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Premier King Was Warmly Welcomed at South Essex

An Important Announcement in Regard to the New C. N. R. Board—Directors Will Not be Allowed to Sell Supplies to the Board—Canada is Prepared to Consider a Reciprocity Agreement With the United States.

(Special Correspondence)

Ottawa, Aug. 11.—The people of South Essex extended a warm welcome to the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. MacKenzie King, when the latter addressed them at the annual picnic of the South Essex Liberal Association and laid before them what had been done by his government in the seven months it had held office and what his government was striving to do in the immediate future. The Premier, and also Hon. Geo. P. Graham, member for South Essex and Minister of National Defence, and Fernand Rinfret, member for St. James Division of Montreal were greeted by a crowd of over 2,000 Liberals when they arrived at Leamington, and the Prime Minister was in good form when he rose to address the large audience. Before the picnic, the visitors with Senator McCoig, were tendered a reception by the Leamington Board of Trade and at night they were guests of honor at a banquet given at Kingsville. It was a big day for South Essex.

New C. N. R. Board

One of the important announcements of the Prime Minister was that the Board of Management of the Canadian National Railways would be appointed at an early date. Dealing with the personnel of that board the premier stated that the first qualification of the men to be chosen would be that they were not engaged in any business selling to the railways. In previous speeches by himself and other members of the present government party, it will be remembered that it was pointed out that the old board was composed of men who were connected with industries nearly all of which were selling different materials to the railways or the steamship companies which those gentlemen had been chosen by the Conservative government to direct. The government, Mr. King stated, had decided to take the railways entirely out of politics and the first step was change of management to that the whole system would have uniformity of administration.

No Strings to Them

The men who were to form the new board must have no private interests in any way connected with the sale of materials used by the railways in any way. Much would also depend upon the choice of a chairman, who must be a railway man of experience on a continental scale. He must also be a financier of high ability and one without other outside interests to conflict with his service to the government railway system. That the government was not allowing itself to be hampered by any narrow localism in seeking such a man was indicated by the Prime Minister when he said that "to get such a man with the experience and character necessary the government might have to look elsewhere", but he believed the people would approve the government's course in getting a man of the type required.

Reciprocity

Mr. King also intimated that Canada was prepared to consider reciprocity with the United States at any time the Government at Washington made the overture. On this point he said there could be no doubt that the Progressive movement in Western Canada owes its origin to the defeat of reciprocity and that the West more perhaps than any other part of the Dominion had suffered from the loss of the wider markets which the defeat of that policy had rendered inevitable. All parts of the country have suffered and are suffering through the mistake made in 1911. There is only one way to seek to retrieve defeat or undo error, and that is to try to regain the ground that has been lost. It was this motive which led Hon. Mr. Fielding to visit Washington almost immediately after the formation of the government. It was obviously in the interests of all that our neighbors to the South should be made aware of the significance of the changing of government in Canada, and should know that we are ready and willing to co-operate with them at any time on matters of mutual concern and that if through a course of action on their part which might seem prejudicial to our interests we were obliged to seek markets and trade in other directions, it was due to no lack of neighborliness or neighborly feeling on our part.

Responsible Government

The Premier stated that when his government was returned to power his first thought was to restore there representative under Sir Robert Borden and Right Hon. Arthur Meighen. The late government when it went out of office had three of its important cabinet ministers, the minister of soldier civil-re-establishment, the minister of labor and post-master general in the senate, where they were not representative of the people.

This condition he had changed. He also had the task of making the government properly representative of the various sections of the country which was a more difficult task. The result of the election was to produce, with the exception of New Brunswick and British Columbia an almost solid Liberal east and a Progressive West, with the forces in Ontario divided. If his friends of the Liberal east had desired to show resentment to the Progressives, they had the opportunity, but there was no such spirit, and the inclusion in the cabinet of Hon. Messrs. Motherwell and Stewart was he thought, a guarantee that the interests of the west would be well looked after. He admitted that in forming his cabinet he made overtures to the Progressives and offered them representation therein, but at that time they did not feel inclined to accept the offer. However, there was no hostility between the Liberals and Progressives; on the contrary, the attitude of the Progressive members had been one of cordial cooperation all through the session, and he felt that the close of the session found the government more strongly established in the Progressive confidence.

The Progressives

"I never favoured a coalition," said the Premier in referring to the offer made to the Progressives, "but I felt that the West should be represented and therefore, I offered them seats in the cabinet."

The broad-mindedness and tolerance of the province of Quebec had been illustrated by the election of Hon. Mr. Stewart by acclamation in Atglenau.

From a representative standpoint he thought the present government would be found to compare favourably with any in the past. The government's policy, he claimed, had always been to act in accordance with the wish of the people and he frankly admitted that on matters where they were not just sure of their position they got the public attitude first before they acted. No taunts or jeers from the opposition would cause them to change their policy in this regard. The past session had done much to demonstrate that third parties were a production of Toryism.

Third Parties

"Much has been said of recent years of third parties and their place in the politics of our country" said Mr. King. "I believe the session of parliament just concluded has gone far to demonstrate a truth that is outstanding in our political history, namely, that third parties come into being under Tory rule and maladministration, but that in the necessity for them vanishes under Liberal administration. There was no third parties in the days of Alexander MacKenzie; there was no third parties in the days of Laurier. It was under Sir John MacDonald, Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Meighen that third parties, either as patrons of Industry Grangers, United Farmers, Grain Growers or Progressives, came into evidence in the federal arena."

Breeds Discontent

"The sequence in most cases is wholly natural. Toryism is sure to breed discontent, and discontent always gives birth to some new and first ultra-radical organization. Liberalism, if true to itself, will seek out the causes of discontent, and endeavour to remove them, and by thus going to the root and the source of the trouble will seek to remove the divisions that exist between forces that ought to be united."

"It is in this spirit and with this larger aim in view that the present Liberal administration has deliberately sought out and as adequately deliberately sought to remove the causes of political unrest which have brought into being as an entity distinct from Liberal that large body of opinion that describes itself as a Pro-

(Continued on Page Five.)

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