

HOW HON. MACKENZIE KING RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE LAST FEDERAL ELECTION

(An editorial which appeared in the Toronto Mail and Empire on Aug. 15, 1930.)

On July 29, 1930, the day after the Federal general election, there appeared in the Toronto Star a long Ottawa despatch which makes interesting reading in the light of recent Beauharnois revelations. Written by a member of the editorial staff, it chronicles Mr. Mackenzie King's reactions to the returns from the polls. The Prime Minister of that day sat at his big desk in the eastern block of the Parliament Buildings and read reports from the constituencies all over the Dominion as they were brought in by messengers.

The most prominent man in the picture, besides Mr. King himself, was his intimate personal friend and political manager Senator Haydon, or "Andrew," as the Liberal Leader persisted in calling him. For most of the six hours during which the returns rolled in there seems to have been nobody else present but The Star man and the then Premier and the receiver of the Beauharnois money.

Mr. King is described as "the grandson of the noblest rebel of modern times, William Lyon Mackenzie, who made in 1837 one of the glorious years in British annals." We are told that he took the first adverse returns calmly; that he was stunned by Mr. Dunning's defeat in Regina, and that he spoke of Quebec as being shepherdless "since Robb died."

Kept His Score

The narrative continues: "Throughout the six-and-a-half hours I stayed with him, Mr. King was able to keep his own score, able at any moment to give a concise statement of the whole situation." When Senator Haydon arrived, Mr. King exclaimed, "Why, hello, Andrew, come right in. Are things going to your satisfaction Andrew?" Andrew came right in all right. The Premier introduced him as Senator Haydon. "Andrew" expressed himself as partially satisfied with the start-off, at Bettex had been elected in Three Rivers (only to be overthrown later on by Mr. Bourgeois) and Hepburn in Elgin. A little later Mr. King remarked, "Say, that doesn't look good from Halifax, does it, Andrew? And we have lost two seats in New Brunswick." "Urquhart has held his seat," retorted Mr. Haydon.

Just then a violent crash of thun-

der startled the small group. Mr. King got up and walked to the window. "Something of a night," he said, under his breath: leaving the reader to speculate as to whether the falling Premier referred to the weather or the ominous returns from the polls. Mr. King is reported as saying that he wished the election had listed another week in Toronto; that the influence of provincial Governments was to be seen everywhere in the returns, and that Ferguson's machine was certainly busy in Northern Ontario. Senator Haydon had left the room, but now he reappeared. "He is always solemn," comments the scribe, "but just then he was extra so." "New Brunswick looks none too good," he said. "None too good, Andrew," echoed the Premier; and I do think we should have carried Restigouche, the northern part, anyway."

Carried Ottawa

Then came the great news; the Ottawas had both gone Liberal. "Glorious!" broke out the Premier. "I had sooner win these Ottawa seats than any other—where I have lived for 30 years; where they know me; know my followers, see them every day—that is just fine." There was no mention of the hundreds of charwomen who found an extra cheque in their pay envelopes on the morning of the election day. A moment later the Premier touched his bell, with the remark, "I will have these Ottawa victories wired to the Vancouver Sun."

Another pause. Then, "Say, Haydon what are the total figures now—but wait," as a paper was handed to him, "Just wait—here's Ross. Gordon Ross beaten in Moose Jaw; that's terrible, 55 at which moment, like bolt from the blue, came the news that Dunning was beaten. This was the only time in all the dramatic hours that there was "a sign of wound in this strong man and then only for a moment, by quick and irregular breathing."

Lastly, there is a brilliant, ironical passage. The defeated Liberal leader is described as exclaiming passionately: "It is terrible from that standpoint. What effect will it have on British trade—and consequently on British relationships? What will they think? . . . I cannot help thinking of the setback; the collapse of our Empire policies. That is the lamentable thing." But perhaps the most interesting aspect of this intimate inside view of

ILL-HEALTH OF HAYDON ENDS THE SENATE PROSECUTION, TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION

Ottawa, May 5—The political peace which Right Hon. Arthur Meighen can bring to troubled Liberal souls,—even yet it is hard to picture him engaged in that ministry,—descended upon the Senate of Canada yesterday and ended the worries of Hon. Andrew Haydon and Hon. Donat Raymond.

In effect, if not in exact Biblical language, these two statesmen were bade to stay,—in the Upper Chamber, that is,—and sin no more.

And so ended, so far as the honorable Senate of Canada is concerned, the celebrated Beauharnois scandals. McDougald alone goes; Haydon and Raymond remain.

Amidst a hush of expectancy which hung over the whole of the Upper House and communicated itself to the galleries, Mr. Meighen announced at the opening of yesterday's sitting, the Government's decision to rest its prosecution of the erring Senators.

