

ABUSE, PLAIN AND FANCY, FLIES AT ROEBUCK MEETING

Local Civil Servant Termed "Stool Pigeon." Other "Nawsty" Things Said by Speakers.

It is difficult for an honest, loyal newspaper to give a fair report of a meeting of the type that held in the Old Empire Theatre last Friday evening in the interests of A. W. Roebuck, now being heralded as the Labor-Laurier-Conscription-Anything-to-win-vote-Kennedy candidate. The speeches degenerated into such tirades of abuse without facts or even statements to support the abuse, that it is difficult to have patience at this time. "Profiteers," "Rotten Government," "Borden and His Gang," Guthrie and His Untruths," "Low, Contemptible Grafters," "Political Crooks," "Toronto, the home of the Plutocrats," "The Lemieux Act—a fool thing," "The Franchise Act—a fiendish thing," "Borden the Spineless Leader," "Meighen the Trickster," "Sam Hughes, the world-famous who was going to take our children out and shoot them before sunrise,"—these were a few of the choice phrases used without argument or logic to back them up or explain them. Indeed, there was practically no argument; nothing but rather wild-sounding statements. About the only direct appeal was not of the highest patriotic type. It was Mrs. Prenter's appeal:—"Vote for your class!" With the memory of Hon. Mr. Guthrie's reasoned, logical, courteous and fair address so fresh in memory, Friday evening's meeting sounded perhaps worse than it might have otherwise.

It is only fair to state that Messrs. Wm. DeFen and Len Newton did keep within gentlemanly bounds. Mr. DeFen, as chairman, confined his opening remarks to a contradiction of the suggestion that Mr. Roebuck was not the recognized Labor candidate. He said Mr. Roebuck was endorsed by the National Labor Party and brought out by the locals of the Party in Temiskaming. His campaign was financed by the workmen, \$1,000 being raised in Cobalt, \$400 of this being from the Miners' Union.

Mr. Newton said the Union Government was not really a Union Government. It is only represented with about 20 per cent. of the people of Canada. He thought it impossible for the right change to have occurred in the past five or six weeks. Conspiration of the manhood of the country he considered a farce; he thought EVERYTHING should be conscripted. Mr. Newton also spoke briefly in French.

Sylvester Kennedy spoke loudly and at large. "Grafters," "rotten," and other sweet terms ran through his address like slivers through a Tom Cat on the fence. He claimed that everybody wanted to win the war, but his part for the evening was a peculiar one to this end. He was the author of most of the sizzling phrases given above, but when they are taken from his address little remains, except that he termed Mr. Stewart, Crown Timber Agent, "nothing but a stool pigeon." He also said that Hon. F. B. Carvell was a produce dealer. All the Liberals in the Union Government he suggested were corrugated or worse. Masses of the people were being disfranchised under the British North America Act, he stated. "I want conscription of dollars as soon as conscription of human blood," he said, but he gave no particulars. For the time being he seemed to be out after blood. After Mrs. Prenter's address discovered that 68 men coming in from he got at it again. This time he had an unorganized district had been refused to have their names added to the list by the enumerator. "I intend to send a night lettergram about it to each of those Grits that joined the rotten gang," he said in comment. He also threatened what he would do if he should get some Union Government man before him as magistrate for breaking the Election Act.

Mrs. Harriet Prenter by her humorous introduction won the audience for the start. The election was a battle between Democracy and Special Privilege, she said, and she made the appeal "Vote for your Class!" War time was the hunting season for the predatory interests, though they had no close season, according to Mrs. Harriet Prenter. She said the minds of the people were confused by the war, and also by the "flag-waving." The working people, she thought, were the only "win-the-war" party. To make a Union Government out of the present Cabinet she considered akin to trying to revive a corpse by transfusion of blood. The Ross Rifle she branded as a barefaced murderous thing, and she seemed to regret that Mr. Ellis who sold field glasses to the Militia was not in jail, but no particulars were given. "The Untruths of Guthrie" was another of her phrases,

but she was not for not having objected to the appealing to the women on the line of sentiment. The rest of her address was along the usual lines that the Union Government was the old Tory Government in disguise, and the crediting of the new government with all the real and fancied medals of the old. Mr. Roebuck, she eulogized, as a "born democrat of broad human viewpoint." His legal training, she believed, would be paid in the name of Labor. Frank Cochrane, she said, was a "born democrat" and she thought she would like to see his bad side. If she had stated that she was coming that night, she would have started a stampede, but usual there were no particulars.

The meeting was thrown open for questions, but none being asked, and the collection having been taken up earlier in the evening, nearly everybody started to leave. A couple of brave women, however, started "God Save the King," and a few sung the anthem through. "God Save the People," called out a man at the door going out. That made a fitting climax for that meeting.

The hearing of the case between the Town of Cobalt and the Temiskaming Telephone Company has been set for Friday the 14th. Messrs. Hartley Dewart and W. N. Riley will assist the solicitor for the Town, while Messrs. Ludwig and Helmuth, of Toronto, and Mr. S. B. Bailey, of Haileybury, are preparing the case for the Temiskaming Telephone Company.



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