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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1930

No. 3

Professional And Business Directory

HON. T. A. CRERAR

Minister of Railways



Summoned by two Prime Ministers of Canada, within a period of twelve years, to membership in their cabinets, the Hon. T. A. Crerar is Canada's illustration of the Shakesperian dictum that some men "have greatness thrust upon them." Minister of Railways in the present administration, Minister of Agriculture in the War Cabinet of Sir Robert Borden. Mr. Crerar is a political figure of more than ordinary character. Like Motherwell and Stewart, his is the story of the country boy to whom the great open spaces of Western Canada bought clarity of vision, brought inspiration and the will to achieve big things. They also developed within him that sterling integrity with which his name and his activities will always be associated.

Crerar is essentially a Westerner, but just as the people of the West have, by force of circumstances, come to appreciate the necessity of the "extra-territorial" outlook, a necessity which the character of their trading imposes on them, so is the horizon of the Minister of Railways unlimited by those considerations which a generation ago, restricted the Canadian West to the Canadian West only, Exporters of their products to forty-five countries of the world, the farmers of the Prairie Provinces have, like Falstaff, come to regard the world as their "oyster," to be opened for their delectation.

Leadership in this development has been given by "Tom" Crerar, and it is a leadership all the more effective by being unsought. How intangible is the dividing line in the policies of the Liberal Party and the Progressives is indisputably revealed in the record not only of Mr. Crerar, but of that substantial group which, appreciating the strength of unity, contributed the vigor of their whole-hearted support of the Liberal government, as embodying all the elements of real advance. The alliance of the Liberals and Progressives was the natural development and the inevitable one, dictated by reason and by the necessity of firming the ranks of progress against the onslaughts of the reactionaries, the "Little Canada" last ditchers.

The result of this happy union is the forthright legislation placed by the Mackenzie King government upon the Statute Books of the country. Ontario-born, of the sturdy yeoman stock which is the pride of that banner province, Tom Crerar moved west with his parents at the age of five. That was in 1881, long before the granary of the world had begun to appreciate its own potentialities. Settling 60 miles from the nearest railway, young Crerar experienced all the problems of pioneering and himself advanced through every stage. His schooling was received at Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. Early ambitions were directed towards school-teaching; but later he engaged in lumbering and farming. His vicissitudes were many, and they were all part of the piece.

He was successful as a farmer, but his survey of conditions around him informed him that many worthy farmers who worked equally as hard as he did were not so successful; and he applied himself to ascertaining the cause and furnishing the remedy. The Grain Growers' company, organized in 1906, had been operating for one year, when, casting about for some young and aggressive figure to promote the interest of the primary producers, they lit upon Crerar and his first call to prominence brought him to the presidency of the organization. This group was to play a role of inconceivable importance in the evolution of the West, and indeed in the whole economic development of Canada. Under his presidency the Grain Growers made steady progress, expanding their activities, marketing more and more of their produce year after year, until it completely dominated Western economics. Other provinces, inspired by the success of this Manitoba organization, did likewise, and eventually amalgamation followed.

It was shortly after this merger that Mr. Crerar was invited by Sir Robert Borden to join the war cabinet, a national duty which this Western farmer accepted. For over 18 months he worked faithfully and well under that statesman; but in 1919 the break came which sent Mr. Crerar back to Winnipeg. He disagreed with his leader over the tariff policy of the Union in

government; for he is essentially a low tariff man. The organization of the Progressive Party followed, and returning to Parliament with a following of 65 members in 1921, he was chosen as their leader. Dominion politics had undergone a great change, however. Instead of the high protectionists coming back to office under Mr. Meighen, another stalwart in his own cause had been installed in the person of the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. There was so much similarity in the policies of the Progressives and Liberals, that Mr. Crerar could not conscientiously exercise his right, as leader of the second largest group in the House of Commons, to act as Opposition Leader. He found everything he himself was fighting for incorporated in the platform of the Liberal Party; consequently instead of fighting the Liberal government, he supported it.

Satisfied that the economics of the nation were in safe hands, Mr. Crerar resigned leadership of the Progressives and devoted himself once more to the Grain Growers. For seven years he continued to direct the destinies of that organization until in 1929, answering the summons of Mr. Mackenzie King, and in full agreement with Liberal policies, he entered the cabinet as Minister of Railways. This highly important post he fills with ability and sagacity.

Liberalism and Progress—the words are synonymous. The presence of Tom Crerar in the Mackenzie King cabinet is the imprimature of the West upon policies which the West has always advocated and which the West will continue to endorse.

MAPLE

A delightful time was spent by a large number of people at the picnic of the Women's Institute, which was held at the Pines on Wednesday of last week. The afternoon was spent in games and contests which were in charge of Mrs. Watson and Miss Morrison. A splendid supper was served to the members and the visitors by the ladies at the close.

Mrs. J. Hansuld and children, of Toronto, are spending a few days with Miss Morrison.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Bryan are away on a two weeks motor trip to New York, Boston, Adirondack Mountains and other places.

Mrs. Carl Barkemeyer and her daughter Miss Ethel and Mr. Perry Cook, of McKeesport, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Bailey. Mrs. D. Brown will return with them to spend the summer with her sons and her daughter.

The annual picnic of the Sabbath School of the United Church will be held on Saturday at Elm Park, Woodbridge. Cars will be at the church at 1 p. m. to convey the children. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance.

Miss Ruth Reaman, of Concord has been engaged as teacher of the junior room of the Public School, to succeed Miss O. McQuarrie who has resigned.

Mrs. Graydon McCutcheon and children of Whitby are visiting Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Keys and other friends.

Mrs. J. T. Saignon attended a Trouseau Tea in honor of Miss Eva Duffy, over the tariff policy of the Union in Toronto last Saturday.



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