Haydon's Ill Health

The reason which he gave in the case of Senator Haydon was that individual's ill-health. He had satisfied himself beyond peradventure of doubt, Mr. Meighen declared, that Mr. Haydon's physical condition was such that the Senate would not be justified in harassing him. Accordingly, from humane motives, proceedings were to be dropped.

In the case of Mr. Raymond, the reason advanced for clemency was the altogether flattering one that the government did not believe that a sufficient case existed against him. Although bracketed with the others in the special committee's censure, therefore he was, nevertheless, to go scot-free.

There was no demonstration in the House when Mr. Meighen made his announcement. Had there been any applause, however, it might well have come from both sides of the House, for it is generally admitted on Parliament Hill that a settlement more satisfactory to all those politically involved of the disclosures which rocked the nation could hardly have been devised. The Conservatives are satisfied, having compelled the resignation of Mr. McDougald and having secured a fund of campaign material which they expect to be still serviceable when the next general election rolls around. The Liberals are reasonably satisfied, having lost only one of their members where three were marked for slaughter. Conceivably even Mr. McDougald is not altogether dissatisfied. Himself he could not save; that was a foregone conclusion. But he did the next best thing and, by offering himself as a sacrifice, saved his fellows. There is general agreement in parliamentary circles that, had not Mr. McDougald freely yielded his scalp in the general interest of Liberalism in the Upper Chamber, there would have been no stay of action against Mr. Haydon at least and possibly Mr. Raymond as well.

Proceedings Are Brief

In contrast to the months of strenuous investigation which the scandals have consumed, both last year in the Commons and this year in the Senate, yesterday's settlement of the affair occupied something less than three minutes. Just a few reassuring words from the Government Leader, who only a few short years ago was the Dominion's bitterest partisan, and the load of anxiety was rolled off the Liberal side of the chamber.

Mr. Meighen simply said:—
In view of the resignation submitted to this House last night I take it that it is due to the senators that I make a statement indicative of the position which as leader of the Government I think should be taken in respect to the entire matter.

The resignation of Senator McDougald naturally and necessarily dis-

posed of any necessity for further action which we might be disposed to devote to this phase of the matter. I expressed last night appreciation of Mr. McDougald's action. I think the terms of the letter were unfortunate. But that is his concern.
As respects Senator Raymond, I have never felt and I do not now feel that the terms of the committee just and fair though they were, would justify any further action.
With regard to Senator Haydon, I desire to state to the House that I have received the most convincing and authoritative information respecting his health. The information is such that without any further reservation whatever, I feel we would not be justified in considering any further action.

GO ONE WAY IN NOTHING FLAT

Buffalo, N. Y. May 6—Because Buffalo is on day-light saving and Niagara Falls, an hour distant by trolley, is on standard, it takes two hours longer to go from the Falls to Buffalo than from Buffalo to the falls. That is, if you go by the clocks.

You can leave Buffalo at 3 p.m. and reach the falls at 3 p.m.—in nothing flat—but if you leave Niagara Falls at 3 p.m. it will be 5 o'clock when you reach Buffalo.

PUBLIC OPINION

HUM DRUM PREACHING

To the Editor of The Mail:
Sir,—I noticed during the month of March, the Lenten month, that The Mail published a lot of beautiful sermons, including one by a special preacher from Moncton, also several by our own ministers. On Good Friday there was a new departure in the form of a three-hour solemn service in the Brunswick Street Baptist church, and I consider it most commendable. I have been reminded of what was said by one of the prominent merchants of forty years ago with reference to church-going and sermons. As near as I can remember, he said, "I don't call myself a Christian, but perhaps I am a nominal one, having been baptized when I was young and a name given to me. I like to go to church on Sunday morning and listen to a good sermon to my liking, but I cannot listen to those hum-drum sermons on justification by faith."

My reply to him was that Paul preached them, and also Luther and other prominent preachers. "Well, even so," he continued, "they are too prosy or behind the time." I asked him what was his idea of a good sermon, and he replied: "Well, my idea is that if a minister were to take a ten-mile drive about June 1st, keeping his eyes open, and if he were not able to preach a good sermon on his return I would say he is not fit for the pulpit." He added: "Did not our Lord preach from nature—farming, fishing, merchandise, etc. These are things which a minister should know something about, and not things they cannot see or be able to understand."

Now, after the lapse of forty years, may I ask if there are any, what my old friend called hum-drum preaching? I think not. It has often been said that Fredericton calls for the best preachers, and those who wish to profit by the sermons will not be disappointed, providing they are not deaf. I would say that those that have ears to hear let them hear.

—OLD S. S. TEACHER.

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