

LONDON BACKS HIGH LABOR-LIBERAL CANDIDATE TO LIMIT

UNIVERSAL SUPPORT ACCORDED GIBBONS IN FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IS SHOWN BY DEMONSTRATION IN MASONIC HALL, FRIDAY

Labor Speakers Show Up Weakness of Borden Policies, Joke Administration of Food Control and Attempts To Lead the People To Serve "Big Interests," Before a Crowd Which Overflows Big Building, and participates in the Greatest Demonstration for People's Rights Ever Seen in London.

London is strong for Gibbons. If there ever was so much as a vestige of a doubt about it, it was effectively, absolutely and undeniably dispelled last night at the Masonic Hall when the thinking men and women of this city, Liberals, Conservatives, Laborites and people of every political leaning, united in the greatest public demonstration of the love of fair play and the principles of democracy that has ever taken place in this city. The Labor leaders of Ontario and of Canada who were present were shown beyond a doubt where London workmen stand in the coming election.

Nothing like it has been seen here and mere words fail hopelessly to describe the enthusiasm with which the representatives of Labor and Liberalism were received. Wave upon wave of cheers swept forth from the huge crowd that filled the spacious auditorium and galleries and thronged the aisles almost to the platform, until they broke forth into a veritable storm of applause, that at times prevented the speakers temporarily from continuing.

Were Filled Early. The hall and the galleries were filled early in the evening, and it was not long before standing room was out of the question, the people who arrived late were unable to gain admittance. The audience was a most representative one, men and women, soldiers and civilians, all joined in the greatest demonstration ever given by the citizens of London that democracy is alive with a fire, a spirit and an enthusiasm that will sweep all before it.

George S. Gibbons, Liberal-Labor candidate, John Kennedy, organizer of the sheet metal workers, and J. H. Collier, W. Palmer, A. Squid, William Strickland, W. Costello, Warm Reception.

John Cottom received a warm reception when having been granted the privilege of speaking for a few minutes, he questioned the pledges of Mr. Gibbons regarding his support of the principles of the Liberal-Labor candidate, Mr. Cottom stated that there was no reason why in order to support those principles, those present should surrender the Union Government support. Moreover, hundreds of voters will be transferred from the ranks of supporters of the Union Government to those of the Liberal-Labor candidate, if Mr. Cottom keeps his word for he promised to do so.

Replying to Mr. Cottom regarding the Union Government and public ownership, Mr. Watters, Mr. Mackenzie and Mann as "two of the most infamous scoundrels in Canada."

Has the Proof. "I have got the proof, and I challenge them to take action," he declared, "I told Mr. Arthur Meighen that Mackenzie and Mann were two of the most infamous scoundrels in Canada, and when he said that they might be a lion against me, I told him that I challenged them to do so."

By a person that knows it now, thousands would then know it, he said, "and they do not dare to take action against me."

"They are the two confirmed scoundrels that control the Government and are behind the Government," said Sir Clifford Sifton, Sir Thomas White, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and those who say, "You say you've got the Government."

And if this is the ring that is responsible for the policy of the Government, it is the most damnable thing that has ever been presented to the voters of Canada.

The Union Government has paid them a few millions already, and now he more to follow. That's what Sir Thomas White is for, and that's what Borden is for, and that's what Talk about your patriotism. It's Mackenzie and Mann."

Answers Charge. Answering the charge made by J. O'Loughlin, an alleged Labor man, that he stood alone among the Labor leaders of Canada, Great Britain and the United States, and that he did not represent the attitude of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, he said that it was passing strange that in spite of all the vilification, the Labor representatives had persisted for the past seven years in electing him an unanimous vote to the presidency of the Dominion Congress. Speaking for the mass, he said that he believed that the great vote of organized labor would be cast against the so-called Union Government.

Borden's Dilemma. The prime minister had also stated during his visit here that he had never deceived organized labor, but he repeated the charge that he had either deceived organized labor or he had betrayed the nation. "And he can sit on either of the horns of the dilemma he wishes," he added, amid cheers.

Borden had repeatedly assured them that he would not resort to conscription unless as a last resort, and if such conditions arose, he would consider it his duty to consult the labor representatives.

