dissolution he obtained and that he was not therefore responsible for what his opponents described as the defeat or failure of certain legislation was the claim made by Premier Meighen in a speech at Virden this afternoon.

The Prime Minister repudiated statements that he was alienated in sympathy from the people of the west and maintained that his interests were in Western Canada to as great an extent at least as those of the Progressives who came to Ottawa feeling that nobody had interests in agriculture but themselves, and talked as if nobody had ever seen a farm house except the Progressives.

REPLIES TO LIBERALS

IT had been argued that he had been responsible for the defeat or failure of certain legislation at the close of the last session. His answer was very simple. The Prime

Minister related the circumstances under which Parliament was dissolved, and contended that the dissolution asked for by the Liberal leader would have killed all the legislation which was killed by the dissolution which he obtained. The only reason that immediate dissolution did not take place after Mr. King approached the Governor General was because dissolution was refused. Mr. Meighen said he had a copy of the order-in-council that

had not been signed by the Governor General, and that showed that had His Excellency granted Mr. King's request, from that second there would have been no Parliament to finish any legislation whatever.

NOW IN EFFECT

THE legislation was not wholly gone, however, said the Prime Minister. In fact, most of it was now in effect. Most of it was legislation affecting revenue, regarding postage which everybody supported, and regarding income tax, which was also put into effect. His government did that under its statutory powers and because both Houses had passed the legislation, and although the Governor-General had not signed it, they were justified in giving it effect.

"So," asserted the Prime Minister, "all this lamentation is not only insincere, but much of it is wholly unfounded."

With reference to the Campbell bill regarding grain, Mr. Meighen explained that it had not passed the Upper House, and therefore his party had no power to give it effect. They had power, however, to make effective all legislation that had passed before the House and it was in effect at the present time.

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