

THE ROAD TO DISARMAMENT

The United States, Great Britain and the Dominions, he believed, held the peace of the world within their grasp. Only by a closer union and by the development of trade could disarmament be safely undertaken.

Contending that, contrary to the opinion of many people, there were differences between the policies of the Liberal and Conservative parties, the Federal minister contrasted the attitude of the two major political organizations to trade.

The Liberals, he said, believed that the different hemispheres and temperature zones in the world were not merely an accident but an indication that trade was necessary. Mr. Bennett had contended that Canada could be made self-sustaining and that increased production of Canadian industries could be consumed to better advantage here than elsewhere.

HITS BENNETT VIEW

Then Mr. Bennett had said that "we mustn't bring anybody into this country."

The process of developing population in Canada had been a long process, Mr. Gardiner said, and there were many who were not going to wait patiently for the end of that process.

He pointed to the pressure of population in such countries as Japan, Italy and Germany, describing the picture as one which showed the world to be in greater danger than it had ever been. "Living as we do in one of the most sparsely settled areas in the world, we miss the point of the picture if we do not get a different view than that given by Mr. Bennett in the last few weeks," he said.

Mr. Gardiner felt the electorate in Victoria had given a decided answer and in a community which had been considered one of the most Conservative in Canada.

FURTHER CONTRAST

Referring to the "blasting" policy of the Conservative party in 1930, the minister said the actions of the Government then had provided a further contrast between the policy of the two parties.

Great Britain had said in 1930 that if other countries would take her pound sterling in exchange, she would continue to trade. Some 20 countries had agreed but Canada had refused. Prices had dropped in Canada on all natural products and trade had declined. "If Mr. Bennett had done what those other countries did in 1931, we wouldn't need any debt adjustment tribunals today," Mr. Gardiner declared.

A year ago Mr. Gardiner had enjoyed the privilege of visiting the Old Country and discussing problems with them. People had some hope in Great Britain because the present Government at Ottawa pursued a policy of increasing trade, he said.

"We don't believe in the old saying that machinery brought about the catastrophe of unemployment," Mr. Gardiner said. If the machinery was taken out of England or the mechanization away from Canadian farms, there would not be jobs for half as many men as found employment today. Machinery made it possible for two or three to live where only one had lived previously.

What did cause unemployment, Mr. Gardiner believed, was trade restriction and conditions in densely populated countries when they were unable to obtain their needs.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

"People who talk most about peace say in the next breath that we mustn't bring in anybody from outside. The two things don't go together," the speaker continued. "If we both refuse to take in people in this land and refuse to trade, we are inviting the very conditions that create unemployment."

Contrary to the statements of other party leaders, the Liberal Government had proven that there were still markets in the world. The trade of Canada was now passing the two billion dollar mark for the first time since 1929. If there had been a wheat crop in the West, this would have been the greatest trade year in the history of Canada, he said, and the trade of today was the result of the application of Liberal policies based on friendly relations.

friendship are preaching the true peace of the world," he asserted.

LAUDS KING

During his address Mr. Gardiner praised highly the leadership of the Prime Minister. Canada was fortunate to have such a leader in times like these, he said—a man who stood by his principles and whose background came from such reform leaders as William Lyon Mackenzie whose anniversary was being celebrated.

There was no more advanced Liberal in Canada than the Prime Minister but he was one of those practical men who knew that the system of representative responsible Government required the vote of the majority.

"A great deal has been said in Western Canada to the effect that somehow, somebody could do a great deal by sinking principles for a year or two merely for the purpose of defeating a man," Mr. Gardiner said. He disagreed with that proposal and wondered that when people gathered together to pay tribute to such an exponent of liberty as Mackenzie that there should be a system of newspapers in Canada advocating policies which would destroy freedom.

"When we are celebrating this 100th anniversary, it is well to understand what we mean by freedom of the press," the speaker suggested. It did not mean control by corporations, or by money, or even by political parties, but the advocating of an idea by someone who was motivated by principles for which he was willing to take a risk.

REFORM PARTY

Referring to the recent election in Ontario, Mr. Gardiner used it as another example of difference between the Liberal and Conservative party. While both stood for development of natural resources by private enterprise, the Liberal party insisted that heavy taxes must be paid by this private enterprise to support services for the people as a whole, that policy dating back to 1906 when Lloyd George introduced in England the famous tax on unearned increment.

Mr. Gardiner, Dr. A. MacG Young, M.P., Phillip Reynolds, president of the Young Liberals who sponsored the dinner, and Durward Thomas, chairman of the dinner, all referred to the Liberal party as a reform party and referred to the part William Lyon Mackenzie played in establishing that tradition.

The special tribute to the early Canadian political leader in Upper Canada was given in an address by Morley Toombs. Mr. Toombs sketched the story of the times in which William Lyon Mackenzie led efforts to obtain responsible government for Canada. The "family compact" had developed and had brought with it bureaucratic government in support of financial and commercial interests to the neglect of the agrarian population.

The story was told of Mackenzie's frequent election to the Legislative Assembly and equally frequent expulsion until he lost faith in peaceful measures and led his men into open rebellion, his forces having been dispersed on December 7, 1837. The fight had continued under other leaders leading to Lord Durham's famous report and finally the acceptance of responsible government under Lord Elgin in 1849.

"That tradition of radicalism which formed the very root and basis of the Liberal party in Canada has never been forgotten," Mr. Toombs declared.

The dinner meeting was held in The Bessborough.

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