

Mail & Empire Toronto Oct. 22/24

WOMEN CONSERVATIVES WELCOME LEADERS

Tender Enthusiastic Reception to Mr. Meighen and Mr. Ferguson.

What protection offers the women of Canada as opposed to free trade in promoting the prosperity of the country and in furthering the interests of the home, was strongly emphasized last night by the Right Honorable Arthur Meighen in his address before the Women's Liberal-Conservative Auxiliary Association of Toronto, assembled in the Empire room at the Prince George Hotel. The function was one of significance, as it marked the first open meeting of the Auxiliary since its inception, and also in the fact that it was a rally of representative members of the Men's and Women's Liberal-Conservative organizations of the city. The Prime Minister of Ontario, the Honorable G. Howard Ferguson, as one of the chief speakers, added his tribute to the effectiveness of the national policy in protecting the Dominion from the invasion of outside competition, which should be done, he urged, until the young country attained its full strength and glory, able to compete with its neighbors successfully.

The chair was taken by Mrs. Cyril Rudge, president of the Auxiliary, who explained the organization of the Auxiliary, its aims and policy. Mr. Thomas Murphy, president of the Men's Central Liberal-Conservative Association of Toronto, extended greetings, and congratulated the ladies on the success of their activities. On behalf of the Auxiliary officers, Mr. Murphy presented Mrs. Rudge with a beautiful basket of roses. Mrs. Meighen and Mrs. Howard Ferguson, who was unable to be present, were also made the recipients of lovely baskets of roses. The artists of the evening were Miss Sadie Defoe and Mr. Leonard Wookey, with Miss Mayme Gill as accompanist. The ladies receiving beautiful bouquets of flowers. Those who presented the flowers were Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs. Belfry, Mrs. Knapp, Mrs. Eva Moran and Mrs. W. A. Little.

The guests invited to occupy the platform were:—Mrs. Meighen, Mrs. Ferguson, Hon. Presidents, Mrs. A. E. Gooderham and Miss Church, Hon. Vice-Presidents Mrs. Jos. Harris, M.P., and Mrs. Harris, Mr. David Spence, Sir Edmund Bristol, Mr. H. C. Hocken, M.P., Mr. T. L. Church, M.P., Mr. E. B. Ryckman, M.P., Sir Henry Drayton, M.P., Dr. Charles Sheard, M.P., Mr. W. F. McLean, M.P., Hon. Geo. Henry and Mrs. Henry, Hon. W. F. Nickle and Mrs. Nickle, Hon. W. H. Price and Mrs. Price, Sir Adam Beck, Hon. Jos. Thompson, and Mrs. Thompson, Hon. Chas. McCrea and Mrs. McCrea, Hon. James Lyons, Hon. John E. Cooke, Hon. John S. Martin and Mrs. Martin, Hon. Dr. Leeming Carr and Mrs. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Matthews, Mayor Hiltz, and Mrs. Hiltz, Mrs. W. A. Summerville, Mrs. Muriel Bowen, Mrs. T. F. Law, Mrs. Eva Moran, Mrs. W. A. Little, Miss B. Howell, Mrs. B. Spain, Mrs. Geo. Staff, Mrs. Padgett, Miss Jean Fitzgerald, Mrs. Geo. Nesbitt, Mrs. W. H. Harper, Mrs. W. H. Price, Miss Helen Durie, Mrs. J. J. King, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Bruce.

Others present were:—Mr. Russell Nesbitt, M.P.P., Mr. George Oakley, M.P.P., Mr. J. McCausland, M.P.P., Mr. Fred McBrien, M.P.P., Col. J. A. Currie, M.P.P., E. Owens, M.P.P., Mr. Edwards, M.P.P., Mr. A. Lewis, M.P.P., Mrs. Jos. Taylor, Mrs. J. S. Douglas, Mrs. T. Benness, Mrs. Geo. Oakley, Mrs. Alex. Lewis, Mrs. MacQuarrie, Mr. and Mrs. Van Koughnet, Mr. Cyril Rudge, Mrs. Ferguson Burke, Justice Ferguson, Mrs. Harry Reynolds, Ald. F. M. Baker and Mrs. Baker, Mrs. L. A. Spaulding, Mrs. R. F. Strong, Col. Macdonald, Mr. C. Carie, Mr. John Bolton, Mr. S. Hornshaw, Mr. Lionel Godson, Mr. G. J. Smith, Mr. Robert Millett, Mrs. Thos. Close, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Robert Leaman, Mr. W. R. Flett, Mr. John Grant.

