

Subject.....

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More population simply in terms of people in Canada would not solve the problem, but an immigration policy directed towards the places where they were most needed, would do a great deal.

Among the things it would do, according to the premier, would be to relieve the burden of taxation, increase the production of raw materials, and thereby increase the demand for manufactured articles, for the more population Canada had employed in the development of her natural resources the greater would be the home market for the goods of the manufacturers.

In line of importance with this policy of directed immigration Premier King placed the problem of transportation. He believed that by co-ordinating the interests of the whole country instead of catering to them in isolated instances, the problem of the carrying trade of the country would be solved.

Sectionalism must be eliminated and unity restored. The people must learn to think in terms of the whole of Canada. Even the manufacturers must take heed of that. It was only by the development of the basic industries that prosperity would ever be restored.

Regarding taxation the Premier said it was impossible to hope for any reduction for years to come unless these basic industries were concentrated upon. They represented the "brighter side of the economic picture."

The Premier also dwelt upon the Liberal government's "heritage of debt." He pointed out that it required as much money now to meet the interest on the national debt as was required to run the whole country ten or eleven years ago. That condition had been brought about by the war.

National indebtedness represented an obligation they could not evade. And it was not the only one. They had the war pensions, civil-re-establishment and land settlement, amounting to over fifty millions a year.

Over and above that they had the deficits of the Canadian National Railways, amounting to a hundred millions when they came into office, and now reduced to about sixty-five millions.

The Liberal administration was responsible for none of these expenditures, but nevertheless they could not evade them.

By directing immigration towards the production of the raw materials of the country, and by co-ordinating the systems of transportation for the benefit of the whole country, infinitely greater wealth would accrue. In turn that wealth would be reflected in the increased activities of industry.

As labor and capital were applied to the exploitation of the natural resources of the country unemployment in the cities would disappear, and taxation would be reduced. There was no other solution, consistent with the ideal of a united Canada.

HUGE GATHERING

The banquet, which was held in the convention hall, was attended by over five hundred people, and the utmost enthusiasm was evinced with the appearance of the Prime Minister. His address, which lasted for an hour, was punctuated by applause as he drove his various points home.

A pleasing feature of the occasion was the presence of a number of ladies on the platform, under the "chairmanship" of Mrs. L. A. Taschereau. The gallery at the other end of the great hall was also crowded with eager listeners. During the banquet the Chateau Orchestra played a selection of attractive numbers.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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