

-5-

C200095

(In criticizing Meighen's speech at Portage La Prairie of the evening before) Mr. King said: "This is extreme language for one holding the position of Prime Minister". Mr. King described it to the very evident delight of the audience as "unadulterated old fashioned Toryism". He said there were such things as Conservatism and Liberalism. Conservatism he had some regard for, but when it came to talking of "Chicanery, prostitution and infidelity" it had arrived at the extreme point. Mr. Gladstone had on occasion described Liberalism as "trust in the many, qualified by prudence" and Toryism as "mistrust of the many, qualified by fear".

.....

"Dealing with a recent cynical remark which Mr. Meighen had made, Mr. King said too much importance could not be attached to it. It was with reference to the Opposition to the Government being subdivided. Mr. Meighen, declared Mr. King, was secretly rejoicing that he saw in it the one hope for the triumph of reaction in the constituencies where the forces arrayed against him were not united. There was nothing antagonistic, said Mr. King, in the attitude of the Liberals toward Farmers or Labor any more than toward any other group or class in society. The attitude was rather that of a desire for co-operation among all forces opposed to the present administration. It was not sufficient that each should feel that it was in the right. The essential of unity was as necessary to success as was the righteousness of the cause. He spoke ~~specifically~~ regarding /specially/ the attitude of the women and the Great War Veterans toward their respective platforms which seemed to be the wiser course. They did not want to share in government primarily as women or war veterans, but as citizens. They desired to make their power felt for those candidates who stood for those principles they considered essential to good government.

"It would be better in the long run for Labor and Farmers to adopt the same attitude if they wished their principles to prevail, as only by a party, comprising all classes, places, sections, creeds and occupations, as broad as the continent, would it be possible to have that kind of co-operation between members of the House of Commons which was necessary to the enactment of legislation desired. As an historic party with its traditions of the past and its aspirations for the future, the Liberal Party could be relied upon to give to all classes a fair and square deal, but it needed the support of all to ensure this result, for they were in the face of an enemy which was in possession of the government of the country, of the patronage, of the electoral machinery and of powerful influences of wealth and privilege."

(Continued)