

The Herald Mackenzie King's Speech

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Sense Versus Nonsense.

The splendid success of the ministerial by-elections in St. John and Colchester so dazed those Opposition newspapers, whose only policy is antagonism to the Government, that it took them several days to recover their breath. Then they began to make excuses and to attribute the Government successes to every kind of imaginary cause. "Wait," say they "until dwellers in the cities, as well as producers on the land, realize their position. Surely all will admit that such stuff as this, is altogether too nonsensical and chimerical to be gavelly entertained by any seriously minded person. In direct contrast to this nebulous nonsense is the sound common-sense declarations of the Hamilton Spectator, which in its comments on the bye-elections, has this among other things, to say: "The results of the bye-elections in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are significant of much. Liberal and United Farmer sympathizers are endeavoring, with ill-disguised chagrin, to make light of the victories professing entire satisfaction with the outcome, which they claim was a foregone conclusion, and even attempting to assume an air of jubilation over the miserable figure which they cut. There can be no question about it, the Government has received such a decisive endorsement of its policies in these two constituencies, as to justify the assumption that the political barometer is rising rapidly in its favor. Premier Meighen has tried the experiment of candor, courage, and straightforwardness, and it has succeeded, as it must always succeed when the policies are sound. The Government is in a strong position, because it stands for national policies which have been tested by time and experience and not found wanting." Further along, in the same article, the Spectator says: "The need is felt, in these days of distracting innovations of all kinds for some stable thing to hold fast by. New theories, each clamoring for acceptance as the one and only panacea for existing ills, crop up in such profusion as to bewilder the mind. It is a good sign that the swing of public opinion is towards those things which are not theoretical, but are the well tried-out principles which have come to their maturity by the common consent and through the common experience of mankind. Class movements cannot endure for long, there is no chance whatever, under a constitutional administration, that the farmers, or labor, or capital, or any other individual interest, however powerful can permanently rule the roost. Common sense must eventually come to the surface. A Government, to endure, must be a faithful reflection of the average opinion of the country. The sweeping victories of Hon. R. W. Wignane and Hon. F. B. McCurdy are an indication that the general policies of the Dominion Government are in harmony with the sentiments of the country as a whole."

In adding the speech with which Mr. Mackenzie King opened his political tour of the West, one is aided in understanding why the Liberals abdicated to the Farmers in Colchester and why a Liberal candidate lost his deposit in St. John. The leader of an Opposition, if he desires to impress the public, must really exhibit something more than high-sounding rhetoric. He must draw up a concrete indictment of the Ministry, must be specific in regard to its sins of commission and omission, and must try to show wherein its detronement, in favor of himself and his friends would bring benefit to the country. This Mr. King conspicuously fails to do. He makes no charge against the Ministry. Although he mentions, in passing, that it has expended hundreds of millions of dollars, he does not say as much as hint that a single cent was diverted from its proper channel. The so-called Murdoch charges, he does not even mention. His only complaints are that the Government and Parliament are "unrepresentative" and that the Ministry is extravagant. Not overly serious indictments either, seeing that Parliament was elected in 1917, and has two years yet to go before it exhausts its constitutional term, and that so far as extravagance is concerned there is no parliamentary record, with one minor exception of Mr. King or his party's challenging estimates of expenditure submitted to the House.

As for Mr. King's only other important criticism, namely, that no intimation that purchase of the Grand Trunk was contemplated was given to Parliament until the matter had all been consummated, we can only hope that he has been misquoted. For the truth is as Mr. King well knows, that the intention of the Government was known to Parliament and to the Opposition for upwards of a year, and opportunity to challenge and discuss the question was afforded times without number.

In regard to the balance of Mr. King's speech there is little that needs to be said. One wonders, however, why he hearkens back to the War Time Elections Act. That act was drafted for the specific purpose of preventing Germans, Austrians, and other enemy aliens from voting to determine Canada's policy in a vital measure of war. As such it had the support of most Canadians, including hundreds of thousands of Liberals; and it is hard to imagine what Mr. King hopes to gain by insisting that in this support his old party friends as well as the majority of the nation, were promoters of a hateful, iniquitous measure.

