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THURSDAY, APRIL 6th, 1933

"TOO OLD PARTIES"

Miss Agnes MacPhail, Canada's only woman member of parliament, speaking in Richmond Hill, Monday evening, condemned the two historic parties of Canada and declared that the only hope of a "way out" was by means of the formation of a "Co-operative Commonwealth Federation." Miss MacPhail is undoubtedly an outstanding member of the Canadian Parliament and she is much admired throughout Canada for her courage and fearlessness. She won the admiration of her audience Monday evening. She has a way with her that appeals and she knows how to handle an audience and make them applaud. In this she is as accomplished as the most astute of the politicians of either of the old parties. Many of the policies advocated by Miss MacPhail are undoubtedly worthy, have much in them to attract public approval, while others are perhaps dangerous and undesirable.

We are in sympathy with many of the arguments of the C.C.F. We appreciate the unfortunate economic conditions which have given birth to this new movement. Under existing conditions it is not surprising that people under the stress and strain of these hard times turn in desperation to any new movement which even promises to find the "way out." However, we do feel very strongly that at such a time as this the electors of Canada should be very very careful not to place the ship of state in the hand of those who wish to conduct an experiment in the formation of some new social order. Before the electors of Canada will consent to abolish the present system they want to know what they will have in its place and Miss MacPhail, Mr. Woodsworth or the others speakers of the C.C.F. have not told us that.

There are many reforms needed in our economic system. Miss MacPhail mentioned some of them Monday night. We feel, however, that these desirable changes can best be brought about through our present system of government. The two party system may have its faults, but it has proven a sound British practice and it has worked remarkably well. No good substitute has yet been found for it. It is based on the absolute responsibility for the right use of power—power which is given by the people.

The attitude of Miss MacPhail to the two historic parties and to the men who have made up these parties and given it leadership down through the years of our history was one of the most disappointing features of her address. Neither party is perfect, but there is much good in both, and both have made a notable contribution to the progress of this country. To even infer that all those who seek the best welfare of the people of Canada with honesty of purpose are located in the "south-east corner" of the House of Commons is stretching the tirade against the two historic parties a little too far.

What is a political party? It is the final crystallization of the vast body of public opinion, and the government is simply that body of public opinion in its final, effective and concrete form. A government to be a government at all must be harmonious as to its parts and possess power. The members of that party must agree on certain basic principles along which lines the legislation of that particular administration will be framed. Only by a division of political thought into opposing parties, naturally checking and even opposing each other, is it possible to carry on the best and safest kind of government. The moment that political society is BROKEN UP INTO Warring CLASSES, EACH GROUP EAGER TO DOMINATE THE REST AND PUT INTO PRACTICE ITS PET THEORIES you will have CHAOS. The result is inefficiency and disaster. Perhaps the two major political parties move too slowly. If all were like Miss MacPhail, or thought as she thinks, governments and parties would not move slowly. But there are some in the country who think parties and governments move too quickly, who oppose change. We are not in that class, but we must recognize that it takes all kinds of people to make a world and a country and a government and a political party is not for the individual, but must represent a great body of people.

If we desire REFORM, let us make our wishes and our influence felt through the one or the other of the two existing political parties which most appeals to us, because after all, administration and legislation reflect the will of the people. Mr. Bennett has given the people the kind of government the people voted for. True it hasn't worked out the way he claimed it would, but he has given Canada an example of high tariffs and what they will NOT DO in the creating of prosperity and curing unemployment. The electors know now that high tariffs are not what this country needs, but the Liberal party told the electors that during the last election. The people chose to take Mr. Bennett at his promise and they received the policy they voted for.

We like new ideas and believe in progress, but because something is "old" is no reason for discarding it, especially unless we are very sure that we are going to get something better in its place. We do not think that the time has come to change the spelling of "two old parties" to "too old parties."

