

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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Party, our late friend, Mr. Hartley Dewart. It is difficult to realize that one so alert and active, so full of life and energy as Mr. Dewart at all times was should have been taken away from us forever. We do not forget his many splendid qualities of leadership. To his efforts more than any other single cause was due the defeat of the former Tory Administration in this Province. As a platform speaker and debater he had few equals among the men in public life in Canada. His loss has been keenly felt on all sides. In the annals of Liberalism in this Province and in our country, his name and memory will always hold an honoured place.

Reference to Mr. Hal. McGiverin.

I should like to express the pleasure it affords me to have with me on this platform to-day my friend and fellow-member of the House of Commons, Mr. Hal. McGiverin. Mr. McGiverin has taken a very active part in Federal politics. Prior to 1917 he had been for many years one of the representatives in our Parliament for the City of Ottawa. In the representation of the city, and in his defeat in 1917, he was the associate of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose close and trusted friend he at all times was. Mr. McGiverin's Chairmanship of the Special Committee of the House of Commons, to which was referred the Bill for the Incorporation of the United Church of Canada was an outstanding feature of the recent session. His resourcefulness, his impartiality and his fine taste and judgment won him the complete confidence and admiration of all the parties to that great controversy. Few men have enjoyed greater popularity among their fellow-members in the House of Commons than Mr. McGiverin. If I am not mistaken it is a popularity which is already nation-wide for wherever Mr. McGiverin goes he wins friends for himself and the cause he represents.

An Historic Occasion—The Inauguration of the New Constituency of North York.

I referred a moment ago to this being a memorable occasion. Memorable indeed it will ever be in many respects. In one particular, however, it will ever mark a moment of historic interest. It is, so to speak, the inauguration of the new constituency of North York, a constituency that possesses traditions and associations which it would be difficult to equal, and which certainly cannot be surpassed in the history of Liberalism in Canada. North York has not infrequently been referred to as the "cradle of reform." It was here, if anywhere that responsible government in Canada had its birth. With this riding in its enlarged area of representatives there is associated the names of Baldwin and Lafontaine, of William Lyon Mackenzie and Alexander Mackenzie, of Sir William Mulock and Sir Allen Aylesworth, not to mention other, less conspicuous perhaps, but equally honoured by those whom they represented in their day.

Regardless of party, the County of York has long been looked upon as the banner county of the Province, and, in the eyes of Liberals at least, North York has long been held as its banner constituency. May I again thank the electors of North York for the confidence they have reposed in me as their representative, and which enables me to speak to-day not as their representative only, but in the name of the government of our country.

The Third Session of the Fourteenth Parliament.

It is of the Government and the policies that I know you expect and desire me to speak. Having regard to the circumstances of this meeting and the time at our disposal, it would be difficult, nay impossible—to attempt more than the barest outline of the work of the administration since we assumed office in December 1921. Though we have been in power for but a little more than two and a half years we have just come through the third session of what is the fourteenth Parliament since Confederation. In

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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