As for Mr. King's own creed, as for what he would do in the event of his coming to power, nothing could be more vague. On the tariff, which is the real and only issue before the country, he trimmed his sails to suit the British Columbia protectionist breeze, the Free Trade flag, so dear to the heart of Mr. Mc-Master, being hauled down. Talk about the Liberal platform being identical with that of the Farmers' was hushed, and instead Mr. King emphasized how a tariff was necessary to take care of the commitments of the country. Taken all in all, the Opposition leader's speech was not a very impressive one. Reading it, Mr. Meighen may well exclaim with a famous British monarch: "They will never cut off my head to make you King."—Ottawa Journal.

Toronto advices of October 1st say: Strong northerly gales during the night, followed by a heavy snowfall this morning, gave this part of the Dominion an early taste of wintry weather. The temperature is quite low and the prospects are for a continuance of the same weather throughout the day.

Plain Public Speech

Among other illustrations of Mr. Meighen's habit of speaking plainly and fearlessly is to be noted his reference in his speech in the Eastern Townships, Quebec, last week to the subject of conscription. Conscription is not a present issue, and many a careful man would have avoided any mention of the subject had he been in Mr. Meighen's place in the province of Quebec. On Mr. Meighen's part there was neither silence nor beating about the bush. He said frankly that he had advocated compulsory military service when the issue came up during the war, and that under the circumstances he would do it again.

Mr. Meighen is presenting the spectacle of an able and resolute man who is honest with the people on all public subjects. He has not been avoiding any point on which his views past or current may be unpopular in any particular place or with any particular portion of the people. Railway nationalization, especially the taking over of the Grand Trunk Railway, was apparently intensely disliked by the great business community of Montreal. Mr. Meighen in Montreal a few days ago proclaimed himself to have been in favor of that step, and to have taken a vigorous part in putting the measure through Parliament.

Similarly in his speeches in western constituencies, where the tariff is supposed to be anathema to most, Mr. Meighen has talked straight from the shoulder for maintenance of the principle of the N. P.

It is a good thing for public life, and a good thing for Canada, to have the leader of a great party courageous and outspoken on public questions, no matter what the ultimate political fate of his party or himself may be.

Industries Of The West.

The development of industry other than agriculture in the Canadian west in recent years is strikingly set forth in a despatch dated Calgary from a staff correspondent of the Montreal Gazette:

In the principal cities of the three prairie provinces there were, two years ago, 1,600 manufacturing establishments, employing five persons or over. These were distributed as follows: Winnipeg, 745; Brandon, 64; Regina, 116; Saskatoon, 119; Moose Jaw, 69; Edmonton, 207; Calgary, 229, and Medicine Hat, 57, with a capital of \$164,278,487, employing 35,562 persons, and producing annually goods valued at \$232,497,626. Here is industrial production of the prairie equal at least in the same years to fifty per cent of the value of the prairie wheat crop. All these industries were founded under protection and exist in many instances by protection, and the unanimous demand is a continuance of that protection as essential to their existence and prosperity.

It is essential for national prosperity and national success that Canada's development should be on general lines, and no one viewing the situation without prejudice can concede that agriculture should be advanced at the expense of other industries. In past years Canada's farmers have realized this fact and have refused to be led astray by theorists who closed their eyes to facts. The creation of industrial centres scattered from coast to coast has been, and must continue to be, a stimulus to mixed and intensive farming through the establishment and maintenance of local markets. The United Farmers and similar organizations of farmers have made a lot of headway in the past five years under the influence of a few active faddists because men in other classes of industry have been too busy at more important things to present the case as a whole. The wise ones confidently believe, however, that the tariff views of even the United Farmers are due for a change, now that the subject is one for active and full discussion.

According to Amsterdam advices of the 1st inst., Chinese wheat, for the first time, now is reaching European markets in competition with wheat from Canada and the United States. According to the Telegram of the Dutch Government, as well as private buyers, are negotiating for the purchase of the Chinese grain, the quality of which is good but not equal to the best Canadian grades.

Mr. W. W. Sullivan

Sir Wilfred W. Sullivan, late Chief Justice of this Province, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. McManus, at Memramook, N. B., on Thursday, Sept. 30th. His remains, accompanied by his two sons, arrived at Charlottetown Friday evening. The casket containing the remains was borne to the Cathedral, where it remained for the night. Saturday the remains were conveyed to the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly, where they lay until Sunday afternoon, when the funeral took place. At 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon the funeral cortege moved from the Legislative Building to the Cathedral. There was a very large attendance at the funeral. The honorary pallbearers were:

- His Honor Lieut. Governor McKinnon.
His Lordship Chief Justice Mathieson.
Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.
Mr. Justice Hazard.
Hon. J. H. Bell, Premier.
Hon. J. J. Johnston, Attorney General.