FOR FLOWER LOVERS

Hobbies are many, but it is the unanimous opinion among flower lovers that there is no hobby like gardening. There is something to their claims, for it is a fact that one can forget care in good honest work in a garden, better almost than any other way. It is a healthy pastime, but more again than that, it offers a future hope, when the thaws of spring have been replaced by the heat of summer, and the first tender shoots have grown to flowered plants. A garden is a thing of beauty, and so a joy forever.

Picture a velvety stretch of grass, bordered by a bed of gorgeous blossoms, leading the eye back to flowering shrubs and pretty perennials. Every day, there is a new development, a new surprise, to greet the eager gardener. Perhaps it is a bloom of extraordinary softness of color, or largeness of size; it may be that the first bud on the rose bush has broken into bloom, and shyly presents the lovely, long-awaited flower. Here, an ambitious creeper hides a drab brick wall; there, an ugly fence corner is transformed by a stately perennial. In this corner, a rock gar-

den; in that, a clump of favorite flowers, makes the humble back-yard a fairy paradise.

These are the things that make a house a home. These, too, are the things that help to make a town the best place in all the world in which to live.

To the average person, while desirable, a beautiful garden seems a hopeless impossibility. But when one is able to secure the kindly aid of more experienced amateurs, when some kind friend gives a few bulbs, and when new plants, new ways of grouping, and better arrangements of beds, are suggested, the task becomes much more easy.

These are the benefits that are offered by the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society, and they are benefits of which every flower lover should quickly avail himself. The bulbs alone that are given with every membership, are worth the value of the small fee asked, while in addition, one has all the advantages of the pooled experience of the town's best gardeners.

This valuable organization is now making its annual membership drive, and should be supported by every flower lover. It deserves support, not merely for what it has done and is doing for the town, but for what it is able to do for the individual flower grower who joins its ranks.

THE LIBERAL PARTY'S POSITION ON SOME IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS

From the remarks of Miss Agnes MacPhail and other speakers at the political meeting held in Richmond Hill, Monday evening, one might be inclined to think that the two major political parties were standing still and had nothing to offer in the way of policy or platforms to the people of Canada at the present time. The policy of the Conservative government now in power is well known to all and is reflected in the legislation enacted from time to time and in the recent budget. Those policies have been studied by the people and our readers are very familiar with the provisions and enactments of the Rhodes budget. The policies of the Liberal party of Canada in relation to some immediate outstanding problems was set forth by the party leader, the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King in the House of Commons on February 27th of this year, and are as follows:

Unemployment of First Concern

The Liberal party believes unemployment is Canada's most urgent national problem. It would deal with the present emergency conditions through a REPRESENTATIVE NATIONAL COMMISSION, which would co-operate with the provinces and municipalities in the administration of unemployment relief and in an endeavour to provide work for the unemployed.

As permanent measures the Liberal party is pledged to introduce policies which will serve to provide employment by reviving industry and trade; and to introduce A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Liberation of External Trade

The Liberal party believes that trade is the basis of industrial and commercial development, and that Canada needs trade.

It will promote TRADE WITH ALL NATIONS and negotiate trade agreements with any countries willing to trade with Canada on a reciprocal basis.

It will ABOLISH the extravagant INCREASES IN THE TARIFF made by the present administration, which have had the effect of strangling trade, exploiting consumers and robbing railways of business.

It will ABOLISH ALL UNWARRANTED EXTRA TAXES on imports, such as the exchange and dumping duties, as imposed by the present administration.

It will end the making and altering of tariffs by executive action.

It will substitute STABILITY FOR UNCERTAINTY in the administration of customs laws.

It will continue the Liberal policy of BRITISH PREFERENCE by a percentage reduction in existing tariffs rather than by a percentage increase against foreign countries in existing tariffs.

It will grant to British imports a real preference.

Liberation of Internal Trade

The Liberal party will seek to END ARTIFICIAL PRICE CONTROL and agreements in restraint of trade. Price fixing by agreements restrict and hamper trade internally. The internal trade of our country has become honey-combed and enmeshed by secret understandings and agreements.

