

WORKINGMEN ENDORSE THE GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page One)

was made by Travis Barker, who gave a glowing eulogy of the Rutherford government, who had proved themselves the friends of the people in all their legislation, of their heads three and a half years. Mr. Barker made an eloquent plea for the working men of the city to support the administration by giving their enthusiastic assistance to the Hon. Mr. Cross and John A. McDougall.

The Attorney-General. Mr. Cross on rising to face the audience was greeted with prolonged cheers and the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."
"Mr. President of the Trades and Labor Council, and members of the various labor unions in the city of Edmonton," said Mr. Cross, "affords me a great deal of pleasure to be present tonight and to speak of some of the legislation of the Rutherford government which is of especial interest to you."

"Tonight, in this city and not very far away from this hall is gathered together a body of twenty or thirty men who represent organized capital in this part of the Province and who are now endeavoring to devise means to defeat me in this campaign. Tonight I want to speak to you and tell you why this organization is using every effort to drive me from political life."

"All over the province of Alberta, and I have traveled over a great part of it in the past few weeks, in the factories, in the mines, on the railways, in every workshop are men gathered, together discussing the Workmen's Compensation Act. And these employees are asking themselves, 'Why organized capital, why these men who represent the employers of the country, are coming to the government and holding the pistol to their heads in order to secure a repeal of this legislation?'"

"I want first to explain why I introduced and why the government passed this legislation, and why I intend to stand by the Workmen's Compensation Act until it is defeated at the polls."

"What is this Workmen's Compensation Act? I always prefer to call it the Workmen's Insurance Act, because it gives insurance to every workman in the province, because it gives protection to the wives and children of the workmen of this province. It gives protection to the lives and limbs of every workman engaged in every mine, factory or workshop of Alberta. It represents advanced labor legislation in its highest form."

"It cannot understand the criticism of the people who condemn the Workmen's Compensation Act by saying that it is labor legislation. Of course labor legislation does not mean advanced kind passed for the benefit of the workman."

Why the Act Was Passed.
"Mr. Cross related the incidents that led up to the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act. He said that in 1917, a coal miner was killed by a falling piece of coal in all parts of the province and capital and labor were engaged in a disastrous strike. The Rutherford government appointed a coal commission headed by Chief Justice Sifton to make an investigation of existing conditions in the coal mines. The commission reported on the various parts of the province and they brought in a report after exhaustive investigation recommending the passing of a Workmen's Compensation Act."

"It is said in the Conservative press that the Workmen's Compensation Act has not received due consideration by the government, that it was hurriedly passed and is immature. But I want to say to you that we have given it long and serious consideration. The act was brought in to the legislature the session before last and was thoroughly discussed by both employers and employees."

"The employers of labor were then told that it was only a question of insurance for their labor. The employers had a year to make their preparations, but now they come and say that the Workmen's Compensation Act is hastily legislated. It is just the opposite, for the government had considered it long and the employers given ample time to make their preparation for it to come into force in the province." (Applause.)

Condition of Employers Before Act.
"Mr. Cross indicated the condition of the employee before the act. Supposing a train crew were running down the C.N.R. or the C.P.R. and owing to a broken rail all were killed. There was no recourse for the dependents of those killed but a common law action with long delays, large law costs and probably no redress in the end."

"Another case which was a striking commentary on the former state of affairs had occurred in Edmonton. An employee had been killed in an Edmonton factory. The breadwinner of the family had left his home in the morning strong and hearty and had been brought back in the evening a mangled corpse. No one was present when the accident occurred. It just happened for no apparent reason. The only person who knew about it was dead. The widow was not able to recover one cent. It didn't matter if the machinery was defective, she had no case at law and she could not recover damages. In England this kind of accident has been thoroughly investigated and Joseph Chamberlain has said that workmen's families are not able to recover in more than 20 per cent of the cases. And so in Alberta until the first of January of this year, only twenty out of every hundred workers injured or killed could secure compensation at law, and even when it was secured it was at the sacrifice of much money in law costs."

"The courts of course gave a right of action, but all that the widow usually got was a big bill of costs. In the Edmonton case referred to the woman and her children were for a long time kept by the children's committee, charitable institutions of the city. It is right, it is fair to the working men (Chorus of voices, "No," "no.")

"Who believe in the Workmen's Compensation Act say that the industry that they have taken their lives and limbs of the workingmen should pay the cost of protection for these lives and limbs. The act was passed in a Compulsory Insurance Act. But the great objection in the past to the old common law recourse was that the legislation was so costly that little could be secured as the result of a lawsuit. A few years ago an employee named Hanson, now living in Stettler, was injured while working on the C.P.R., and it was only after two years and a half that he secured damages. Recently since the Workmen's Compensation Act came into force a man was killed at Calgary, and in three days the railway paid \$2,500 to his widow."

"Why did the railway company do this? Because they saw that the act would recover \$1,000 at once instead of \$2,500 in a lawsuit. And that there was also a common law liability, so they at once made a settlement of \$2,500 to the employee. In labor cases to cut out the common law liability. But every man should have his right under the common law except any other enactment. It is not in the interest of the workman that they should have an exemption from the legal damages payable from a lawsuit that may take place if they go to the courts?"

"The theory of the Workmen's Compensation Act is that every dangerous industry should pay for the lives and limbs of those who are killed and injured in the course of their work. Those who believe in the Workmen's Compensation Act say that the cost of protection should not be charged against the goods in the manufacture of which the employee may be engaged."

A Case in Point.
"Mr. Cross related a case in the city of Edmonton where a business man had a business of \$40,000 a year. Part of this was made up of the cost of the protection of his business against fire, and part was allotted to profit. Those who believe in the Workmen's Compensation Act say that the cost of insurance of life and limb should be also charged against the business, which in the case referred to would amount to \$40,000. This year he would have to provide for \$40,000. The people of the city who do business with him will have in this connection to pay what is really a tax of one and a half or two cents a year on each dollar of the insurance of the lives and limbs of all the employees engaged."

"Mr. Cross spoke strongly on the case of a contractor who had asked to be relieved of his contract to supply coal to the city of Edmonton because of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The city council should not have let this man out of his contract unless he had been released for reasons other than the Workmen's Compensation Act. The city operator say that they can't get insurance on their coal, and that as a matter of the price to be paid, now the government is trying to provide cheap insurance than at present obtainable."

"But to go back to the coal operator," continued Mr. Cross, "I want to say that the coal operator is to be paid a half and a half cents per ton of coal to provide for insurance. And I will tell you that in Alberta, the coal operator has to pay 50 cents more if they were assured that the wives and children are fully protected."

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"But the employers of labor are attacking me not about the Workmen's Compensation Act. They are attacking me indirectly because in my capacity as attorney general I have my duty to prosecute the lumber combine. In the Bulletin of today is a letter signed 'John L.' One of the members of the Employers' Association, and in it he says: 'I am not a member of the Employers' Association, but I know that the members of the Employers' Association may be, whether present lumbermen, contractors, or other employers of labor.' 'I change the word 'persecuted' to 'prosecuted.' These gentlemen were not persecuting me, they were prosecuting me because they had violated the criminal law of the land and were amenable to it. The Northwest Territories passed what you call an act, and it was because of this prosecution that today they are endeavoring to drive me from politics. The members of the Employers' Association are, and I want the public to know that they are, largely lumbermen who were prosecuted for illegally carrying on their business in Alberta. This is another reason why they are determined to drive me from political life."

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"Mr. Cross went on to say that he would cancel any engagement he had to meet these employers and discuss every clause of the Workmen's Compensation Act fully before a public audience. He pointed out that D. R. Fraser, an estimable citizen and a respected alderman, for one was paying out five or ten times as much for his insurance as he would have had to pay for his if the act were in force. Mr. Cross made a reference to some of the legislation of the Northwest Territories passed while B. B. Bennett, of Calgary, and Dr. Brett, leader of the Conservatives in this election, were in the Territorial legislature, not lessening the time for the workers. The act was a resolution, not lessening the time of workmen, but repealing the act as it had been worked out in the statute books. He (Mr. Bennett) then said he did not think eight hours was long enough for miners to work. He did not think that coal mining was any more dangerous than other employments, and that the miners had been given an eight hour day by the miners had. By his own admission, he had worked out in Great Britain and Germany and did not come into force again until brought in by the Alberta Government Act, which came into effect in March 1, 1900. But he pointed out that the Workmen's Compensation Act was not yet in its infancy, and it found that there were many cases of this kind that the government would bring in a Compulsory Insurance Act. But in the meantime, he pointed out that in Europe there was only one in a hundred of that was not a very serious accident. "Another objection is the 30-foot limit. This Alberta Act is a copy of the legislation brought in in Great Britain in 1897, and there was the 30-foot limit. In British Columbia it is a 40-foot limit. This section does not mean, however, that a man must fall 30 feet. He may fall a foot. "Why do you not cut out the 30-foot limit?" one in the audience asked. "Educate this people to this and I think the suggestion will be received by the government," replied Mr. Cross, amid applause."

"Will Get Favorable Consideration." "Again I will say, educate the people," for you have a good cause," he continued, "and I am sure you will receive the most favorable consideration from the Alberta government."

"The leader of the Opposition in the Legislature has said that this legislation is crude legislation. In answer to that, I say that the model was drafted in the mother of parliaments, in Great Britain, and that legislation is crude, I am perfectly satisfied that it should be called such."

"Then opponents of this act are saying that it is unconstitutional legislation. I pledge myself to use every effort to have the resolution carried out." (Great applause.)

A Union Man Speaks.
"Jos. W. Adair followed with an exceptionally able address. He said that the labor men were thankful to the government for the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act. He said that the labor men were not opposed to it because of their opposition to the Workmen's Compensation Act. They had given a better opinion to the government, and that they were in favor of every part of the act, because it helps the employer as well as the employee and the general public by bringing peace between capital and labor."

Enter Opposition Employers.
"Mr. Cross then took up the circular of the Central Employers' Association, signed by the attorney general, and the secretary, a body of men who have banded themselves together to defeat the Attorney General. He read the circular and it was urged that the members use their utmost endeavors to put Mr. Cross, the attorney general, and the political life. The speaker denounced the circulation of this letter as one of the most cowardly and dishonest attempts to defeat the Workmen's Compensation Act."

"These men say that organized labor is no good, or that they are representing every labor union in the city, to say by your votes whether you endorse this legislation or not, and that the use of labor shall triumph or be defeated. "This legislation is of benefit to the employers as well as the employees, as grateful as the workmen are. For one of the great aims of the Workmen's Compensation Act is to bring peace throughout the province between workmen and capital."

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NEWS OF THE DISTRICT

LAC STE. ANNE.

Bulletin News Service. The first Liberal convention to be held in the new electoral district of Lac Ste. Anne has passed into history and incidentally was a pleasant and most harmonious gathering.

of the U. F. A. held a meeting in Kennedy's Hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of organizing a branch society. Owing to the fact that there were other meetings in town the same night, and that a number of Toledos were absent from home, the attendance at the farmers' meeting was small.

MEN BEHIND McPHERSON.

John A. McPherson, ex-M.P.P. for Stony Plain, who has been nominated as the Liberal candidate to contest the new constituency of Stony Plain, will put up a strong fight in the riding against the other candidates. McPherson has a large number of strong and representative men behind him. C. G. Harrison, president, and Mr. Striatt, vice-president.

H. W. M'KENNEY CHOSEN CANDIDATE IN PEMBINA.

Enthusiastic Gathering of Supporters of Rutherford Government Held at Manala—G. B. Connor Other Contestant For the Nomination Graciously Retires From Field. The Liberal convention for the Pembina district was held on Wednesday afternoon in Manala post-office.

FRESH from the GARDENS

OF THE FINEST TEA-PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD—THE ISLAND OF CEYLON. "SALADA" TEA. DELICIOUS—PURE—HEALTHFUL REFRESHING—AT ALL GROCERS.

WITH LIVE STOCK MARKET

Table with columns for various livestock items and their market prices. Includes sections for Receipts of cattle, Choice steers, and various sheep and lamb prices.

REXBORO.

A largely attended meeting of the Rexboro Liberal association was held in the post office on Wednesday evening, March 8, 1939. The vice-president occupied the chair.

BRUEDERHEIM.

Past Henkleman, who was appointed secretary for the Massey-Harris Company some time ago, is building a new implement warehouse.

VEGREVILLE.

Thompson's building on the corner of Main street and First avenue and in the basement a machine shop.

ONEWAY.

Jacob Rutherford, of Glenford, has been appointed commissioner of caths. Last Monday many people in Oneway and district were disappointed when they learned that the school trustees were not meeting on Monday.

SUFFRAGISTS WILL WIN.

Women Will Get Votes Says Mr. Geo. Meredith. London, Mar. 12.—George Meredith, the aged poet and novelist, who is often quoted by suffragettes as an upholder of their cause, evidently does not go to the length of approving the method of the militant suffragettes.

