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THIRD OF TROOPS BACK FROM WAR HAVE GONE TO U.S.

Mr. Meighen Blames Three Years
of King Government For
Canada's Woes.

SOUNDS AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE
REGARDING PARTY'S FUTURE

Sees Definite Turn Towards
Conservatives As Ministry's
Policies Miss the Mark.

TORONTO, Oct. 21. — Claiming that the tariff policy of the King administration was practically bringing about economic and industrial paralysis and depopulation of the cities and towns of the Dominion, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, speaking under the auspices of the Toronto Women's Conservative Association, tonight called for support for the national policy, which alone, he said, could bring back to Canada prosperity and trade confidence.

The Dominion Tory chieftain painted a sombre word picture of national economic affairs; urged his hearers, for their own enlightenment, to contrast the populations of Ontario towns with census returns of a decade ago, and made considerable impression with his reiterated declaration of belief that a third of Canada's overseas fighters during the war had migrated to the United States. While the United States and other nations had experienced post-war periods of prosperity, Canada had never got out of the rut of stagnation.

Upon the shoulders of the King Government he laid the onus of responsibility for all the conditions and happenings of which he spoke, explaining that it was not the actual tariff adjustments that already had been made that had caused them, but rather the timidity of capital, brought on by the fear of further tariff reductions and the threat of departure from Sir John A. Macdonald's national policy, obviously, he said, the only one for a nation so situated as Canada.

Lose Their Props.

Addressing the Liberal Conservative Business Men's Club at the noon lunch, Mr. Meighen declared that disregard of the National policy of protection accounted for Canada's failure to make progress during the three years of the King Government.

The fortunes of the Conservative party were never higher than at the present hour, said Mr. Meighen in opening. He said that he was able to bring to Tory Toronto a message of good cheer from the party in Quebec, where lately the party had been faced with contests in which the methods of the enemy were the most discreditable in history.

In these contests, such as that in Rimouski, he said, Liberals had stopped to the basest appeals of prejudice and passion. He recalled one prominent Government official who asked the women of Quebec if they were going to vote for Meighen "whose hands were red with the blood of their sons."

Touching on the Crow's Nest Pass railway agreement, he related its history and how the coming of the war had forced the Government to suspend the agreement. Two years ago the Government left the matter to a committee of Parliament, on which it had a majority, and it reported favoring the adoption of, first, a part and then the whole of the agreement rates. Chaos ensued. All this was thrown at the Railway Commission for solution, and it decided that the legislation this Government had passed had failed to restore the old agreement.

Premier King had gone through the west boasting of having restored the agreement, and now the question faced him: "Are you going to carry out what you said you had done?"

"It's now time for them to declare whether they have been bluffing Western Canada or not," said Mr. Meighen. "We believe it is unjust, but let them go ahead if they think they can, and let them take the consequences."

The wheat board legislation further exposed the futility of the Government.

"It lies there a sham with no man coming forward to operate it," he said.

Government folly in dealing with steamship rates had caused the farmers a loss of millions, he said, causing the Government to rush to American shipping concerns and guarantee them against loss if they broke the law which the Government had laid down.

As to the Combines Act, he said, it had been introduced to back up the thunderous threats against profiteers of Mr. King and Mr. Mordock. This law, he said, after circumlocution, brought the Government to where it started from.

And now the proposal of the Government was to clip the wings of the Senate in the interests of democracy. Legislation providing for increased soldiers' pensions had been sent to the Senate under circumstances which prevented proper consideration, and the leader of the Government there himself urged the Senate to reject it. The Conservative leader in the Senate suggested a committee to consider it, which was adopted, and it proposed to pass certain features of the measure, which was done. But this was the cause of the Premier's war on the Senate.

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