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS.

- Mr. D. O'M. Reddin.
Mr. C. H. B. Longworth.
Dr. S. R. Jenkins.
Major A. A. Bartlett.
Mr. Gilbert Gaudet.
Mr. C. R. Smallwood.

CHIEF MOURNERS.

- Colonel Arthur Sullivan.
Colonel Cleaver Sullivan.
Mr. Arthur Newbery.
Mr. George D. DeBlois.

The members of the Law Society attended in a body.

His Grace, Archbishop O'Leary, officiated at the solemn funeral obsequies, assisted and surrounded by the Cathedral clergy, the Rector of St. Dunstan's University and other priests. After the Libera and the absolution, the casket was re-conveyed to the hearse, and the funeral procession reformed and proceeded to the cemetery on St. Peter's Road. The services at the grave were conducted by Rev. Maurice McDonald, R. I. P.

Prince of Wales College

A most extraordinary condition of things occurred in connection with educational operations of our Province on Friday last, when the Principal and seven associate professors and teachers of the Prince of Wales College tendered their resignations, in a body, to the Government, with the request that these resignations be accepted. The ground for this very unusual occurrence, according to the teachers, is the failure of the Government to entertain a request for increased salaries. The teachers set forth that they, in June last, notified the Government that they would not continue beyond the then current academic year at the salaries then paid. They requested an increase of one-third additional to the salaries they had been receiving. They now claim the Government had been more than once reminded of their demand, but that no reply had been given them, nor had any notice been taken of their request, so far as they knew. As a consequence, when they received the cheques for their September salaries and found them at the same rate as they had been receiving up to that date, they concluded that nothing remained for them but to hand in their resignations. Coming just at the opening of the College year, this is, to say the least, a rather awkward situation. Yesterday was the day announced for the opening of the Prince of Wales College, and a large number of students were on hand ready to attend. Principal Robertson addressed the assembled students at length, explaining to them what had taken place, as above set forth. Mr. Rogers, the new Superintendent of Education followed. He stated that as he had only been appointed very recently, he was not aware of the trouble between the Government and the teachers. Had he known, he said, he would have tried to have matters adjusted. He closed by stating that the College would be closed until the 19th inst., by which time he hoped some arrangement would be effected.

Mr. Drury's Charge

Mr. Drury has inveighed a charge in order to have the pleasure of refuting it," said Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, Prime Minister, last night, when his attention was directed to a despatch from Oshawa in which Hon. E. C. Drury, Premier of Ontario, is quoted as having represented a charge alleged to have been made by Mr. Meighen that the farmers and labor were Bolshevists. In connection with Mr. Drury's remarks, Mr. Meighen said:

"Not only were the words attributed to me not made, but no person could draw any such inference from what I did say. My words in Sherbrooke were precisely as follows: 'A new party has arisen in Canada, best described as a farmers' free trade party. It took its birth in the western provinces, and for some 12 years or more it has been gaining strength. It has adopted the old Liberal free trade policy of 1893. It has issued a platform. It demands to be placed in power in Canada. It has gathered under its banner and trails behind it every class of theorists and malcontents, and today, beyond all doubt, it constitutes the most numerous and strongest organization opposed to the present Government.' 'Indeed,' Mr. Meighen further remarked, 'indeed at other points I plainly stated that the Farmers were not in any sense inimical to responsible Government but un-

fortunately had aligned with them in the sense that they were ready to challenge the correctness of this statement he should first make inquiry as what took place in recent bye-elections in Temiskaming and Colchester."

Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, issued the following rejoinder to Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Leader of the Opposition: "In regard to Hon. Mackenzie King's further remarking; I can only confirm my previous statements that every dollar received the approval of Parliament for the Government shipbuilding programme. With regard to what Mr. King read from Hansard at his Vancouver meeting, this had reference to the manner in which the contracts were placed and had no reference whatever to the Parliamentary appropriation. Every contract is finally set by Order in Council but only after authorization is obtained from Parliament just as was done in this case. I differed with Mr. King on the floor of the House in regard to the manner in which the contracts were placed. The Government placed the contracts in a thorough business manner and in the best public interest."

Fines aggregating \$600 were imposed in the Police Court, Ottawa, on last Thursday by deputy magistrate Kidd, upon three prominent local physicians who were either found guilty of entered plea to this effect, having made false returns to the Department in connection with their income tax.

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