

# PEOPLE WERE VICTIMIZED BY POLITICAL TRICKSTERS

**Liberal Rally at Hemmingford P. Q., hears the Eloquent Ex-Postmaster General Arraign the Borden Government--How the Last Election was won**

Hemmingford, Que., April 27.—Addressing a Liberal rally here Saturday night, packed from the front platform to the back windows, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, ex-postmaster general, declared that if parliament were to be dissolved tomorrow, and if Sir Wilfrid Laurier were to go before the public and show up the record of the present Conservative administration he himself felt perfectly confident that the people would come back to the Liberal fold and would return to the head of the government the man who was entitled to be the prime minister of Canada by the many years of public service that he gave to his country.

"The people today," he declared, "know full well that they were baffled at the last general election. They look with anxiety at the present commercial and industrial depression that prevails throughout the dominion and they reflect that for the first time for ten years, more American settlers have left Canada than have come to the dominion from the United States."

He stated that during the year 1912-13, 143,000 people went from Canada to the United States, while only 39,000 came to Canada from the States. During the previous year, 1911-12, 107,000 went from Canada to the States while 133,000 came to Canada from the United States. He compared this state of affairs with the successful immigration policy that marked the Liberal regime of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. James Robb said his object in being present was to consult the people of Hemmingford on their views on public questions and the object of the meeting was to enable the people of Hemmingford to meet the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, whom he described

as a statesman of whom the Liberal party was proud.

## "MILITIA MADNESS."

"The government says that they have given ten million dollars for agricultural education. That is true, and we voted with them upon that issue. But that ten millions extended over ten years. They did not tell us anything about the one hundred and ten millions which they have given to the militia during the same period. It is time the people of this country spoke up and stopped this militia madness, which is extending throughout the country. Even Conservative members are complaining about the growth of this military spirit. On the one side of the House at Ottawa we see one party standing for larger and wider markets and the other party standing for drill halls and dreadnoughts."

## MR. LEMIEUX WAS CHEERED.

The Hon. Mr. Lemieux, who had a great reception, said the Liberal party were again appealing to the people in the school-houses and preparing for the next general election.

"In days gone by," he said, "when we were in office at Ottawa, perhaps we did not do our full duty in educating public opinion. The Liberal party had been in power for many years and perhaps the members did not keep in touch with their electors. It was a grave mistake and I am glad to see that the Liberals are today returning to their school-houses and speaking to the electors on the public issues of the day."

Referring to Mr. Robb's statement that he (Mr. Lemieux) had served his country, he declared that if he had served his country with honesty and sincerity, it was because he had as a guide and as an ideal that great Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a man whose life had been spotless, a man who has spent nearly half a century for the service of the public good and who is respected by both parties and is one of the greatest citizens of the British empire.

"If parliament was dissolved tomorrow," he continued, "and if Sir Wilfrid Laurier were to go before the public, after what we have seen during the last three sessions, I feel perfectly confident that the people would come once more into their own and that the people, who were baffled at the last general election by false cries, would again give him the confidence to which he is entitled by the many years of public service which he gave to this country." (Cheers.)

He reviewed the happenings of the last general election and argued that one cry was raised against Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Ontario and another cry in Quebec. At the last election the people were made the victims of political tricksters and today they were only too ready to return into the fold. They would only be too glad to replace Mr. Borden with Sir Wilfrid Laurier. They remembered the cry of annexation and the fear that Canada would be ruled from Washington and not from Ottawa, if the reciprocity pact was carried out.

"Under Sir Wilfrid Laurier's regime," he declared, "the country was given a fair measure of prosperity.

Declared before me at Kingsville, in the County of Essex, this 27th day of July, A.D., 1896.

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Trade was buoyant. You remember how the country was in 1896, how young men were leaving for the States. You can even to this day follow their trails across the boundary line. If you visited any little town in the State of New York, Vermont, Maine or in the Western States, you would have found thousands of Canadians. During the eighteen years which preceded 1896 they went to the United States, lured some of them by the glamour of the American industrial centres but most of them left their country in despair, because the farms were mortgaged to their fullest value and because there was no opportunity here. In 1897 Sir Wilfrid Laurier took office and things changed. It is strange that the national policy, when administered by the Conservatives, brought nothing but discontent, depression and despair, while when it was administered by the Liberals it brought peace, prosperity and contentment. The tide of emigration changed and instead of Canadians going from Canada to the United States they came from the United States to Canada. The west began to fill up. We gave you a new equipment at the harbor of Montreal; the River St. Lawrence was deepened; our canals were made free from tolls from one end to the other. The farmers, by the British preference, gained access to the British market, and when, in 1897, Sir Wilfrid Laurier went to the old Mother Country at the Diamond Jubilee, he advertised his country as no man, as no policy, before him, had advertised our country. Speaking in the presence of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward of revered memory, he said:

"Canada is no more a colony; Canada today is a nation!"

## ONLY LIP LOYALTY.

He argued that the country had three times more revenue and the country had three times more trade under the Liberal regime than during the Conservative administration. Referring to the loyalty cry, he declared:

"The loyalty of our opponents is a lip loyalty. It springs from the stomach. I prefer loyalty that springs from the heart."

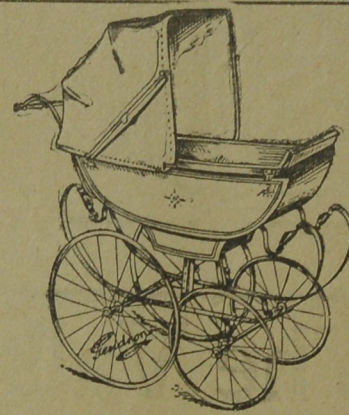
At a later stage he referred to the Nationalists and said:

"Today there are Liberals and there are Conservatives. I do not know whether there are any Nationalists. There were some Nationalists, and at the last general election even, some of them slept in the same beds with the Conservatives but I do not think there are any Nationalists left."

He described the government as an administration of spendthrifts and

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## THE REFUSAL

Apropos of the starvation rates paid for magazines, poetry, Jerome S. McWade, the millionaire sociologist of Duluth said:

"On a recent slumming trip I gave some aid to a magazine poet. Apropos of the current poetry rates the poor fellow told me a story:

"How much do you want? an editor asked a poet 'for this sonnet sequence on white slavery?'  
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"Don't slam the door as you go out," said the editor."

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