

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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EULOGY OF MR. MURDOCK.

Mr. Raymond referred to Hon. James Murdock as one of the men who had been associated with the present premier from the first. "Events of importance have happened since he came into power," said Mr. Raymond, speaking of Premier King, "and in Mr. Murdock, he chose a man to fill one of the most important posts in the government. He chose a man who has the confidence of labor, and a man whose shrewdness and sound judgment have rendered great service in labor troubles. The speaker mentioned the attacks made on the Hon. Mr. Murdock, and characterized them as "The vile attempts of the opposition to destroy the character of the Hon. Mr. Murdock—Honest Jim." Mr. Raymond stated that nothing had been produced in the evidence to show that any foundation for the charges existed, and that if it was possible Mr. Murdock had come through the investigation with an even brighter escutcheon than he had had before. "He knew a bank was going to fail and he merely drew some of his money out of it. He would not have been a Scotchman had he done otherwise," said Mr. Raymond. "I intend no flattery, but Hon. Mr. Murdock is a straightforward man," said the speaker:—"and an honest man's the noblest work of God."

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Raymond introduced the Hon. Mr. Murdock, with the words, "A thoroughly honest man, the Honorable James Murdock, minister of labor."

THE HON. JAMES MURDOCK.

This is the second time that I have addressed a Woodstock audience," said the minister of labor," the first time, two years ago, when I found myself in a federal election campaign for a specific purpose; one purpose, to impress my personal convictions upon the electorate of Canada, that the leader of the Liberal party was a proper person to head the Canadian government.

I was formerly connected with little that was political, but I was raised in a Liberal home which I regard as a blessing. The views that a government should protect, advance, and conserve the interests of all citizens, and not subsidized to protect any one class, was firmly implanted in my mind. I broke a freight train through Oxford county for

twelve years, and it was then that I knew the ambitions and claims of labor. I have represented international organizations of labor, and I have absorbed the view that labor cannot be adequately represented except by one qualified. That is the only way for labor to get the proper recognition of its aims and claims.

THE 1921 CAMPAIGN.

"No class," said Mr. Murdock, "is entitled to any special representation. All classes are entitled to get government for the people, and by the people; first, last, and always, but not a favored few."

"In the 1921 campaign," said the minister of labor, "the opportunity came of undertaking to assist the present prime minister. I gladly accepted, believing as I do, that the Liberal government is a government to protect and conserve the interests of the people. The campaign was successful and the man best qualified to represent Canada as prime minister, became the prime minister. He filled that post under adverse conditions and in a manner that places him on a pedestal second to none, in my estimation."

"Too few realize conditions as they were handed to this government by its predecessor. I have tried as a member of the cabinet to further the interests of labor." Mr. Murdock compared the serious transportation strikes in the United States with the comparatively uninterrupted service at the same periods in Canada. In spite of the fact that railroad men in Canada were members of the same international organizations, the policy of the Liberal government had, according to Mr. Murdock, been productive of satisfaction, and an avoidance of railroad strikes, in Canada. The different methods of handling the problems of labor confronting the Liberal government had resulted in Canada being much more to the good, in comparison with the United States.

The problems of the western farmers, miners in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia, and others had been faced by the present government with the knowledge that each wanted something of a nature entirely different to that of their fellow-workers. "But labor was kept in mind," said Mr. Murdock, "and everything possible was done."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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