He did not consult them, and when he adopted conscription he thereby implied that it was as a last resort to save the nation. If the nation was not in danger, he deceived the labor man, and if it was, then he was betraying it, because he was not taking every measure he could to save it, by consulting the whole power of the nation to the task of winning the war. This he had not done.

"If he is not doing so, I charge that he is betraying the nation, and the boys at the front," he declared. (Cheers and applause.)

Want To Be Shown. "We said if conscription is necessary, we do not object, but first demonstrate it by conscripting the lesser thing. They did not. They took the man by the back of the neck, and refused to put their hands on that sacred thing, wealth."

Opposed to Union. "I have no apologies to make for my appearance on this platform," said John Kennedy, of Toronto, the first speaker of the evening. "I am opposed to this so-called Union Government, (loud applause and cries of "Heart Heart") and I have very good reasons for my opposition to that Government. My principal reason is not because it is a Union Government, not because in its entirety it is not composed of good men, but because I do not believe the men who constitute the union are sincere."

Continuing the speaker said that it was not until Sir Robert and the cabinet that controlled him had brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy that they had seen fit to form a Union Government. "If he were sincere would he have waited until now?" asked Mr. Kennedy. He pointed out that the cabinet decided conscription was necessary, and that it did not consult the Opposition, but merely submitted the proposition, and asked the Opposition to support it. There was a good reason, he said, why some members of that body should refuse coalition with men who at that time held cabinet positions.

Professional Politicians. Declaring that in the present cabinet there was nothing but professional politicians, he said that they were promising more laborers would be called after the election. Why had they not been called before, he asked, if the union was really sincere?

The premier didn't see fit to do that," said Mr. Kennedy. "Why? Because he couldn't. He doesn't. The prime minister today is only a tool in the hands of the financial interests of Canada. They are not all represented in the cabinet. Sir Edward Kemp is. He is the head of the Maceionians in Toronto, and president of the United Sheet Metal Products Company which controls that trade in

dent of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, shared the honor of the evening, and in unmistakable terms outlined the only course that lies open to the intelligent voters if they would avoid supporting the so-called Union Government, backed up as it is by the profiteers and the great financial interests, who propose to rich the citizens of the country under the guise of winning the war.

Mayor H. A. Stevenson acted capably as chairman, supporting the principles of the Labor-Labor candidate, and urging all to use their best efforts to further the cause.

Strongly Represented. It was a Labor meeting, and Labor was out with a strong representation. The Labor-Labor candidate, Mr. Gibbons, the presidents and secretaries of every trade union and labor organization in the city, and a strong contrast to the men who occupied the platform of an alleged "Labor" meeting held under the auspices of the Union Government party about a week ago, the men on the platform in support of Mr. Gibbons were actually representatives of bona fide organized trades unions.

Among those on the platform were: F. Powell, A. Skinner, H. Westcott, R. Hessel, H. Pearce, J. Cummings, F. Peeney, C. Scovine, W. Bennett, G. Jackson, R. Ingles, D. Wright, J. Dean, J. Buchanan, J. Maudeley, J. Graham, J. B. Secker, A. Remford, W. Mattash, J. Burke, Joe Hill, G. Thompson, G. Ave, W. Thurston, H. Collier, W. Palmer, A. Squid, William Strickland, W. Costello, Warm Reception.

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are not truly representative of the Canadian working elements. The Union Government has within the past month made efforts to coerce the laboring people with promises of representation of labor after the election. Premier Borden promises labor all sorts of good things after the election, but he is not fulfilling his pledges. For three years the premier had opportunity to bring intellectual labor into the cabinet. He instead of putting competent men who know the wishes of the people into his cabinet, has given fat positions to his millionaire friends, who have done no work for the labor element on all occasions.

Want Wealth Too. The labor representatives of the Dominion objected to conscription of men power without conscription of resources. Mr. Stevenson said, "How often when the compulsory service bill passed we decided to back it up with our might and influence. Labor is represented on the Western front by eighty per cent of the Canadian overseas forces and naturally labor's representatives are in favor of doing anything to help it. We are in favor of the conscription generally speaking, but we are brought up by a government who are using it not for the benefit of the boys at the front, but for the furthering of their own selfish ends in their return to power. Let me tell you that the so-called Union Government brought up the conscription issue not that the boys at the front may be benefited, but that Borden and his colleagues may be returned to power by playing upon the better impulses of the tolerant people of Canada."

