

administration of Mr. Bureau, to the full knowledge of Mr. King, and continued in the face of repeated protests by large numbers of the Canadian population.

"Mr. Meighen went on to say that, in order to evade the issue of the Customs scandals, Mr. Mackenzie King had sought to divert attention by seeking to convince the people that a great constitutional issue had arisen, when, as a matter of fact, there was no constitutional issue." He promised that his government would reform not only the Customs, but all branches of the Civil Service. He proposed to lay the basis of an immigration policy "and that basis shall be first of all employment for the people of Canada." He proposed further to extend to Maritime and Western provinces the coal markets of Central Canada, and to provide encouragement for co-operative marketing of agricultural produce.

Mr. King in his election campaign justified his action in holding office (following the 1925 election) till Parliament had had an opportunity of deciding between himself and Mr. Meighen as to which should be Premier of Canada. He declared that the support given the Liberal Party by the Progressives and others was not a matter of bargain and barter, it was "a matter of honest co-operation with respect to a known programme of legislation arrived at in the open and openly avowed by all the parties concerned."

"He added that 'the moment the relations between the parties concerned ceased to have that open and above-board character and it became apparent that to serve party political ends certain individuals were lending themselves to intrigue,' he had advised His Excellency to grant a dissolution. Mr. King presented the Robb Budget, the treaty with the West Indies, the Old Age Pensions bill, the Rural Credits bill, the Grain Act amendments, and the appointment of a Maritime Rights Commission as prominent parts of the record of his Government upon which he appealed to the people.

"The Liberal leader denied that he had sought a dissolution in order to avoid a vote of censure against his Administration. He maintained that the amendment to the Customs Committee Report moved by Hon. H.H. Stevens had not constituted a vote of censure and that, further, he had obtained assurances of sufficient support to insure the defeat of that motion if His Excellency had granted him a dissolution and he had remained in office. . . . "

Pages 28-48 of this chapter cover the activities of the Progressives; Mr. Meighen's effort to obtain Quebec support; Magazine of Wall Street article, July 31, 1926, re Canada's relations with the U.K.; the Constitutional Issue (pp. 31-34); the Robb Budget and Tariff; the Customs Inquiry; "Maritime Rights"; the Western Provinces; the Farmers' Movement; Labour; etc.

Press comments on the Election are given on pages 53-56.