

ELGIN VOTERS WELCOME KING AT ST. THOMAS

Applaud Charge That Meighen
Is "Consistent Only As
Autocrat."

TARIFF NOT SOLE ISSUE

Liberal Leader Declares Other
Vital Questions Call For
Discussion.

BY WILLIAM SHARMAN.

ST. THOMAS, Nov. 3.—Before an audience that taxed the capacity of the Star Theatre here Thursday night, the Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, in one of the most eloquent and telling addresses that he has ever made, challenged the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen to prove that the real issue of the day is not "whether the people of Canada will endorse autocracy or responsible government."

Although scheduled for 8 o'clock the time of commencement was set an hour ahead in order that the Liberal chieftain might deliver his address and leave immediately by special train for Ottawa to attend the funeral on Friday of Lady Laurier.

Mr. King was ably supported by the Hon. Chas. Murphy, M.P. for Russell; James Murdock, Liberal nominee for South Toronto, former member of the Canadian Board of Commerce, and now vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and Wm. Tolmie, the Liberal choice in this riding.

Undaunted by Rain.
Rain, which fell an hour before the meeting failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the local electors, while scores of followers of the Liberal standard representing every section of two ridings East and West Elgin, awaited all afternoon with keen anticipation the arrival of Mr. King and his party. The fact that many of these will be compelled to remain in St. Thomas overnight is ample evidence that there has been a great awakening of interest in public affairs in Elgin County.

"Premier Meighen has said there is only one question, the fiscal issue," declared the Liberal leader. "I say to him, why should we limit the discussion on public platforms to one question only, when you well know for ten years we have had no opportunity to submit any opinion upon many other issues than tariff?"

"Why should not the workmen or the returned soldiers or the women be given every opportunity to give an opinion of what they think of their treatment in the past or what they expect for the future?"

Consistent as Autocrat.
"I say that Premier Meighen is consistent in only one thing—his record as an autocrat. He forgets, however, that on election day he will not be talking to a following in Parliament

sitting close waiting for judgeships and senatorships.
"I ask him is there any one of you who gave to him or his cabinet the right to carry on government during the last sixteen months? Not an answer from you. And I have asked that question all the way from the coast, and stand prepared to ask it clear to the Pacific.
"Do you want to know the issue? The people of this country will endorse autocracy or endorse self-government. He knows that if he can get them to talk protection, he can cloud the issue, but if you stop a minute you can realize how your rights have been usurped. During the past sixteen months he has spent millions and taken over railroads, all without consulting the people, and more than that, he has appointed judges and senators who will be the future law-makers.

Legislation Takes Time.
"I say to the workers and the farmers: You may have your platform, but how are you to get them on the statutes? I venture it means years of struggle to get any legislation of a progressive nature placed on the books. Is it not the height of folly to allow Arthur Meighen and his followers to divide your forces and slip into power? Look how they have managed your affairs. Consider the Grand Trunk Pacific; it was taken over without your opinion, but you will have to foot the bill."

The Liberal leader then proceeded to explain the "fight" that he and his colleagues had conducted in the House to have the agreement between the G. T. P. and the Government placed before the consideration of the members. He told how after a determined investigation he discovered that members of the board of directors controlling the road were also members of the companies receiving contracts from the Canadian National roads.

He charged the Meighen party with secret sessions, and condemned the members for applying the closure when ever the question was opened by the Liberals for discussion.

"Fair Wage" Clause.
Mr. King related how when the G. T. P. was finally taken over he attempted to have the "fair wage" clause for the G. T. P. employees included, as awarded them in 1910, but had not succeeded. He pointed out that his move was thwarted by Premier Meighen himself.

"Mr. Meighen talks about protection," declared Mr. King, "but the best protection you can give anyone is a square deal. I say that any party with such loose ideas on finance is not entitled to the confidence of the people."

It was the duty of Meighen to see that every dollar expended by the railroads was accounted for on the floor of Parliament, he said.

"The people's business today is carried on by two little groups, the political autocrats and the industrial plutocrats, and the interlocking of directorates involving the Canadian National roads is ample testimony to this."

Not the Only Issue.
The tariff is an important, but not the only issue. The cost of living is affected by the cost of government. But this reason we preached economy when the present Government went wild with expenditures for militarism and the like. They seemed unable to get back on a peace-time basis.

The Liberals do not stand for free trade. With \$560,000,000 to be raised in one year, free trade would be impossible, but we do stand for a revision of the tariff, in a way to help destroy the combines and monopolies, but not to destroy industries doing a legitimate business and getting a legitimate profit.

It shall be framed in the interests of all classes." (Applause.)
Compelled to break off his rapid-fire address in order to leave immediately for the capital, Mr. King, in conclusion made a stirring appeal to the farmers not to aid in the destruction of the progressive forces. He questioned whether there was any material difference in the platform outlined by the women, the returned veterans and the laboring masses, and warned them to stand united with Liberalism as against the National Liberal-Conservative party, a common foe.

Received Great Ovation.
The leader's reception, both on entering and departing from the theatre, was spontaneous and prolonged. He was sent on his way with loud and hearty cheers.

"We have had in the past few years a government for special favored minorities," declared James Murdock. "There are representatives of the present government who have said there is only one question—tariff. They have been particularly active in an effort to impress the laboring classes with this."

"As a representative of labor I have never heard of a greater assembly of 'bunk' than their present argument—the tariff is the only solution."

Ottawa Will Give Cue.
"As railroad men you are interested in prospects of another reduction. I do not know whether there is to be another reduction or not, but if there is to be, I charge that the railroad executives will get their cue from Ottawa."

"On Tuesday last I received a volume from the Department of Labor, containing quotations from labor legislation. In it I discovered a 'fair wage' resolution passed in 1900 and reaffirmed in 1911, both being passed under Liberal administration. Under this resolution in the past I have secured for certain lines standard wages on that basis, but what about the present government?"

On September, 1921, they issued a schedule of working rules and regulations, for the new Welland canal project.

"We find in this scale what your government considers a fair wage scale." The speaker quoted the figures in question, declaring them to be considerably less than paid elsewhere in the immediate vicinity. As a former member of the Canadian board of commerce, Mr. Murdock at length undertook to explain what he knew about the "strange working" of the body.

Was "Inveigled" Into Board.
He related how he had been "inveigled" into assuming a membership of the Canadian Board of Commerce. On subsequent investigations, he said, he found certain business conditions appalling. He told of shoe and sugar probes and spoke in particular of how one returned soldier who had fought "for you and me and Sir George B. Foster" had been compelled to pay "appalling" prices for necessities of life.

"That's the kind of protection Meighen wants you to have," he declared amid applause. "Through the war there were men and firms in Canada who made fortunes overnight. Men of this people, directly after the armistice was signed, realizing time was short for excessive profits, proceeded with even greater effort."

"We found absolutely unjustifiable profiteering in overalls, building materials, cement, canned goods and other commodities. We wanted to stop all this, but we were prevented. Take the case of textiles, we met with big opposition. We were refused information by the manufacturers. We put a time limit on them, but they protested to two members of the cabinet."

"I am getting tired of what the Mail and Empire has been insinuating, and if they want to know who they are I'll tell them. However, when Mr. Meighen says protection is the only issue he means, no doubt, for the profiteers."

Tells of Resignation.
The speaker then related how, after deciding he could no longer accept money under false pretences, he resigned from the board, not before, however, he had made special charges against members of the Dominion cabinet, which, he said, had not yet been successfully rebutted by the premier, although the latter had the shifty ability and cunning of a police court lawyer.

In conclusion, Mr. Murdock urged as a representative of the railroad-men and a brakeman for eleven years, the laboring people of St. Thomas to support Liberalism, "a party for the masses."

The Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, as well as Sir Robert Borden, were well aware that the election of 1917 was a "steal" by means of the soldiers' vote, was a declaration of the Hon. Chas. Murphy, last speaker, the Hon. Chas. Murphy, minister of justice in the late Laurier administration.

Launches Bitter Attack.
Launching a frank and bitter attack upon the late Union Government for its manipulation of more than 100,000 soldier votes at that time, he related many instances, where, he claimed, bags of ballots in France were diverted into ridings where the Union candidates were not considered strong. He stated that 100 votes, all for Laurier men, were placed to the credit of Kings County, Nova Scotia. Sir Robert Borden's riding, and he insisted that the latter knew that such was being done.

He read a message to France from Winnipeg signed, he said, by the "Union Committee and Arthur Meighen," asking for 1,000 votes to be allotted in that district. In spite of all this, he said, Borden, who was like Brutus, an "honorable man," had got up in the House and had declared it had been a just and fair election.

The speaker gave the name of one, Hector MacGinnis, who, having been promised a C. B. and rank of major-general, had undertaken the task of diverting thousands of soldier ballots into constituencies where they were most needed.

"The Big Issue."
Denying that the tariff was the chief issue, Mr. Murphy declared that "Mr. Meighen and his administration is the big issue," and promised that the record of both would be placed before the country before the election.

He recalled that the premier had tried, but failed, to "ker the same cry in West Peterborough last February," and would fail again.

He explained that ten years ago and since Premier Meighen had accused the Liberals of being high protectionists, and now he was condemning them as free traders.

"This is but one illustration," he said, "how he can blow hot and cold on an issue. How can you trust him in the face of these inconsistencies?"

"How were these records hidden, I ask? Well, since the press sold out in 1917, we have been 'headlined' into forgery. Some papers supporting Crotter are trying to make it appear that his party is taking the place of Progressive Liberalism. He just made a 'wonderful' address in Prince Edward Island, where he advocated legislation, word for word, that we moved in the House nine years ago and which a Tory Government voted down."

"We have been saying these things until I am tired, but no one pays any attention to us, but a paper here and there."

Like Cult of Omar.
Explaining the origin of the name

DENY EXPERTS ARE RETAINED

Reports of Efficiency Committee
Declare Griffenhagens
Have Been Discharged.

OTTAWA, Nov. 3.—(By Canadian Press).—Denial of reports to the effect that Griffenhagens and Associates were still being employed by the Dominion Government in reorganization of the civil service was made in a lengthy statement handed to the press tonight by Hon. G. D. Robertson, minister of labor, who, since the retirement of Sir George Foster from the Government, has been chairman of the sub-committee of the cabinet on reorganization and efficiency.

The statement says that Messrs. Griffenhagens and Associates are a Canadian firm with headquarters in Toronto, who were engaged by the Dominion Government on May 31, 1920 to reorganize the postoffice, customs and inland revenue departments "and to install therein modern systems of business efficiency."

Notice of Termination.
On Feb. 2, 1921, the sub-committee gave Griffenhagens and Associates sixty days' notice of termination of their contract, "the work having been quite well advanced."

"It was important, however," says the statement, "that the system and establishment outlined by Griffenhagens and Associates should, so far as possible, be made effective, and while the services of the firm as such and the cost consequent thereto were discontinued, the sub-committee engaged the services of some six expert individuals for the limited period to supervise the installation of the necessary physical changes. The services of a number of these experts were dispensed with on Sept. 1, 1921, and of the balance on Oct. 23, 1921."

Firm's Offices Closed.
"On Oct. 23, the offices of the firm here were closed and all of the employees engaged on this work who had not been borrowed from various departments have been retired as of Oct. 31."

"The postoffice and customs and inland revenue departments are undertaking to carry out, as circumstances permit, the reorganization outlined, most of which has already been given effect to," the statement says. "Further reductions in staff will not take place, but the new establishments recommended and agreed upon between Griffenhagens and Associates, and the departmental officials will be made effective gradually. Vacancies occurring in these departments will be filled from the surplus staff until the staff is reduced to the basis outlined in the new organization establishment."

"When the reorganization plans have been fully carried out in the postoffice department the annual saving to the Government will be \$2,250,000. Of this \$1,125,000 has already been accomplished, the balance to be gradually made effective as above outlined."

"The total saving in the operation of the customs and inland revenue department per annum will be \$1,100,000, of which \$572,000 has already been accomplished, and the remaining reduction in cost of operation will be made gradually on the basis outlined."

Liberals of East Middlesex

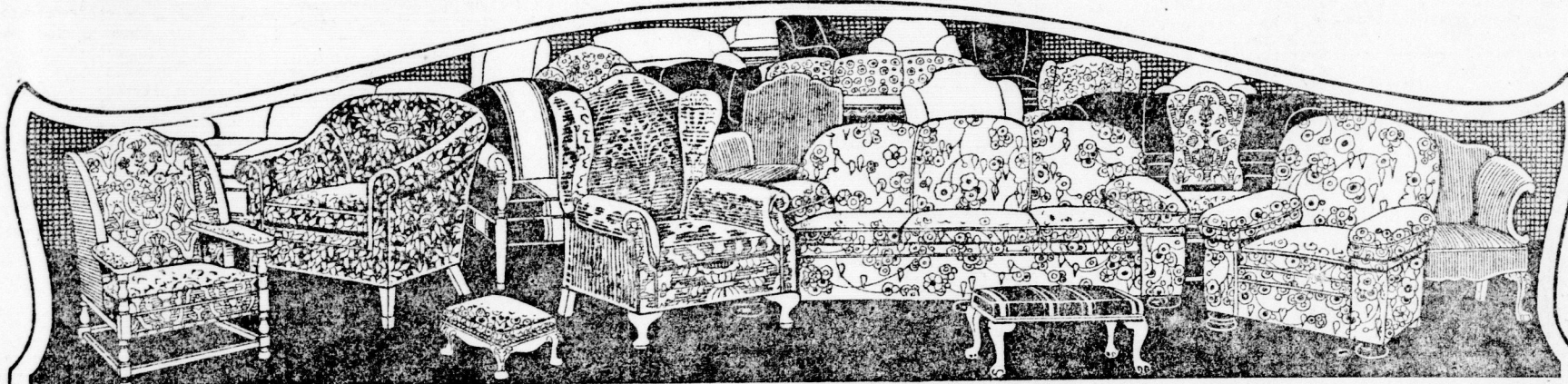
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Candidate In East
Middlesex

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1	CHESTERFIELD. Regular \$150.00, for	\$99	3	TAPESTRY CHAIRS. Regular \$110.00, for	\$70
2	CHESTERFIELDS. Regular \$125.00, for	\$89	2	TAPESTRY CHAIRS. Regular \$85.00, for	\$50
4	CHESTERFIELDS. Regular \$200.00, for	\$125	2	TAPESTRY CHAIRS. Regular \$75.00, for	\$45
2	THREE-PIECE SUITES. Regular \$275.00, for	\$189	4	TAPESTRY CHAIRS. Regular \$60.00, for	\$39
1	THREE-PIECE SUITE. Regular \$350.00, for	\$250	2	TAPESTRY CHAIRS. Regular \$50.00, for	\$35
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