Tribute From Premier.

Premier Ferguson who was the first speaker paid a grateful tribute to Hon. Mr. Meighen. The Conservative leader, he said, amid applause was leaving his footprints along the pathway of this country's progress that would be remembered for generations to come.

Just now, continued the Premier, Ontario and the Dominion generally was going through a very distressing time. But there was no reason to be downhearted, to be pessimistic because all that was needed was confidence and co-operation on the part of the people to see things through. "And," added the Premier, "the people of Canada will not fall this country in the hour of need" (cheers).

What was needed in Canada to-day, proceeded Mr. Ferguson, if it was to stand up against the huge industrial organizations of the United States was some sort of protection, if this country was to stand against the overwhelming, highly specialized industries to the south. This it was true was a matter to be dealt with by the Dominion Government, but on the other hand the Ontario administration was doing all in its power to improve the lot of the people.

The Conservative Leader.

Hon. Mr. Meighen was enthusiastically applauded when he arose to speak. He paid a warm tribute to Premier Ferguson and his Government and then proceeded to discuss Federal affairs.

Canada was fortunate in being part of an Empire whose great power stood ready to lend a protecting hand in time of peril. Situated as this country was, the mention of defence was not the same as it was in some of the other Dominions of the Empire. The latter probably had more reason for apprehension by reason of their situation than Canadians did. But all this aside, Canada had behind her the might of the British navy and army, and it was largely the British toiler who paid for this great protection. Was that fair? Was Canada acting up to her responsibilities? Mr. Meighen did not think so. This country, if by itself, would be subject to all the dangers that all the other countries were confronted with, but as it was it had the tremendous advantage of British citizenship.

It was to be deplored that the King Government was constantly clamoring for what it called this country's rights, and also of seeking petty quarrels with the home land on the least pretext, said Mr. Meighen. This was particularly reprehensible when it was remembered that Canada was not doing its share as a member of the great commonwealth of nations within the British Empire.

Referring to the tariff question, the Conservative leader briefly explained his party's views. In the United States there were vast industrial establishments that transcended anything else of the kind in the world. They were built up by protection, not free trade. Great men like Sir John Macdonald and Sir Geo. Cartier realized that this country,

if it was to prosper, must adopt similar methods. The national policy was the result. (Cheers.)

Canada could not reduce the wage level materially from that obtaining in the United States, or it would lose its people. Free trade would decidedly reduce the wage level, and at the present time the truth of this was brought home. There had been an enormous exodus of Canadians to the United States, for which the King Government must take all the responsibility. That Government had gone back on the principles of Laurier, and the country was the sufferer.

In its propaganda for free trade, the King Government carefully refrained from making it an issue in Quebec. The issue in that province was conscription, and he (Mr. Meighen) was described as an autocrat responsible for the lives of their sons sacrificed in the war, and who only awaited the time when he could start another war. (Laughter.)

The Conservative leader said it was a sad commentary on the policy of the King Administration that, as a result of its policy, about one-third of the men who fought and bled overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force had been alienated from their native land and were now residing in the United States. Then, too, the present Government had rendered it impossible for Canadians to finance their industrial expansion in their own country. Truly, this was a nice state of affairs.

But once Canada got back again in regard to prices, and on the other hand returns showed that Canadians were buying less and less from their own workshops and more and more from other countries, thus increasing to the bedrock of protection, then, and then only, would confidence be restored and apprehension and lack of stability removed. (Cheers.)

It was idle to talk of reducing living costs while the present state of affairs existed.

In concluding, Mr. Meighen said that no matter how glorious a tradition a party may have it could never maintain its integrity if it did not present a united front. Ontario rang true in this respect, and as Ontario went so would the rest of the country. (Cheers.)

In moving a vote of thanks to Hon. Mr. Meighen and Premier Ferguson, Miss Church said that women to-day were thinking as they had never thought before. They realized their responsibilities and were taking their share in the public questions of the day. Mrs. Gordon seconded the vote. Mrs. G. Nesbitt, seconded by Mrs. Muriel Bowen, moved a vote of thanks to the artists. A vote of thanks was also moved to the hotel management.

The president, Mrs. Rudge, spoke on behalf of support of the soldiers' comforts display at the King Edward Hotel.

The National Anthem brought a very successful program to a close, after which an informal reception was held to afford the guests an opportunity of meeting the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen and Mrs. Meighen and the Hon. G. H. Ferguson.

65280

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 112)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA