

Subject.....

Date.....Publication.....

OPEN CALL TO PROGRESSIVES WAS KEYNOTE OF PREMIER'S SPEECH

Mackenzie King Appeals to Supporters of Liberal Policies to Stand Together for Open Battle—Impressive Gathering Assembled at Southside Park Yesterday to Welcome Premier King and Members of His Cabinet to Woodstock—Hon. G. P. Graham and Hon. James Murdock Were Other Speakers.

Calling upon the Progressive party in the House of Commons to come out and declare themselves openly on the side of the government, and issuing a challenge to the Conservatives to fight an open battle on the old two party system, Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Premier of Canada, delivered a fighting speech to a monster gathering which assembled at Southside Park on Wednesday afternoon at the Liberal picnic for the counties of Brant, Middlesex, Perth, Oxford and the riding of South Waterloo. Mr. King was in splendid trim, and aroused the enthusiasm of the large gathering of Liberals from the five counties represented. There were between 3,500 and 4,000 people in Southside Park for the event, this number including large contingents from Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, London, Stratford, Brantford and other places. Many of the crowd came in automobiles, nearly six hundred cars being parked in the park and in the immediate vicinity, according to the count made by the police officials. The weather, which had been threatening all forenoon, cleared away beautifully, and a warm sunshine was beating down on the heads of the spectators before the speeches were well under way.

ON THE PLATFORM.

During the period of waiting for the arrival of the premier, the band of the 22nd Regiment, Oxford Rifles, played several popular selections, and as the premier took the platform, to a storm of cheering from the assembly, the bandmen played "O Canada," while the audience stood in silent tribute to the first citizen of the land. There was a large and representative gathering of Liberals on the platform in addition to the premier and Hon. G. P. Graham and Hon. James Murdock, who were the chief speakers. W. G. Raymond, M.P., of Brantford; Dr. Rankin, M.P., of North Perth; Dr. D. J. Sinclair, M.P. were the other speakers, and others on the platform were the Hon. Duncan Marshall, Liberal Organizer for Ontario; James Malcolm, M.P. for North Bruce; W. D. Euler, M.P. of Waterloo; Mayor Rea, Warden Peterson, John R. Murray, president of the North Oxford Reform Association; Malcolm S. Schell, who acted as chairman; R. D. MacDonald and Sidney Little, London; Fred Bean, George Law, Hugh Allan, C. K. Curry, Aaron Erb and C. C. Fry, of Drumbo; Frances Patterson and W. W. Day, Thamesford; Dr. H. B. Atkinson, Embro; J. V. Buchanan, Dr. J. M. Rogers and T. R. Mayberry, Ingersoll; C. Hulet, Norwich; W. C. Brown, of Tillsonburg, and Mayor Brown of Stratford, who arrived here after welcoming the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen to Stratford.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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