

operation within the British Commonwealth. The Liberal Party inaugurated the British preference and has made it a central feature of the fiscal structure of our country. In the Budget brought down by Mr. Dunning on May 1, a Liberal Government announced the greatest extension of British preference since 1907. We have declared that it is in this spirit of co-operation that we shall approach the Economic Conference in September. Which party shall represent Canada at this conference? Shall it be the party that established and extended the British preference and negotiated the Australian Treaty and the West Indies Trade Agreement, or shall it be the party which has opposed or criticized each of these great policies designed to enlarge the boundaries of Empire trade and co-operation?

"Ladies and gentlemen: The representation of Canada at the forthcoming conference is, as I have said, necessarily bound up with the personnel as well as with the policies of the Government which is to administer the affairs of the country during the next Parliament. Were it not that the Leader of the Opposition has gone out of his way to say a great deal about the constructive leadership which Canada requires, and to use the most uncalled-for language in speaking of the present Administration, I might spare him the questions to which I think the people of Canada have the right to demand an answer, namely: First, what in the way of constructive leadership has he himself to offer? And second, who are the men who are to comprise the Cabinet which, were he to be returned to power, he would have immediately to form?

Platitudes From Tories.

"Up to the present time, pretty much all that Mr. Bennett has said has been in the nature of platitudes or declamation. He has not put forward a single constructive idea, nor has he indicated a single policy with any clearness or definiteness of aim. In his speech at Winnipeg he referred to the members of the present Government as 'This group of mercenaries, holding office by shame and subterfuge,' and as 'forgetful, in their love of office, of all else but their own personal advantages.' He said: 'Look upon them, treacherous to you, self-confessed, deserving of your passionate condemnation.' And at a meeting at Regina on the following day, he spoke of 'nine years of wasted effort before the great betrayal,' and added, 'It did not take Judas that long.' May I say to Mr. Bennett that language of this kind is wholly uncalled-for, and add nothing to his stature in the position of leadership. Already I have heard it strongly represented by men of his own party. A Government securely established which voluntarily appeals to a people on a great issue nearly a year and a half in advance of the completion of its term, is not 'a group of mercenaries

holding office by shame and subterfuge,' nor are they persons 'forgetful in their love of office, of all else but their own personal advantages.'

"May I say that I believe it is the general opinion that Canada at no time has had a Government composed of abler men, of men more genuinely disinterested or of higher purpose than the men I am proud to have as my colleagues in the present Administration. I believe it is true that no Government has ever given a better account of itself both at home and abroad. May I ask Mr. Bennett who, in the Administration that he has in mind, are to take the place of the Ministers in the present Government from the Province of Quebec, from the Province of Ontario, from the Maritime Provinces, and west of the Great Lakes? Who are the gentlemen he has in mind as those who are to represent Canada at the Imperial Conference and the Imperial Economic Conference? I will tell him who of the Government will be among the number to represent Canada, if the present Administration is returned: At the Imperial Conference, the present Minister of Justice, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, who represented Canada with such ability and distinction at the Imperial Conference of 1926 and who represented Canada at the Subsidiary Conference on the Operation of Dominion Legislation, which met in London last fall, will be one of the representatives. Another of the representatives at the Imperial Conference will be the present Minister of National Defense, Colonel the Honorable J. L. Ralston, who during the present year represented Canada with such credit to himself and to our country at the conference on the Limitation of Naval Armaments. At the Economic Conference Canada will be represented by the present Minister of Finance, Hon. Charles A. Dunning, the author of the Budget of 1930—a Budget which has stirred and warmed the heart of the whole British Empire. Another representative will be the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, Hon. James Malcolm, under whose auspices the trade of Canada has expanded as never before to all quarters of the globe.

Who Will Tories Choose?

"I ask Mr. Bennett to tell the Canadian people before the 28th of July who, from the Province of Quebec, he intends, if given the opportunity, to substitute for Mr. Lapointe? Who from the Maritime Provinces he intends to substitute for Colonel Ralston? Who from Ontario he intends to substitute for Mr. Malcolm? And who from the Canadian West he intends to substitute for Mr. Dunning? The Canadian people have a right to know who are to be their representatives at these two great conferences. The people have a right to know, in addition, who for the next five years, the other members of the Government of Canada are likely to be.

"In the general elections of 1911, when the Liberal Party in Canada, under its great Leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, appealed to the country on a trade issue in the nature of reciprocity in natural products between Canada and the United States, a measure of greater freedom in trade, so far as this continent was concerned, and of wider markets for the producers in the great basic industries of agriculture, lumbering,

mining and fishing, the forces that were opposed to the tariff changes then proposed, allied under the cry of 'We are at the parting of the ways.' I do not intend to go the length of saying that, having regard to the measure of increased trade assured by the Budget of 1930 between Canada and Great Britain, and, indeed, between Canada and all other parts of the British Empire, we are 'at the parting of the ways,' or that the rejection of the Budget, for such would be the significance of the defeat of the present Government at this general election, would mean an end to all endeavor further to promote intra-Empire trade. I do, however, say, what in very truth I believe to be the fact, that, so far as intra-Empire trade is concerned, 'we are, at last, at the meeting of the ways,' and that the acceptance of this Budget by the people on July 28 will do more than all else to ensure for Canada's representatives at the Economic Conference in London that favorable response to our attitude and action which we believe will be given by the Government of Great Britain and by the Governments of all the sister Dominions of the Empire. It may not be going too far to say that the acceptance or rejection of our Budget may help to determine whether the highways of Empire are to become, as we hope they may increasingly become, the avenue of a British commerce expanding ever so widely, over land and sea, or whether, in so far as the component parts of the Empire are concerned, its highways are to remain indistinguishable from the other trade routes of the world."

Ross MacDonald and John Harold, Liberal candidates, respectively, for Brantford and Brant, and many other party stalwarts from Toronto and Western Ontario ridings, took the platform to the strains of "O Canada."

Short speeches, pledging their faith to Liberal policy and Liberal ideals, were delivered by Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Harold, following which the Prime Minister went on the air—over the greatest hook-up, it was stated, in the history of Canadian radio broadcasting under the key direction of CFRB of Toronto.

Mayor Ross Beckett formally welcomed the head of the Government on behalf of the city, and A. T. Whitaker, President of the Liberal Association, made an efficient Chairman.

The acclaim bestowed upon Mr. King at the conclusion of his address outdid even his arrival welcome, and countless old Liberals of this district pushed forward through the audience to shake his hand and wish him luck.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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