

D 13009

SEP 21 1925

Charlottetown Guardian

was another concession to Maritime rights. It is now up to the Maritime Provinces to elect men who will stand four-square for that treaty and see that it is put into effect. "You lost United States as a market through turning down Reciprocity; we have found another market for you. United States is selling to the West Indies, but under this arrangement they will have to pay a duty which in our case has been reduced from 50 to 66 per cent. You will be that much ahead of them in competition to start. Do you want that preferential rate?"

Two years ago, in order to give England an additional preference, the Government agreed to a still further reduction of 10 per cent. If England would ship through Canadian ports. As a result, over 99 per cent. of the whole trade comes by Maritime ports. That was another right secured for the Maritime Provinces.

"Mr. Meighen says he is appealing on the same platform as in 1921. He did not then get a single follower in six of the provinces. Can he expect to win this election on that cry? The Government even without the sixty-five Quebec seats have still a larger following in the House than Mr. Meighen. Has Mr. Meighen, then, the ghost of a chance to get back?"

Voice from the audience: Sure!

Mr. King replied that Mr. Meighen had been left with only thirty-five of his followers to vote with him on one occasion.

"Every time a Tory Government has been in we have had a third party in the field, but after a Liberal administration the third party has disappeared.

A voice: "It is still living."

"From the day I was chosen Leader," Mr. King replied. "I said there was no need of a Progressive party, that the Liberal party should make its platform wide enough that any reasonable Progressive will find his home in its ranks. Today you will find that men who were formerly of the Progressive party do not feel that there is need of a separate political party. They see that the Liberal party has taken a wider view. In the same way all the forces that are wanting high protection are joined in this country. Meighen's policy is suitable only to certain sections and groups. It is not big enough or broad enough to appeal to the country as a whole. Quebec will not stand for a policy of free trade; neither will the Prairie Provinces nor the Maritimes stand for a policy of higher protection.

"What we need today is a tariff that will help to unite the country from East to West; keep down taxation and give us what we need in the way of revenue. This may not suit every part, but I believe it will be better for the general good of Canada as a whole than any other policy."

Despite racial and religious differences, concluded the Prime Minister we have in common the fact that we belong to Canada and to the British Empire, and to achieve increased prosperity all that is needed is unity, progress and faith.

Senator Beland, who followed Mr. King, made a few remarks in French at the conclusion of his address, which was in a genial and humorous vein.

Hon. Dr. Beland, Minister of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment, spoke first in the Prince Edward Theatre, and was introduced by the Chairman, Mr. D. J. Riley, Vice-President of Queen's County Liberal Association.

Dr. Beland said he came as a member of the government, faced with the duty of placing before the people in as impartial a spirit as possible the problems that confront Canada. Four years ago there had been two political parties in Canada. Three if you liked, but personally the speaker thought it was a big enough job to speak of two. The government had been headed by that distinguished Canadian, Mr. Meighen, a man of ability. There had also come before the people another man, comparatively new in politics, Mr. King, who had said that if returned to power he would undertake to do certain things, among others to reduce the public debt, expenditures and taxes; also to adjust the tariff in such a manner as to help the agricultural classes. The speaker endeavored to show by statistics that, in some measure at least, these pledges had been carried out; that the King government had reduced the debt by \$46,000,000; that it had reduced the sales tax, if not directly, by adjusting its imposition so that it was levied at the one time; it had lowered the tariff on agricultural and fishing implements. In this regard at least they had fulfilled the pledge to the Canadian people.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA