

Record Crowd at Mulock Picnic

(Continued from Page 1)

vation to come here today, and I wish to say to him that he could not have extended a greater pleasure, nor one which I will remember more deeply.

"May I add a further word of thanks to the others on this platform this afternoon. No encouragement could be greater than to see a gathering here of young men of the qualities they possess and the things for which they stand.

Has Maintained Union

"Reference has been made this afternoon to the fact that it is now over 19 years that I have had the honor of leading the Liberal party. May I say to you, ladies and gentlemen, and through you to the people of Canada, that in those 19 years I have not only sought to be, but I believe I have succeeded in being true to the principles of Liberalism and not betraying them at any time. I believe, further, ladies and gentlemen, that in the course of those 19 years, recognizing that an outstanding principle of Liberalism is to keep our country united, to keep all classes, all races, all creeds, and the different provinces united as one. I have done a considerable part toward that great end, and I venture to say that no service that a public man could render could be greater to the world today than that of keeping his own country united at a time when the world is in such a state of unrest as it is. I say, equally, there is no disservice, no disloyalty greater than that on the part of any man not seeking in every possible way to bring into being a stronger and better dominion, by co-operating to his fullest capacity.

To Repeat Success

"Now, I had thought this afternoon of speaking to you more particularly of the record of the present government in the last three years. I had in mind, when I left Ottawa to speak on that subject, reviewing the position of the country as it was when we came into office three years ago and comparing it today, because I find a very striking parallel to that which existed in the years when we came into office after the election of 1921 when



JOHN G. WHITMORE, J.P.
Who extended a welcome on behalf of Woodbridge and district to Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King at the Mulock Picnic held in Woodbridge on Saturday.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, speaking at the annual Colonel W. P. Mulock picnic at Woodbridge, Saturday, told an enthusiastic audience that Canada's role as a "good neighbor" could best take the form of seeing that no enemy forces crossed the Dominion to attack United States. It was the first public address given by Mr. King since the notable statement by President Roosevelt that the

United States would take up arms to prevent foreign aggression in Canada. The Prime Minister is shown at upper left, chatting with 93-year-old Luke (Squire) Gibbons of King, Ont. Upper right, Mr. King exchanges a hearty handshake with Colonel J. E. L. Streight, M.P. The host of the day, Col. Mulock, is pictured at lower left, introducing Mr. King, and lower right, Mr. King speaking to the crowd.

I was returned as member of this constituency. At that time, as you will recall, the public debt had been increasing, the taxes had been going up to the highest they had ever been, our trade diminishing, unemployment was greater than it had been at any other time, and after a few years of careful and wise administration we were ably, by vastly increasing the trade of our country, to reduce very materially the public debt, and reduce in a short time the taxation as well, and to relieve the numbers of unemployed to such an extent that we came to a period of employment in this country that had been unequalled at any time theretofore.

"I believe that the present administration will be able to repeat that achievement in the course of the years we continue to be in office, but it is not going to be possible to achieve it all in a day; it is not going to be possible in as short a time as it was years ago, for the simple reason that the burdens we are carrying today are heavier than before, and the public debt is greater, and the annual deficit has reached a point which is greater than it has been at any previous time. It will take a little while. I could quote you figures to show how the trade of the country has increased in the last three years, how materially the deficits have been brought down to almost vanishing point, how we have begun to reduce the taxes of the people, how the number of unemployed have become fewer and fewer—although we know only too well there are still many in that unfortunate position, but we hope to be able to relieve their lot through extending the trade of this country. I believe our policies to widen and expand trade are going to do in these years that are to come what was done in previous years in the way of expansion, in the way of improving conditions generally.

Fifty-Year Objective

"Almost the first act of the present administration was to effect a reciprocity agreement with United States. May I remind you that that was something for which Canada has been striving, not for one year but for 40 or 50 years. This administration has brought about a reciprocity agreement today and we are engaged in further negotiations with the United States to extend that agreement, to widen our opportunities in the markets of the south, and bring more in way of relief to the consumers of this country through lessening the burden of taxation.

"We have heard it said that we ought to be reducing the taxes on agricultural implements. If we had waited for one or two years to elapse and had done only half of what we have done, it would have been thought we had made an agreeable reduction. How many people realize that the duties on agricultural implements were 25 per cent., and that they were

reduced to seven and a half per cent., and they have been at seven and a half per cent. ever since. I mention that only as an illustration of how easy it is to forget what the achievements of administration may be, simply because some of the things were done at the very beginning, which other parliaments have struggled in vain to do.

"I am not going to go into those matters today, for one reason; a very important speech was made the day before yesterday at Queen's University by the president of the United States, and another very important speech was made by the president of the United States on the afternoon of the same day at Ivy Lea, in opening the new Thousand Island international bridge. I imagine that the people of Canada generally will expect from their prime minister, at the earliest possible moment, some public pronouncement with reference to what was said by the president of the United States on those occasions, and for that reason instead of making this afternoon to you the speech I had intended to make, I shall devote the balance of my remarks in reference to the two speeches made by President Roosevelt.

War Danger Great

"Now, one of the speakers this afternoon has said that we are living in very difficult and dangerous times. The importance of international affairs has been drawn to your attention. I doubt if anyone in this audience can realize how very critical and serious is the condition of the world today. You know an actual war is taking place in the Orient at the present time; you know that a civil war has been going on for two years in Spain; but what you do not know, perhaps, is the danger of war, for many months past, in Europe has been much greater than most people can imagine. Only the knowledge of the public men of how appalling war would be, how that war might lead not only to a great European war but another world war, has caused the energies of men and women in different countries to be spent to the utmost in trying every possible means to prevent that outbreak of hostilities between neighboring countries. They have succeeded thus far, and I hope and pray, as all men and women who love peace and liberty and freedom and cherish any ideals in their hearts hope and pray, that their efforts will be successful. But if they are to be successful it will require the close co-operation of all the liberty loving countries in the world to show that in every way possible their strength is made known, and to keep as united as they can possibly be.

"Now, in speaking of international questions, there is always a danger, especially speaking extemporaneously as I am at this moment, of some single sentence being uttered which

might be capable of one interpretation here and another interpretation there, and I have felt the responsibility of speaking this afternoon, with reference to what the president of the United States has said in our country, so greatly that I am going to depart from my usual custom of speaking without any notes, and for the balance of my remarks today I wish to give my thoughts as I have reduced them to paper this morning, in order to be able to present them to my fellow countrymen at the earliest moment. I shall begin at once by saying:

Sincerely Appreciated

"I am sure the people of Canada will wish me to take the first opportunity to say a word about the visit paid by the president of the United States.

"May I pause here to say, ladies and gentlemen, that to me it is a matter of singular pride and good fortune that it should have fallen to my lot to deliver in my old riding of North York the announcement which I am about to make.

"Everything that happened during the visit, and everything that has been said since, has shown how warm and sincere our welcome actually was.

"Our people will particularly expect me to say how deeply they have appreciated the friendliness and import of the president's great speech at Kingston, which, a little later in the day, I said would meet with a warm response in the hearts of all who love liberty, justice and peace. The press cables show that the speech has already been noticed abroad, and its international significance duly appreciated.

"The president spoke of the deep concern felt by his people in the face of tragic events troubling other parts of the world. He spoke of their hopes that pathways might be developed to contribute to the peace of the world; of the resolve, even if these hopes are disappointed, that this hemisphere shall remain a strong citadel of the ideas and civilization which we hold in common.

Public Opinion Wins

"He described the way of democracy; how public opinion ultimately governs policy, and how, in the end, the national verdict arises from the sum total of the conclusions of free men who are allowed access to the facts, and to discuss them freely. These are our concerns and our ways in Canada as well, and we greatly value this confirmation.

"But our people will expect me to express their warm appreciation of the assurance which the president has given directly to them, that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened.

"Every utterance by the press and others throughout Canada during the past two days has testified how greatly we value this assurance and

how well we understand it. We know that these words of assurance are the words of a friendly people and neighbor. We are glad that our common affairs have been so managed, and our mutual confidence so established, that such words can be frankly spoken and received without reserve.

"We realize that there is here no thought of military alliances, which are not a part of the tradition of the people of the United States nor of our own. We recognize the president's words as fresh evidence of the special neighborly relations which have grown up between Canada and the United States, and we are glad that we are valued as a neighbor.

"And, as Mr. Roosevelt has said, we are good neighbors and true friends because we maintain our own right with frankness. As I have already said, the people of Canada deeply appreciate all that is implied by the president's visit.

Increased Responsibilities

"At the same time they know they have their own responsibilities for maintaining Canadian soil as a homeland for free men in the western hemisphere. They will recognize that there is no room today for shirking these responsibilities. Indeed, the times being what they are, they will be quick to see that the assurance given by the president has, if anything, increased rather than lessened our responsibilities.

"We, too, have our obligations as a good and friendly neighbor, and one of them is to see that, at our own instance, our country is made as immune from attack or possible invasion as we can reasonably be expected to make it, and that should ever occasion arise, enemy forces should not be able to pursue their way, either by land, sea or air to the United States across Canadian territory.

"During the past two years, we have been making special efforts to put our own means of defence in order. The country has approved the many measures taken to this end, and I am confident that, within the limits of our capacities and responsibilities, the country intends that we shall keep on going forward on that course.

"In that way, I am equally confident, we shall best play the part of a good neighbor.

"This policy, I might add, accords wholly with that agreed to by Canada at the Imperial conference in London, last year, which set forth that each dominion was responsible for its own defence. Our defence, as well as the defence of all other parts of the British empire, we believe, is further to be secured by consultation and co-operation with the other members of the British commonwealth. The common concern which each part would be expected to have for the whole was recognized by the president when, in

conveying the assurance he did, he prefaced his words by explicitly pointing out that the Dominion of Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British empire."

At this point the Prime Minister made an important announcement on the development of the St. Lawrence and in closing said:

"Ladies and gentlemen. I thank you very much indeed for the kind attention that you have given to me in the course of these remarks, and I again wish to say how deeply impressed I have been by this afternoon's gathering, and how deeply moved by the expressions of confidence and goodwill which have come from all sides.

"As I look back on my years of leadership of the party, there is nothing that makes me prouder than to realize that after having led the party for many years I came, at the time of the last election, back into office with the largest majority that any political leader has ever had in the history of this country. But, if there is one thing that gives me more pride than that, it is that in these three years of new parliament, with this very large following, representative of almost all shades of thought and opinions that are democratic and liberal in their outlook, in all the divisions we have had during the sessions for the three years, we have lost only one man in one division.

"That, ladies and gentlemen, is an expression of loyalty on the part of the party following which, I believe, has not been equalled in the history of this country, and I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to express to all my fellow-members of the House of Commons that I feel an abiding debt of gratitude to them for that unbroken support. It is a support, I believe, that this present administration—despite all appearances to the contrary—enjoys throughout the Dominion from one end of the country to the other.

"I thank you."

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