

Subject.....

Date..... August 20, 1924 Publication..... Border Cities Star

By Star Staff Correspondent

RONDEAU, Aug. 20.—Unswerving faith and loyalty to Canadian principles of government, an appeal for the people's trust in the present critical period through which the country is just passing, together with a renewal of confidence in Canada's ultimate destiny of being the foremost country on earth, formed the themes of speeches delivered at the great Liberal rally at Government Park, Rondeau, yesterday afternoon by the Right Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King, premier of Canada, and his cabinet colleagues.

Fully 15,000 persons mingled in the vast stretches of the grove and while many attended the program of sports on the baseball diamond, at least 6,000 heard the speeches.

OVATION GIVEN CHIEFS

Premier King received a great ovation, as well as his minister of the crown and other visiting officials.

Twelve welcoming banners extended across the main road leading into Government Park, and banner N 13 was stretched between trees which enclosed the open air auditorium.

One banner read, "We welcome Premier King"; another queried, "Self government or senate government?"; Number 13 declared for "reduction in taxation and economy in expenditure".

Helen Burnie of Chatham and Maxine Gillies of Ridgetown presented Premier King with large bouquets of flowers.

The premier greeted the girls with a particularly happy smile, which prompted the worthy minister of railways to exclaim in an undertone to the premier, "That's right, kiss them". The premier obliged while Mr. Graham laughed and the crowd cheered.

Chairman James A. McNevin was very brief in his remarks.

CANADA FIRM ON FEET

"Canada is now standing firm on its feet and I firmly believe that it is there to stay," he declared.

Senator McCoig paid tribute to the memory of the late D. A. Gordon and the late Hon. David Mills who, for many years, solidly represented Kent County in the Federal house. "Their unswerving loyalty to their country and interest in public affairs was duly rewarded by their fellow citizens while they lived," he declared.

THEIR SPIRIT STILL LIVES

"The bodies of our tried and trusty leaders, like that of John Brown's body, lie mouldering in the grave, but the spirit they injected into the life of the party, like that of our old chieftain, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is reflected today in the person of Premier King," he said.

Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, and M.P. for Kent, was given a flattering welcome when he arose to speak.

"I know that I am addressing many of you for the first time, but

I sincerely trust that I will see more of you in the near future," he said.

PRESENTED WITH BOUQUET

Little Miss Helen Miller, of Ridgetown presented the speaker with a monster bouquet of flowers.

Resuming his speech, Mr. Murdock said: "Duties at Ottawa have prevented me from knowing more of the electors of Kent county. But my duties give me an opportunity of doing something for the laboring men of the country. I am able to show them where they are wrong in their contentions, but I am also well pleased when they do the right thing."

"Having worked for labor all my life I believe that I have been able to create many advance steps both in their behalf and in that of the people of Canada," he declared.

UNEMPLOYMENT NOTED

"Unemployment in Canada has been a serious point of contention for the past two or three years. The leader of the opposition, not so long ago, referred to a large number of unemployed in certain parts of the country which, he stated, at that time, did not auger well for the future of the country."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA