

LIBERAL TARIFF POLICY FOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS

Hon. Mr. King at Great Meeting in West Toronto, Opening Campaign, Says Party Favors Tariff for Revenue

Party is Opposed to Tariff in Interest of Companies, Monopolies, Trusts and Mergers—Leader Says Meighen Forced to Dissolve Parliament Because of Open Rebellion Among Unionist Newspapers—Extravagance, Waste and Taxation Burden Created by Government Severely Scored—Railroad Managers Spend Millions Without An Accounting to Parliament, Mr. King Declares.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Toronto, Sept. 20—"The Liberal policy is that of a tariff for revenue, in the interests of producers and consumers, not a tariff in the interests of combines, monopolies, trusts and mergers such as a tariff based primarily on the principle of protection is all but certain to be."

Thus did Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Liberal leader, summarize the position of his party on the tariff question at a great meeting held in West Toronto tonight and which marked the opening of the Liberal general election campaign in this province.

The Liberal leader claimed that Premier Meighen had been forced into declaring a federal election because the press supporting the government had broken into open rebellion against his administration holding out office any longer.

Cannot Narrow the Issue.

Mr. King maintained that the prime minister sought to narrow the issue down to that of the tariff, "but let me tell you," he continued, "that I will take more confusion than he and his colleagues are capable of creating by spoken or printed word to cause the people to forget the many arbitrary and autocratic acts of his government."

Strong condemnation of the government's attitude in refusing information to parliament respecting expenditures on the government railways and merchant marine were voiced by the Liberal leader.

He urged the forces of Liberalism to unite and fight the common foe, not to be divided between those who wished to go to extremes, "but those who wish to go to the middle ground and those who wish to go slowly towards a higher and better economic order. He said it would be a mistake for each to go their own way now and unite after the elections. The country is tired and disgusted with coalitions. There must be a united party in support of Liberalism in its highest and truest sense.

Takes Up Meighen Challenge.

Referring to the challenge made by Premier Meighen in his London (Ont.) speech that Mr. King definitely state his position in relation to the platform adopted by the Liberal party convention in 1919, Mr. King replied by quoting from his speech on that occasion. It was that he regarded the platform of government principles and policies as a chart upon which was plotted the course it was desired the party should take and that in seeking to discharge the duties of his office he would rely on the counsel and advice of those who were outstanding in the ranks of the party.

Hon. Mr. Fielding.

Hon. W. S. Fielding made an exceedingly popular speech. He termed the defeat of reciprocity as the greatest crime ever inflicted against the country. "There would be no Fordney barrier if reciprocity had carried and cattle would have free entry to the States. The Liberal party would revise the tariff downward."

The meeting from a political standpoint was a marked success. Hon. Mr. King and party were escorted to the rink in which the rally was held by a large procession headed by a band. Along the streets and in the hall ovations greeted the Liberal leader and Hon. W. S. Fielding. The rink is estimated to hold nearly 8,000 persons and was well filled. The audience gave Mr. King an attentive hearing. Following his remark that "this government has demobilized everything except itself," someone shouted, "We'll demobilize them." The crowd cheered this rally.

The audience included not only men and women of West Toronto, but many were present from York county, Peel, Hamilton and other surrounding points. Major Street, the candidate, referred to Hon. W. S. Fielding as the minister who had guided Canada through its most glorious march in its history from financial standpoint and spoke of Mr. King as the man who soon would use his great experience in industrial questions in the settlement of industrial unrest. Major Street said he was ever ready to sacrifice party for the country if he could.

Hon. Mr. King's Speech.

After referring to the announcement by Premier Meighen of an early general election, which the Liberal leader characterized as a sudden change of mind on the part of the premier, Hon. Mr. King paid tribute to the services to the constituency and to Canada of the late Captain Tom Wallace, who for many years represented West York in the House of Commons, and to the latter's opponent, Mr. S. Fielding.

"As long as in the mauling and ear-bawling out of its policies, the Liberal party," said Mr. King, "is in a position to combat the mature and cautious judgment of men like Mr. Fielding, who have had wide knowledge and experience in public affairs, with the new and progressive ideas of younger men the country need never have concern lest the management of its affairs should be on the one hand, too radical, or on the other, too reactionary. It is with this very danger that our country is faced at the present time. To support the government of today is to encourage reaction; to experiment with class matters of government is to invite the unknown. The Liberal party with its traditions and aspirations offers a means of escape from both these extremes, neither of which is in the national interest."

Open Rebellion "Respecting the premier's announcement of an early dissolution of parliament," Mr. King said, "the truth was known to me before it was found that having held on the power against the will of the people to the point at which his own party press had broken out into open rebellion and the shattered remnants of his following could no longer be relied upon to give him support."

Without a Mandate "The government of Mr. Meighen was from the beginning a government without a mandate, without a policy, and it is now a government without a friend. This is the government which battered and handaged the people and his colleagues freshly applied, now comes before the people seeking an expression of their confidence."

"It has waited until it could wait no longer to take the step. The right to a general election has been denied the citizens of our country for a period longer than has obtained in the United Kingdom or in any of the self-governing dominions of the British Empire; longer than has obtained in any other country."

"Confronted with an indictment, so unanswerable, is there not something lacking in the vision through which the premier when he tells the people of Canada that the issue of the election which he has at last been compelled to concede is solely that of the tariff?" asked Mr. King.

Issue Is Not Tariff "In the mind of the premier, the tariff may be the issue. In the mind of the people, however, the issue is the premier and what he and his colleagues represent of autocracy and extravagance in the management of public affairs."

Read Mr. Meighen's speech at London and you will find that all that it purports to say is that the issue in this election is not the question of defence of his administration, but solely that of the tariff.

man, who is in power at Ottawa and which the policies are in accordance with the affairs of the nation are carried on.

"It is in the name of the home and its needs that the Liberal party makes its appeal to all classes in this country. One come to believe that wherever you find it more difficult to live and to do your full duty by those who are and of the people to you, you are experiencing something of the effect of the increased cost of government and you will realize wherein all these questions of the tariff, of trade, of transportation and defence are of direct concern to you and wherein you are interested in putting out of office a government which has lost all true perspective in the matters of public expenditures and returning to power a government which the Right Honourable Meighen was a member and which he has to all intents and purposes the government of which he is the present representative of the human nature. You cannot over a period of years grow accustomed to spending millions and billions of dollars without the load was deemed excessive. Failure to think in terms of hundreds and thousands. In pre-prohibition days it used to be said that, once cultured, the average appetite could not be satisfied on ordinary beer.

"The second point I wish to mention is that for that matter in the period since many new branches of the administration were opened up and a vast territory was added into the public service. In some of the departments, in the outside as well as the inside, there has come to be as a consequence not only a vast increase in the work itself, but a vast increase in the number of employees. In some of the departments, in the outside as well as the inside, there has come to be as a consequence not only a vast increase in the work itself, but a vast increase in the number of employees. In some of the departments, in the outside as well as the inside, there has come to be as a consequence not only a vast increase in the work itself, but a vast increase in the number of employees.

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The speaker pointed out that conditions in Canada today were very different from before the war. Ten years ago, the national debt of Canada amounted to some \$400,000,000 of dollars. Today the national debt of our country is not in millions but in billions. He declared the colossal figure of two billions three hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

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exercise political control, shielding their friends from the possibility of the government of the poor of parliament in the matter of these vast transactions and denying to the representatives of the people whose money is being expended, the right to information as to the nature and amount of expenditures and the methods of raising the money to pay them. The situation is so extreme that it seems altogether unbelievable and yet I have stated the exact position before the nation and it is comparable to it will be found in any free country under the sun."

The Big Interests on Board. Mr. King condemned the action of the Meighen government in refusing to give the opposition particulars with regard to the insurance of properties of the government railways and in respect to the purchase of coal.

"Notwithstanding the government's attitude in the house," Mr. King continued, "before the nation, the members of the Liberal opposition were able, in the proceedings of one of the committees of parliament, to elicit sufficient information with respect to these questions to disclose why the government might be expected to refuse to furnish to parliament the information requested. It was shown that with the exception only of the deputy minister of railways, three-quarters of the members of the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways were also directors, or the presidents or managers of some important industrial enterprises, the business of which related to what in the nature of supplies, equipment or insurance, might be required by the government railways and merchant marine, and that some of these gentlemen were directors of a considerable number of such companies.

Those Nova Scotia Contracts. "If you look at the printed report of the committee on Canadian National Railways and shipping, you will see that, with respect to equipment ordered for 1919, 1920 and 1921, contracts for cars to the amount of nearly \$12,000,000 were given to one company in Nova Scotia, and contracts for locomotives to the amount of nearly \$8,000,000 to one company here in Ontario. Reference to the list of the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways discloses that one of the directors is a director of the Nova Scotia company to which I have referred and that another of the directors is a director of the Ontario company to which I have referred."

"Let me make my position perfectly clear. I am making no charges against the company concerned. I am merely pointing out that the directors of the company are not to be considered as representing either directly or indirectly, upon the integrity of any of the directors concerned. It is a government that is in the process of with, and the manner in which it has been conducting the public business of this country.

Combination of Autocrats. "I venture to express the opinion that our country's affairs are not being conducted in the manner in which Canada through their duly elected representatives in accordance with any true theory of responsible government that I have referred to in the course of my speech. In the breaking of that combination and a full return to constitutional government, the people of this country are entitled to expect that public administration, lies the first necessary step in the solution of the railway or any other problem with which Canada is faced at the present time."

There are some evils in the curing of which publicity is more effective than penalty. The evils of waste, of extravagance, of fraud, of graft, in the use of public money, belong to this class. With respect to all public expenditures, the Liberal party demands not only rigid control and accountability, but demands also the fullest publicity.

A Tariff Necessary. "Mr. Meighen is very aggressive in his attitude towards all who do not express their views on the tariff in language which he deems to be respectful. He addressed after he became prime minister, he spoke of those who did not see eye to eye with him as Bolsheviks and that he would divide the citizens of the dominion into two categories of the sane and the demented, but he failed to mention those who viewed the tariff as he did, being, of course, in the protectionist and in the free trader or free-trader, in the free trade or demented category."

"Mr. Meighen knows very well that, no matter what views men and women hold on the tariff, it is the duty of the government of free trade and protection, no government charged with the duty of administering the nation's affairs would find the abolition of all tariffs under existing conditions either wise, patriotic or possible. No, the prime minister's purpose was and is to make the issue one of extremes in the hope that the course that avoids extremes may be overlooked altogether."

"It is not going too far to say that in the attitude he has adopted with respect to the right of parliament to information on certain classes of public expenditure, Mr. Meighen has taken a position wholly subversive of the doctrine of responsible government. When the expenditure of public money is necessitated by or arising out of the war, there has, in recent years, been nothing comparable in public expenditure with the amounts paid out on account of the national railways and the government merchant marine."

"The amount voted by parliament at the last session on account of railways and canals, came to somewhere in the vicinity of \$165,000,000 and notwithstanding that at the end of this year the country will still have to face, on railways accounts, a deficit of \$10,000,000. Seventy million dollars has been spent or appropriated for the construction of a government merchant marine."

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Mr. King Does Not Dictate. "I believe that my fellow members who without exception have so loyally supported me in the house of commons during the two years and more to which I have been privileged to serve as the leader of the party will bear me out when I say that in matters of policy I have never attempted to dominate or dictate; that I have not only been willing but an ready to accept counsel and advice."

"There need be no mistaking the position of the Liberal party as respects the tariff. It regards the tariff, not as an end in itself, but as a means to an end. That end, according to Liberal policy, is threefold, and is to be effected not by abolition of the tariff but by its revision. (1) Its revision for purposes of revenue; such revisions as are required to give greater effectiveness to the tariff as one of the means of raising the revenues necessary to carry on the government of the country.

(2) Its revision for purposes of increase of production. This to be accomplished by facilitating more extended development of the industries based on the great natural resources of our country—agriculture, mining, lumbering and fishing—by making the necessary instruments and implements of production available where possible at lessened cost.

(3) Its revision for purposes of decreases of the cost of living. This to be accomplished through rendering possible increased production in the manner already described, and by making certain of the necessities of life available to the people at lessened cost.

Tariff for Revenue. "In other words the Liberal policy is that of a tariff for revenue, in the interests of producers and consumers; not a tariff in the interests of combines, monopolies, trusts, and mergers such as a tariff based primarily on the principle of protection is all but certain to be."

"The Liberal party advocates a revision of the tariff in the manner in which I have described, not in the name or for the exclusive benefit of any one class in our country but as being in the interests of all classes; in the interests of the rural communities; in the interests of employers not less than in the interests of employees; in the interests of the Canadian East not less than in the interests of the Canadian West; in the interests of trade and commerce as much as in the interests of manufacture and agriculture."

The Liberal leader described existing political conditions in this country as a struggle between the Conservative forces seeking to retain rights and privileges of the favored few and the Liberal forces born of the aspirations for a wider freedom and argued that the forces of progress and freedom united in the face of the common enemy.

"There are some opposed to the present administration who would say, let us each run our own game and let us join never again in that way. We cannot afford to experiment further with combinations and conditions and unions in matters of government. We have before us the very spectacle that should shicken us once and for all of coalitions."

Senate Appointment. He referred to the appointment of Liberal Unionists and Conservative Unionists to the Senate, the cabinet and other government positions. "It is nothing but a disgusting and degrading reversion to the past. It is a compromise of principle which has been so compromised by its ill-considered following that it could be held together only by the promise of life positions to the greater portion of its more active members. Was it not the Tory leader Wolpole who said that 'every man has his price'? It would almost seem that we had a young Wolpole at the head of affairs in Canada today. No wonder why there has been little or no constructive legislation since the war. There is the answer."

"I believe the people of Canada have had enough of coalitions; they want an end to coalitions. They want a government of one mind and of one purpose; not a group or class government as some are advocating, nor another attempt at government by so-called Liberals and Conservatives as some of our Tory friends in their despair are already suggesting."

"They want a government that will give stability; they want a government that will make for unity. That is only possible in a government which is broadly representative of all parts and classes in the country and which has the undivided support of men of like thought and feeling as respects the principles and policy that are to be made to prevail. It was a government of that character which the Liberal party gave to Canada in 1896. It is a government of that character which the Liberal party is prepared again to give."

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Mr. Fielding Sees Defeat of Meighen

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Toronto, Sept. 20—"It's good to be here," said Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance in the Laurier government, at the West Toronto Liberal meeting tonight, "it's a long time since I've been in a real old-fashioned political meeting like this."

"We believe that the party system is the best that civilization has developed in the matters of government," he said, "in spite of the tendency to break party ties."

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Watch Them Smile. When you bring in a Pure Gold Pudding. From Dad to little Jimmy they just love these dainty desserts. And no wonder. They're so pure and delicious. And they're so easy for you to prepare. When you're delayed coming home—aren't tired and in a hurry—they are the ideal dessert to have in the house. No trouble—no fuss—a tempting, wholesome dainty dessert ready in a few minutes. Try a combination of chocolate pudding and nuts or coconut. It's simply delicious. Order a selection from your grocer. Tapioca, custard and chocolate, 15c a package. Pure Gold Desserts QUICK PUDDINGS Pure Gold Mfg. Co., Limited, Toronto