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Subject.....

Cites Precedents.

Precedents existed for a national commission of the sort proposed, said Mr. King. During the Great War the Canadian patriotic fund and after the war the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment were agencies of a similar type. If a nation-wide co-operative effort was possible in war, surely a government with vision and determination would be able to arouse the nation's will equally well in peace time.

Although Mr. Bennett had promised to end unemployment in 1930, unemployment had increased four-fold since he took office, said Mr. King. It was safe to say there were now 400,000 wage earners out of work, and the number needing relief had greatly increased. There was distress on farms too, perhaps greater than in the cities. The national committee would also administer relief for drought-stricken farmers.

Guarded in Promises.

Along with the increase in the need for relief had gone a steadily increasing expenditure of money by the federal government, said Mr. King. Having this in mind, he proposed to be "a little more guarded in my language, a little less profuse in my promises and not quite so ready to guarantee what state action can accomplish as Mr. Bennett or Mr. Woodsworth or Mr. Stevens."

The Liberal party took no issue with Mr. Bennett on the need for social reform, said Mr. King. But it did differ with him in the methods by which reform should be brought about and in the relation of reform to economic recovery. Mr. Bennett had confused recovery and reform. Recovery would have to precede reform. Social services could not be established and maintained on a stationary or diminishing national income.

Inflammable Material.

Young men in relief camps were "inflammable material in the hands of dangerous agitators," said Mr. King. The camps were "breeding grounds of Communism and defeatism." The ruthless handling of the recent relief strike had led to riot and loss of life.

The government would invite the national commission to consider the removal of the camps from the jurisdiction of the National Defence Department. It would instruct the commission to see that the work provided was of a character in which those engaged could take pride.