QUEEN'S SOUND JUDGMENT.

She Never Made a Grave Mistake as Sovereign. London, March 5.—Viscount Escher, one of the editors of "Letters of Queen Victoria," delivered a lecture on the Queen at the Royal Institution tonight, in which he disclosed some interesting information.

THE CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTH.

McCarthy in the Fight—Marshall is Safe in Olds. Bulletin Special. Calgary, March 12.—M. S. McCarthy addressed a fairly large meeting last night and confined himself to Dominion matters and the old rhash of political staff.

CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT MOORE.

Liberal Candidate in Vermilion Has Endorsement of Both Parties. Bulletin Special. Lloydminster, Mar. 11.—The Conservatives here have decided to support A. Bramley Moore, the Liberal candidate. There is not a single Conservative-business man who has not expressed his intention to support the supporter of the Rutherford government.

RYLEY.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Anderson have arrived and now occupy their new house on the east side. The severe storm Friday last made country roads almost impassable for vehicles.

MANLY.

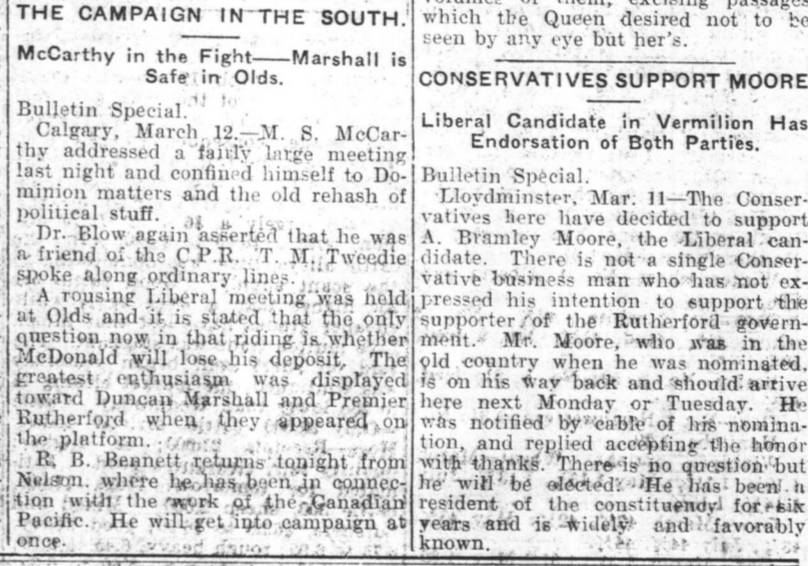
The meeting to elect delegates for the Liberal convention to be held in Stony Plain took place Monday night in the school house at Manly. J. Gerlinger being elected president and P. Fuhr secretary.

GLENFORD.

One of the features of social life in the northwest is what is known as "surprise parties." Such a gathering was held at the home of Mrs. Smith on Saturday, February 27th, at the house of Mrs. G. and Mrs. Smith.

GREAT CONSPIRACY TRIAL.

Nearly Four Hundred Men Before at Moscow. New York, March 12.—A cable despatch to The Sun from St. Petersburg says: Proceedings have just been begun in Moscow on the great conspiracy trial on record.



JOHN A. McPHERSON, M. P. P. for Stony Plain.

A Vote for John A McPherson Means a Vote for the Rutherford Governments Railway Policy and Four More Years of Peace, Progress, and Prosperity. VOTE FOR McPHERSON, The Man Who Has Always Stood by Stony Plain.

CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

Chicago, March 12.—Facing a glut of breadstuffs, six loads or 480,000 bushels of wheat amount reported purchased by the U.S. Army for the army and too much for the market. "I knew they would have to buy the grain for the army."

MANITOBA LEGISLATORS IN FEDERAL CAPTIVITY TO DISCUSS EXTENSION.

Ottawa, Ont., March 12.—Hon. Robt. Rogers and Hon. Colin Campbell arrived in Ottawa on invitation of the Dominion government to discuss the differences between the two governments over the proposed extension of the Manitoba boundaries. There was an informal discussion of the matter today when it was decided that a formal conference will be held here on Tuesday next.

COMPLICATING TEXT BOOKS.

Regina, Sask., March 13.—The Morning Canadian today devoted the entire sitting to the hearing of evidence, making comparisons between Morning and the Canadian Publishing Company readers.

