

Signs of Progress in the Recent Canadian Liberal Victory

FOR five years, down to October, 1935, Canada was governed on strongly protectionist lines by the Conservative party, led by the Right Honorable R. B. Bennett. The depression and the general confusion arising therefrom gave strength to the main opposition party, the Liberal, led by the Right Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King. It had the effect also of fostering new parties, each with its special proposals of reform.

In the general election in the autumn of 1935, the Liberals kept close to their traditional line of lower tariff and reciprocal trade pacts with other countries, especially the United States. There existed already such a pact with Great Britain, arranged by the Bennett government in 1932, but on lines objected to by the Liberals, who proposed to remodel it to facilitate trade. In the campaign every party that put candidates in the field declared a belief in the existence of plenty, which plenty was to be extended as a result of their several policies.

The outcome of the election was a surprise. Not only was the government defeated, but the minor parties elected far fewer of their candidates than had been expected, and the Liberals were given a large majority over all the others combined.

On election night, when the returns made it clear that his party was to be in office, Prime Minister-elect Mackenzie King issued a statement to the Press, which was telegraphed to all newspapers, setting forth what he understood to be the will of the people as expressed by the vote. Here are some of its expressions: "Today's victory is a victory for democracy." "It is a direct response to the Liberal protest against all forms of dictatorship in Canada, whether they incline towards Fascism, Socialism or Sovietism." "The people generally share the view, kept to the front by the Liberal party, that trade is the basis of industrial and commercial development; and that a Canadian government should do all in its power to negotiate trade agreements with all countries willing to trade with Canada on a reciprocal basis." "The people of Canada are opposed to planning for scarcity by the restriction of production, of trade, and of employment." "The election is an unmistakable verdict in favor of the liberation of internal and external trade; of a reciprocal agreement with the United States; . . . it is a demand for policies which will make for economic freedom, national expansion and international good will." "It is a verdict in favor of the more equal distribution of wealth."

On this and much more in the same vein, Mackenzie King proceeded to declare his party's policy. Liberalism in Canada, he said, had had its beginning a century ago in the struggle for political freedom. He went on:

"In the new era which dawns today the struggle for the rights of the people will, in the realm of economic liberty and security, be carried on as never before. Poverty and adversity . . . are the enemies which Liberalism will seek to banish from our land. . . . We take up at once, as our supreme task, the endeavor to end poverty in the midst of plenty."

The Liberal government has proceeded on the lines of the above forecasts. One of its very first acts was to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States; one of its most recent to complete a new agreement with Great Britain with a view to more expanded trade. In between, freer trade arrangements have been made with a number of other countries, including Japan, Russia and Brazil.

A great deficit and an old and complex system of protection have prevented reduction of taxes, except in the way of trimming, but rising revenues and marked improvement in business are clearing the way for reductions later on. Unemployment is still a serious problem, especially as added to, and aggravated by severe shortage of crops in the drought area of the West, but activity in mining and other basic industries provide many jobs, and the strong efforts of the government to systematize relief are beginning to show good results. It is manifest in many ways that the Liberals really are "opposed to planning for scarcity" and that they trust to more plentiful production both by industry and by trade to "end poverty in the midst of plenty."—A. C. CAMPBELL.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation Report

WORK in the Foundation's office has been both varied and interesting in past weeks.

The bookdealer trade has been especially encouraging, and while many of the die-hards still refuse to stock our titles and cling to the old habit of buying one book at a time to fill specific orders, we have had sufficient success with the more progressive dealers to justify our continued efforts.

The New York University Book Store at 90 Trinity Place, New York, have put in a full line of Henry George's books, and have given over the center of their window to a special display of "Progress and Poverty," "Social Problems," "Protection or Free Trade" and "The Land Question." A colored picture of Henry George occupies the center of this attractive display.

Our correspondence with one bookdealer in Los Angeles, California, brought this interesting comment: "I heard Henry George speak in Cincinnati many years ago, and I remember hearing him in Zenio, Ohio. . . . I have handled your books for many years."

Sixty-five copies of "Progress and Poverty" were