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PREMIER DEFENDS COURSE OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE FARMERS

Nails Mis-statement That He Had Described Farmer Party as Bolshevik Raps Opposition, Says Crerar and King Policies Getting Similar, But in Generalities.

CLINTON, Ont., Oct. 20.—The Right Hon. Arthur Meighen yesterday afternoon nailed one more mis-statement of his opponents to the mast, in the assertion that he had described the Farmers party as Bolshevik.

The Farmer party was composed of Bolsheviks. "I have heard that it is generally circulated that I described the Farmer's Party as Bolshevik," said the Prime Minister.

ing what took place in the election of that province, wrote editorially, that though I had been criticized for what I had said, events were proving it correct.

tries to raise prejudice among working people by telling them that the Government is the creature of financiers; that man if he fails to put his finger on the act, has not the courage to be Prime Minister of this country."

Ontario stood because Premier Drury, in sworn evidence before the High Cost of Living Commission declared: "I want free trade on manufactured goods."

Prime Minister was greeted by over three thousand people last night in the rink and was the recipient of an address of welcome by Mayor Wigle, and the Council, on behalf of the city, and by Peter Scott, president of the North Huron National Liberal and Conservative Association.

10,000 men employed in making instruments of production in Canada and they were paid over \$11,000,000 in wages. In Canada the flour mills numbered 1,255 paying \$8,000,000 in wages.

afford to take a chance in this election—either they must support the Government program of a moderate protective tariff, or they must listen to the plea of Mr. King if you have no confidence in my platform be good enough to have confidence in my duplicity.

Meighen expressed himself as willing to publish the correspondence immediately the minister expunged the "confidential" seal upon it. Mr. Meighen, however, did not stop there, but went on to point out what he really had said.

Demanded Explanation. "In a Toronto paper a month and a week ago, an interview appeared with a member of the Drury Government, in which he referred to what he stated was a statement of mine describing the Farmer Party as Bolshevik."

Another strong point made by the Prime Minister was in regard to the cancellation of exemptions for Farmers' sons, and his assertion that he believed the Farmers' movement got such a hold on Ontario, because of their opposition to conscription, rather than because of the tariff views they professed.

Butter Exports Slashed. This bill had placed a duty of six cents a pound on butter, of the result that whereas in July, 1920, when there was no duty, the United States was \$1,600,000, this July the total was \$144,000, when before it was free of duty the export was \$2,410,000.

Points to Ontario. "Mr. Crerar talked about economy but there were some who had heard that cry in the provincial elections in Ontario and they knew the result. Mr. Crerar was forgetting a lot of his program, for he did not say anything about the unimproved land tax, but the Prime Minister assured the Farmers that they would have a tax on land very soon if Mr. Crerar got into power because half of the revenue of the country today came in direct taxation from employees of industry, from whom they get more than from the heads of industries."

Tariff on Implements. Brief speeches were made by J. Merner of South Huron and George Spotton of North Huron, Government candidates. In their respective readings and they were followed by Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Militia.

Fighting Speech. The Prime Minister delivered a stirring fighting speech, in which he impartially attacked the policies of Crerar and King, which he said were getting more similar every day, if they could judge by the speeches, and their similarity in generalities, a fear of getting down to real issues.

Conference May Be Postponed. (Special to The Guardian) WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Postponement of the opening meeting of the International Conference of Armament and Far Eastern Affairs until the morning of November 1 was intimated as probable today by high officials.

Not to Follow Wood. As a result, one feature of the Ontario campaign so far, is interesting in the declarations made by many members of the United Farmers of Ontario that though they had voted for their own candidates in provincial matters, they were not going to follow the dictation of Mr. Wood or Mr. Crerar in Federal matters and at most of the conventions held in Ontario, the majority of the delegates have been farmers who have enthusiastically espoused the Government cause and nominated candidates to run against men in their own line of business.

Says True Today. "What I said, in describing the strength of the political organization that was working up what they thought themselves were wholly opposed to Bolshevik principles, they had trailing along behind them, and allied with them, men of seditious principles in this country, and that statement was true then and is true today."

Takes Crerar to Task. The Prime Minister dealt with the assertions of Mr. Crerar that the Government was the creature of big business saying that he thought Mr. Crerar's character was better than to say that, particularly as he was for two years, a member of the Government and did not leave the Cabinet on any question of acting at the bidding of big business, but got out on the tariff policy in June, 1919.

Answers Crerar. "It is about time we did get some help," said Mr. Meighen, "we have not been having much time for propaganda work in the last eight years, not so much as those who were doing propaganda while others worked. Mr. Crerar and his organization has spent five times as much money in political propaganda in the last eight years as the Government has."

Bank Manager Foiled Bandit. MONTREAL, Oct. 27.—An attempt made by bandits to hold up the Branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at the corner of Prince Arthur and Park Avenue, at 11 o'clock this afternoon, was frustrated by the quick action of the manager J. H. Carnegie.

Panic in Subway WHEN LIGHTS GO OUT. NEW YORK, Oct. 27.—Panic struck the passengers in a subway train at 110th street tonight when they fought and trampled on another to make their escape as a short circuit in one of the electric flashes filled the train with smoke. The train was hit in the center, became worse when the current was shut off, throwing the subway station into darkness. The train doors were forced open by guards, while men and women struggled to get out by way of the windows. Three men were removed to the hospital suffering with bruised limbs and internal injuries while a score of men and women were treated in the station for minor injuries. Half an hour elapsed before traffic was resumed.

The statement of the Prime Minister was made in connection with some remarks by Mr. Spotton, who in referring to the fact that certain agitators were pushing a movement, "Farm the Farmers," mentioned the Rev. A. W. Amos, a former Presbyterian minister at Atwood, who had given up his charge and withdrawn from his duties in the spring of 1919. That was the Saskatchewan Phoenix, an organ of Edmonton, view-

ing what took place in the election of that province, wrote editorially, that though I had been criticized for what I had said, events were proving it correct. Don't you observe even here in this House have you a word to say in criticism of the assertion that actually did make and was reported to have made? No newspaper report, written after I made the speech, reported me in any other way.

Another strong point made by the Prime Minister was in regard to the cancellation of exemptions for Farmers' sons, and his assertion that he believed the Farmers' movement got such a hold on Ontario, because of their opposition to conscription, rather than because of the tariff views they professed. But he strongly defended the action of the Government in this matter, and said they would have deserved to have been classed as politicians and parted from office had they not followed the course they did and the members of the U.F.O. that were present, looking back over these critical times, felt that the Government was perhaps right after all, and applauded the frank statement of the Prime Minister.

Butter Exports Slashed. This bill had placed a duty of six cents a pound on butter, of the result that whereas in July, 1920, when there was no duty, the United States was \$1,600,000, this July the total was \$144,000, when before it was free of duty the export was \$2,410,000. The export of cream in July, 1920, when there was no duty, was only 114,000 gallons. When wool was free the export total was 378,000 pounds, now there was a duty of fifteen cents on unwashed wool, thirty cents on washed wool, forty-five cents on scoured wool. Wheat used to be free but now there was a 35 per cent. duty on it. Farmers who claimed to be taking down all barriers and let in to American products free of duty, to compete with the home products, they were not permitted to send their products into the States. Some said the Fordney tariff was only an emergency tariff but Tuesday the bill was introduced into Congress and passed to continue in force and it looked more like a permanent piece of legislation than an emergency tariff.

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