

Hon. Chas. McCrea's Address Makes Deep Impression Here

Reasoned and Logical Summary of the Political Situation in Canada by Minister of Mines for Ontario. New Empire Theatre Crowded to the Doors Last Friday Evening for Meeting in Interests of Conservative Candidate.

The meeting held on Friday evening last in the New Empire Theatre in the interests of Mr. J. Ray O'Neill, the Conservative candidate in this riding for the Dominion Election, was a large and interested one, the

hall being filled to capacity. As there was also a meeting at South Porcupine the same evening with almost the same list of speakers there was a brief interval at the meeting here when no new speaker was ready, and during this time a comedy motion picture was shown for the pleasure of the crowd.

Mr. Geo. A. D. Murray, President of the Timmins Conservative Association, occupied the chair, and fittingly introduced the various speakers. Among those on the platform were: Mr. Chas. Pierce, Timmins, and Mr. R. Douglas, Cochrane.

Mr. Jas. Kingston, of Iroquois Falls President of the District Conservative Association, was the first speaker and in a brief but pointed address set a high standard for the following speakers. Mr. Kingston referred to the good fight put up by Mr. Ray O'Neill in the last Provincial Election, and urged the electors to rally round him this time and elect him for the riding in this Dominion Election. Mr. Kingston referred to the many pressing needs of this riding and the North. He was sure that Hon. Arthur Meighan and his party were to be returned to power, and if the riding desired to secure the fullest attention and consideration, it would be well to recognize the necessity of having at Ottawa a member in close touch with the new Government. Mr. Kingston pointed out that as this was the fifth meeting held during the day and there was another (at South Porcupine) the same evening, most of the speakers would naturally be brief. He concluded with a well-applied and cleverly-told story that brought down the house.

The candidate, Mr. J. Ray O'Neill, referred to the main speaker for the evening, Hon. Chas. McCrea, as an able and helpful friend to the North always interested and active in doing anything to assist the progress of the country. Hon. Mr. McCrea had accomplished much for this North Land. The candidate then repeated his stand on various political questions. He was not in favour of a pulpwood embargo, and he was against an amalgamation of the Government Railways and the C.P.R. He thought something should be done to make possible the use of Alberta coal in the east, by an adjustment of freight rates and co-operation between Provincial and Dominion Governments. He again urged an 8-hour day and a fair-wage clause for all Government contracts, and promised if elected, to do anything possible for the labour interests of the riding. He said he had suggested to Hon. Arthur Meighan that the Dominion make a grant to the Provinces to assist in the building of roads for settlers and that the matter had been favourably received. He was sure that the country must get back to the policies of Sir John A. Macdonald if progress and prosperity were to be enjoyed. In reference to Hon. Vincent Massey, Mr. O'Neill said that he had attended college with the new King Cabinet minister and that at that time Mr. Massey spoke the same language as his fellow students; now, after attending Oxford University, he spoke with a lisp. The candidate did not think that he was a valuable addition to the King Cabinet.

Hon. Chas. McCrea, Minister of Mines for Ontario, was the chief speaker of the evening, and received a hearty reception and a very careful hearing during the period of over an hour in which he effectively discussed the issues of the day. His address was a careful, logical and very effective presentation of the case for the Conservative party and it received the heartiest evidences of appreciation from the large audience.

After referring to his keen interest in Northern Ontario, his trip to Britain to attract capital to the mining industry of this Province, and other allied questions, Hon. Mr. McCrea, took up in very capable way the political situation in the Dominion. Working on the war weariness in Canada, and by a plentitude of glowing promises, Hon. Mr. King had been

