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THE PRIME MINISTER OPENS PROVINCIAL CAMPAIGN

Two Largely Attended Meetings Were
Addressed by Hon. Mackenzie King
Saturday Night at Which He Stressed
Senate Reform, the Railway Question
And Maritime Rights.

(Canadian Press)

Premier King carried his campaign into Prince Edward Island on Saturday night with renewed declarations against the Senate. "When a House of Parliament becomes an active block to all forward legislation," he exclaimed "the time has come when that House must be reformed."

As Mr. Meighen, Conservative leader, on the previous evening, Premier King had to address two crowded halls in succession. He touched on public debt, the tariff, railway problem and the like but it was on the Senate that he was most emphatic. He was speaking of difficulties encountered by the Government during its four years of office. It had he said, been faced by a strong Tory Senate. Measure after measure had been thrown out by the Second Chamber. In more cases than one, a measure had been rejected by the Senate a first second and a 3rd time and he added "we have come to the conclusion that the will of the people shall be expressed in both Houses of Parliament."

A second chamber might serve a useful purpose as a check on hasty legislation, but certain changes should be made in the powers of the Upper House to bring it more in accord with the spirit of the times.

"These changes," continued the Prime Minister, "the Government will propose in a measure which will be a Government Bill and we shall expect every Senator who comes into the Senate from this time on, and every Senator appointed since we took office, to bring about the reform which we consider essential to the interests of the country."

"Providence is working with us. One by one the old Tories are being taken to a happier home. We are replacing them by members who are prepared to stand by us and see, when the time comes, that the legislation will go through that House. I do not think it will be long before we shall have a majority in the Senate as well as in the House of Commons, and, when we have that majority we shall effect the reform we desire."

"If a Conservative Government is returned to power before Providence has finished its good work, the day when reform can be brought about will be put further off."

He pressed the need for regulated competition as between the Canadian National and the C. P. R. and charged Conservatives with having taken over a bankrupt system and loaded it on the shoulders of the Canadian people.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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