Not a Labor Man. "Because John O'Donohue was appointed once in his career as the solicitor of the trades and labor council, it must not be thought that his utterances of a labor man. John O'Donohue is a traitor to labor and to the cause of the workers. He is a man who was one of the finest men in the Dominion. Let me tell you that the two 'patriotic' men who have abused word just now in the vocabulary of the opponents of union government, Mr. Cottom and Mr. O'Donohue, are the two men who are the most responsible for the present situation of the laboring people."

Flavelle's Profits. "Borden is calling upon you to turn him to power for the sake of patriotism. If Borden was a patriot in the true sense of the word himself, he would not have used conscription as a political issue. He would have taken the profits of Flavelle and his crowd and devoted them for patriotic purposes. He would have brought conscription into force long before the time. He would have amended the pensioning system, by which the major and colonel of an overseas battalion would receive \$2,000 per year pension, while the private soldier gets a meagre \$200. The labor man is the best friend of the returned soldier, because he has suffered with the soldier boys and realizes the extent of their grievances."

"What has the Union Government done for the labor man?" Mr. Stevenson asked.

"Not a thing," shouted members of the audience.

"What has Labor done for the country and the winning of the war? Everything," Mr. Stevenson continued. "It is the labor element who have responded to the call of the country to purchase Victory Bonds, not the big government financiers. Some people are wont to call this government a Union Government, but I call it a rat Government. The flagrant acts it has perpetrated are too many to be recorded fully tonight, but one of them is the appointing of unscrupulous speculators for the forthcoming election."

25,000 Omitted. In Toronto over twenty-five thousand were omitted from the list of the Government enumerators, and as a result over twenty-five thousand appeals must be heard in the city this week. I myself, who have been on the list of electors for 25 years, was omitted from this year. I may not be allowed to vote, but I am going to use what influence I have to make my friends vote the right way. I am going to make the biggest fight to get my name on the voters' list that I ever made. The Union Government is appealing to the women of Canada to turn the tide of opinion in their favor. They say that the women of the Dominion have the power to return them to power. I hope, and am sure that the women of Canada, and more particularly the women of London, will not be instrumental in sending back a government, the acts of which, for three years, have stunk in the nostrils of every patriotic, red-blooded Canadian."

ECHOES FROM LAST NIGHT'S WONDERFUL LABOR MEETING. "Nothing could be madder than to interfere with private enterprise," was the answer of the Government through its mouthpiece, the minister of railways, when the Dominion Labor Congress executive urged the use of the Government ships to reduce the cost of shells from \$5.15 to \$1.40 each.

"Nothing could be madder than to support your boys who went to the front by interfering with private enterprise—that is the basis on which the war has been waged, and is still being waged by the Union Government," declared James C. Watters.

"Cut out the profit and the boys could die in the trenches, for if there was a fraction of one per cent more profit in the manufacture of ornaments our boys would be supplied with ornaments instead of shells," Mr. Watters said to Sir Joseph Flavelle.

"Divert the stream of profits that is going to make millionaires, and you could pay the men at the front \$10 a day. But the Government says that it must continue to make millionaires," declared Mr. Watters.

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"No member of the Gibbons family ever quit under fire, and I'm not going to quit. I'm in this to the finish, and I'm going to stick and fight."

The misrepresentation of organized labor being made in the press was ably denounced by R. H. Hessel, of the London Trades and Labor Council, who urged men of all parties to unite on the common cause of labor.

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When Mr. Cottom sat down Mr. Watters rose to his feet, but he couldn't speak. The cheers that swept over him prevented him from doing so, just to show where the feelings of the crowd lay somebody shouted, "Three cheers for George S. Gibbons, and then they were given with a vengeance."

Then Mr. Watters spoke. He said, "There's nothing to answer," and he was again cheered. He then showed how much the Union Stevenson, those the chairman, Mayor Stevenson. Those present didn't take kindly to hearing the ability of the labor candidate to obtain the reforms he advocated brought into question.

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