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elected to the Government of Canada in 1921, his avowed policy being based on the Liberal platform of 1919. This platform had been upset in office. "The navigation of the Good Ship, Canada, by Hon. Mr. King, has been most unskillful," said Hon. Mr. McCrea, "and there is earnest call for a new captain and a new crew to steer the Good Ship Canada, into safe and pleasant waters." Hon. Mr. King had reduced the tariff, forced the closing of factories and caused thousands of the sons and daughters of Canada to migrate to the U.S.A. There was a general uprising in Quebec against the King Government, the speaker said. Hon. Lomer Gouin, the big man of the Liberal Party in Quebec, had not only left the Government, but he was not even running as a candidate this election. It was recognized that there was only one safe policy for Canada, the National Policy. Since 1879 this policy had been followed by all statesmen at Canada's helm of state. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was too shrewd and loyal to the country to depart from this policy. Premier King, however, had thrown aside the policy, with evil results for Canada. During the past few years 63 countries of the world had increased their tariffs, while Canada was the one land lowering its protective wall. "We want to keep in Canada the greatest amount possible of the money received from our natural resources," said Hon. Mr. McCrea. The speaker quoted at length from the United States official commercial reports to show how at present the United States was benefitting through Canada's tariff or lack of tariff. "Canada cannot afford a policy that means more business for the United States and less for Canada," said Hon. Mr. McCrea. "If you buy in Canada, you have the goods and the money, too," continued Mr. McCrea, "but if you buy in the United States, you have the goods and they have the work and the money."

Speaking of immigration, Hon. Mr. McCrea pointed out that in the past few years more had left this country than had come into it. An extra share of the burden of taxation falls on those remaining here.

Hon. Mr. McCrea showed where the King tariff tinkering affected indirectly the prosperity of this North. Last year, he said, the Geo. B. Nicholson lumber company had employed 1,500; but this year the number would be only 600. The reason for this was the depression in business. One of their big customers had been the Libby-Owens Glass Works of Hamilton. This concern had used six million feet of lumber from the North Land each year. But this year they were out of business due to the workings of the low tariff. Belgian competition with its low wages and standards of living had put the Hamilton factory out of business. Hundreds of men out of work in Hamilton, loss of business and employment in the North, loss of railway tonnage, etc., etc., all resulted from the tariff tinkers. Another incident quoted by Hon. Mr. McCrea was that of a textile manufacturer who could not be assured of fair protection or tariff stability in Canada. He moved his 20 looms to Philadelphia, where he now had 100 looms and a big business under U. S. protection, giving employment to hundreds of men in the U.S., paying taxes there and adding to the prosperity of that country. One whole class of Toronto University students last year had gone to the U.S. because there was no opportunity for them here.

Hon. Mr. McCrea referred to the enormous debt of Canada, much of it due to the poor policies of the King Government. "You need money for the North for many things, I know," said Mr. McCrea, "and I am right

with you there, especially in regard to roads for settlers. But where will the money come from if the present conditions continue?"

Hon. Mr. McCrea showed how a proper tariff made stability in this country and was of benefit alike to manufacturers, merchants, labour and agriculture. "But we can't find out from Hon. Mr. King what he intends to do about the tariff," he said, explaining that Mr. King had one wink for the west and another for the east. Hon. Mr. McCrea referred to the candidates in this riding as good fellows all, but advised everybody to vote for the policy that would aid the country rather than for personal good fellows. Mr. Gallagher described himself as a "Laurier-King Liberal." "That is a contradiction of terms," said Mr. McCrea, "as Laurier and King have followed opposite policies and courses in administration." Mr. McCrea suggested that Mr. Bradette also lacked a suitable policy, apparently going to run things according to his own ideas. "Our Government in Toronto," said Mr. McCrea, "would like to see you elect the Conservative candidate in this riding so that there may be one more supporter at Ottawa of a stable national policy which will make possible the closer co-operation of Provincial and Dominion Governments in advancing the progress and development that is bound sooner or later to come in very large measure to our great Northern Ontario."

Hon. Mr. McCrea made a special appeal for the support of the women, there being many women voters in the crowd. He pointed out how vitally the women are concerned in this election. He expressed his confidence in the mining industry, and believed that it was the real white hope of this country to-day. The west was producing this year the greatest crop in history. There is pouring into Canada hundreds of millions of dollars. The fiscal policy of the Dominion will decide whether these millions will be kept in Canada to give work to Canadians, or to go out of Canada to enrich other lands.

Hon. Mr. McCrea concluded his address with an earnest appeal to all to vote for Ray O'Neill so as to send to Ottawa a supporter of Hon. Arthur Meighan and his policies for the safety and advantage of Canada.

The meeting closed with the singing of "God Save the King."

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