

FORWARD FOR MARITIME RIGHTS!

"I do not preach sectionalism; such is inadvisable, in fact, deplorable. Nova Scotians are not suppliants. They ask that pledges be carried out. A policy is what they want which will benefit all sections of the country. The Government has no policy that benefits any section of our Dominion."

These straightforward and telling remarks are in the speech which W. A. Black, member for Halifax city and county, delivered on the floor at Parliament on April 30 last. In his hearing the "Solid Fifteen" sat dumb. What cared they—what care they now—about the rights of these provinces? It is sufficient for them that they are able to draw their \$4,000 parliamentary allowance, and seek for retirement in the near future to offices in the gift of the Government with substantial monetary salaries attached.

Much has been said about Maritime Rights. During the five last years this newspaper and its associated publications earnestly pressed for recognition of those rights and redress of Maritime grievances. We have the satisfaction of knowing that the people are with us in this regard. But it is historic truth that until a few months ago every person who espoused the cause of the provinces was treated as a target for venomous attacks and a string of abusive epithets from the Government's Machine newspaper organ in this city.

A time came, however, not long since, when there was the pretence of a change of heart. Necessity compelled. The scoffers and calumniators became, seemingly, "crusaders" for Maritime Rights. But the people were not so simple-minded as to believe that the conversion was genuine. The "crusaders" were estimated correctly as "whited sepulchres." And they were struck on June 25 by a whirlwind of public contempt that completely annihilated them.

Having brushed these interlopers aside, the people are still on the road for Maritime Rights and heading forward with confidence renewed and invigorated. With W. A. Black they now have enlisted for the cause trusty men who will soon hold office as the Government and Legislature of this Province. And before the people there lifts up the inspiring vista of a redeemed and re-established Province.

From this Province during the sessions of 1924 and 1925 Mr. Black was like a voice crying in the wilderness of the House of Commons. His colleagues of the "Solid Fifteen" had other matters

to attend to. They conducted themselves at times, as men elected by Nova Scotians to prevent Nova Scotia from being given the measure of just consideration to which it is entitled. They too, until recently, were scoffers at Maritime Rights. The people have taken their measure; and will in due course deal also with them.

Now the people are looking to their stalwart and trustworthy representative W. A. Black, and his Nova Scotia coadjutors, the new Government which Hon. E. N. Rhodes will assemble in Nova Scotia, for determined action on behalf of the Province. Mr. Rhodes has given the lead in this regard in his announcement to electors on the eve of the provincial elections:

"I desire to affirm the following as our policy and to assure them that it will be our earnest endeavor if elected to office to steadfastly labor to achieve the desired end."

"To divorce Local and Federal party affairs, thus enabling the interests of the Province to be promoted at all times without the necessity of having regard to the effect any given action may have upon any party in the Federal field."

Mr. Rhodes and his colleagues have been elected. They have been given a mandate more impressive than any mandate ever given to a provincial government. The Herald has the confidence in them to believe that they will be true to the people. They must be true. The Herald, in so far as its influence can bear upon them, will see to it that they be true. The Herald is with the people in this great matter of Maritime Rights. And now that events have occurred which provide opportunity for putting the matter to the test, The Herald, as the friend of Mr. Rhodes and his colleagues, tells them that the people will expect the new Government to follow the straight road that should lead to realization of the hope which is now the inspiration of Nova Scotians, and will be the vindication of the new Government as faithful trustees of the interests of the province.

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