

Halifax Herald

Aug. 17/23

065189

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND OF DECEIT

Mr. Meighen's Powerful
Arraignment of Record
Of King Administration.

VACILLATION AND FAILURE

Conservative Leader Looks
With Confidence Toward
Next Election.

CHARLOTTETOWN, Aug. 9.—
The Liberal-Conservative Party
though led to defeat in 1921 was
not led to dishonor, said Rt. Hon.
Arthur Meighen, addressing an open
air meeting at the Victoria Park
this afternoon.

"As our policies were sound and
consistently advocated, as our ad-
ministration was efficient and clean,
the defeat was not a disaster but
the beginning of the upward march
to power in a not distant time,"
he continued. "Because our fiscal,
railroad, and financial policies were
sound, they have been imitated with
skill by those who succeeded us in
office. It is no longer necessary on
the floors of Parliament to defend
a protective tariff, because the
Liberals have continued it."

The ex-Premier then proceeded
to vigorously denounce the Liber-
als for what he termed their in-
consistency in following an op-
posite course with regard to that
which they had advocated in Par-
liament when in opposition, and
in their convention of 1919.

"I get more amusement listen-
ing to the Progressives quote the
resolutions of Mr. Fielding with re-
gard to lowering of the tariff than
I get out of anything else," said
Mr. Meighen. "The Progressives
really mean it. They think the
Liberals really meant it when they
promised to have free foodstuffs,
free cement, free fertilizer and
other commodities."

THE Liberals, he continued, ad-
vocated in opposition a tariff
policy which they now scout and
deride, because they wanted to
gather into their camp the inno-
cent voters of the three prairie
provinces and Western Canada and
a few isolated districts in Eastern
Canada. The Liberals had prom-
ised to make the necessities of life
cheaper for the masses and to put
a higher tariff on luxuries. It was
true they took two and a half per
cent. duty off farming implements,
but they had made them dearer
to the consumer by adding three
per cent. sales tax. They took two
and a half per cent. off woollen
textiles imported from Great Brit-
ain, with the result that whilst
British imports increased fifty per
cent. in one year, about fifty of the
Canadian manufacturers produced
one-third less and hundreds of
Canadian employees left this coun-
try for the United States. Outsiders
were given the advantage,
whilst our own people did not get
their goods any cheaper.

Mr. Meighen then dealt at length
with the French treaty, satirically
remarking that as a consequence
the poor man or woman is able to
get cheaper fancy embroidery, laces,
French wines, cognac, brandy, vel-
vets and champagnes. The duties
on these are now on a lower level
than the duties on the necessities
of life.

MESSRS. FIELDING and La-
pointe were in no hurry in
negotiating the treaty, they spent
five months in beautiful Paris.
France has a high tariff, Canada a
low tariff, even Mr. Fielding ad-
mitted that. Mr. Fielding was tied
hand and foot by his own resolu-
tions and convention platform. He
had not the nerve to go higher,
but the 19 classes of goods he
promised to make free he did not
make free. The French people
knew this. They knew he dared
not increase the duties, because up
would go their's higher still. The
result of the negotiations was, in
the main, a lower tariff on what
France sells us and a higher tariff
on what we sell them.

The tariff on condensed milk,
canned salmon, etc., was made half
as high again, destroying our trade
on these articles, while the duties
on luxuries were lowered. "This
is the first result," said Mr.
Meighen, "of the Liberals' dis-
honest campaign and dishonest
policy, and you people are paying
for it today. Mr. Fielding filled
page after page of the treaty with
unknown drugs of unpronounceable
names upon which the duties were
lowered, but meats, dairy produce,

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 112)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA