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MEIGHEN TALKS OF A FALSE CAMPAIGN

Says Attempts Made To Mass
French Canadians Against
Him

CONSERVATIVE PICNIC

Montreal, Sept. 4.—(By Canadian Press)—That an unjust and infamous campaign had been waged in an attempt to mass French Canadian sentiment against him, on the ground that he was hostile to the race, was the statement of Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the Opposition, in addressing a Conservative picnic at Cartierville today. Mr. Meighen denied the proclamation which he said had been made by his political enemies that he had come today to ask forgiveness for errors made in the past.

"I don't make any claim to having lived without errors," continued the Opposition leader, "but if I commit errors, I am ready to take the punishment. I have always advocated the same policy for the whole Dominion, and if I have erred against you, I have erred against the remainder of the country."

Mr. Meighen then reviewed the financial management of the Dominion since 1921. He recalled the admission of the present Government in the Speech from the Throne immediately after attaining power, that Canada's condition was then the soundest of any country that had been through the war. Then he asked: "Can any such thing be said of Canada today? While the Governments of other countries have been reducing their obligations, Canada has been drifting backwards, further and deeper into debt."

While other countries have been reducing the burden of taxation on their people the Government of Canada has been multiplying tax upon tax.

"One day the Government drives through Parliament millions for wharves, while dozens of those already built are scarcely used at all. Another day millions more are asked for skyscrapers in which to sell tickets. Another day the Minister of Railway rejoices in the purchase of a two million dollar hotel in Paris. For all these things new taxes are imposed. A burdensome increase in the sales tax last year is matched by another increase this year and the cost of living in Canada is thus driven to a level higher than the country can stand."

Mr. Meighen urged that the two fundamental causes of the hard times today were, high living costs compared with other countries, due to excessive taxation, and hesitation through the business world due to uncertain fiscal conditions. "Under such uncertain conditions no wonder there is hesitation everywhere. There is no expansion, and in some places there is stagnation. What we are selling in large degree today are raw products, that is, we are selling our estate. We are employing fewer men in this country than at any time for years. Give to this Dominion a strong, true lead at the capital and business will take heart, employment will increase, our sons and our daughters will remain in Canada, confidence will be restored, immigration will follow confidence and prosperity will soon return."

Referring to the coming Imperial Conference and Economic Conference, Mr. Meighen recalled the various answers of the Prime Minister in Parliament as to what would be the course of Canada's representatives. When asked in Parliament what position he intended to take respecting various questions which would be before the conference for discussion, he intimated he would take no position at all.

"Day by day the press despatches tell us that the Canadian delegates are to take no stand on this subject or on that subject. We are told they are going to be exceedingly wary and hope to be successful in waltzing evasively around every question that comes up for reviewing. What a noble part this country is going to play. All these things the people remember and the people intend to remember, and when the day comes to declare their will they will strike from power these men who have trifled with their confidence. They will declare for capacity, for decision and for action. They will call an end to sham and vindicate the honor of our country."

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