Development of Primary Industries

The Liberal party, by its policies, will continue to further the development of agriculture, lumbering, mining and fisheries by effecting REDUCTIONS IN THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION of Canada's basic products and by obtaining WIDER MARKETS therefor, by encouraging export trade, and by state assistance in the marketing of natural products.

Control of Credit

matter, not of interest to bankers only, but of direct concern to the average citizen. It stands for the immediate establishment of a property constituted NATIONAL CENTRAL BANK, to perform the functions of rediscount, and the control of currency issue, considered in terms of public need. A Central Bank necessary to determine the supply of currency in relation to the domestic, social and industrial requirements of the Canadian people; and also to deal with problems of international commerce and exchange.

Control of Investments

The Liberal party believes the financial mismanagement of industry is largely responsible for many conditions obtaining to-day.

To prevent exploitation of the public through the sale of watered stocks and worthless securities, it believes AN INVESTMENT CONTROL BOARD should be established, with supervision of issues of securities by companies incorporated under federal charters.

Safeguarding of National Railways

The Liberal party stands for the maintenance of the integrity of the Canadian National Railways as A PUBLICLY OWNED AND PUBLICLY CONTROLLED SERVICE.

Democratization of Industry

The Liberal party believes that INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION is the problem of the future. It will seek in industrial relations as opportunity offers, to give to workers and consumers a larger share in the Government of industry.

Restoration of Responsible Government

The Liberal party believes that the present crisis has been made an excuse for the usurpation of the rights of parliament and the assumption of autocratic powers by the executive, Liberalism stands, as always, for the principle of A FREE PARLIAMENT, and for the supremacy of parliament. To this end it would repeal the legislation enacted by the present administration which deprives parliament of its control over expenditures and taxation,

and invests the executive with unwarranted arbitrary powers, as for example:

(1) legislation permitting the executive to enact measures by order-in-council for peace, order and good government, and

(2) legislation providing the executive with a "blank cheque" for expenditures of any kind.

Re-Assertion of Personal Liberty

The Liberal party believes that under the excuse of the present crisis, the rights of the individual have been violated. Liberalism stands, as always, for the British principle of FREE SPEECH and FREE ASSOCIATION, and to this end will repeal section 98 of the Criminal Code, and end the present practice of arbitrary deportation.

Electoral Reform

The Liberal party stands for electoral laws which will ensure A TRUE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION of the Canadian people and such legislation as may help to REDUCE THE COST OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

A Balanced Budget

The Liberal party believes the aim of every government should be the balancing of its budget.

It would seek of effect that end, by RETRENCHMENT OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES, by REDUCTION OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC DEBT by a REDUCTION IN TAXATION and by INCREASING REVENUES through the encouragement of trade.

It will seek to effect a REDUCTION OF THE COST OF GOVERNMENT in Canada by a careful inquiry into federal, provincial and municipal costs.

International Relations

The Liberal party will seek to further wherever possible those course in international relations which make for PEACE AND GOODWILL among nations, and promote friendly intercourse between them. It will seek to further the work of the League of Nations.

More Equitable Distribution of Wealth

The Liberal Party recognizes that the problem of distribution has become more important than that of production, and believes that personality is more sacred than property. It will devote itself to finding ways and means of effecting a fair and just distribution of wealth with increasing regard to HUMAN NEED, to the furtherance of SOCIAL JUSTICE, and to the promotion of THE COMMON GOOD.

We publish this outline of policy to lay before the people what the two major political parties are doing. Miss MacPhail says they have nothing to offer. The Conservative government has since its election in 1930 been practicing the policies which it has advocated for many years, the policy of high protection of industry. It has put into practice a series of tariff changes and the policy evolved at the Imperial economic conference aimed to promote inter-empire trade. The various speeches from the throne, and successive budgets first from Mr. Bennett and now from Mr. Rhodes show clearly the policy of the Benpartynett administration. The above extracts show the position of the Liberal party and what it has to offer to the people of Canada in asking for support. The extracts are taken from the speeches of the leader of that party made in the House of Commons in this present session. They are taken from "Hansard" the official publication of the House.

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