

The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King

The government since 1921 has been endeavouring to maintain itself in power by utterly disregarding the great principles that govern matters in the Dominion and applying a principle here and another there for the purpose of maintaining place and power.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I wonder if my hon. friends will say "hear, hear" to this:

The government has asked you to continue them in power after they have betrayed this country for nine years. Every Liberal who accepts this budget is putting a premium on wrong doing. Whenever you have any convert doing something he has not been brought up to do he will always make a mess of it.

That was stated by my hon. friend when he was speaking in the constituency of his present colleague the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie). I would like to know whether my hon. friend the Minister of Justice would not fall into the category of a convert. Does he say no? He shakes his head.

Mr. GUTHRIE: My conversion was many years ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: At any rate he has admitted there was a conversion in his case. My hon. friend, the present leader of the government, knowing that, stated in the riding of the present Minister of Justice:

Whenever you have any convert doing something that he is not brought up to do he will always make a mess of it.

And I ask my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) whether that particular designation does not apply to him also. That is not however the limit of my hon. friend's extravagance in the use of language. Speaking in the city of Regina on June 10, he said, according to the Leader Post of June 11:

They play with the lives of men and women. What for? Do they realize there are lives that they are playing with, food for wives and children, hunger? Nine years of wasted effort before the great betrayal. It did not take Judas that long.

Then he said at London on May 16, as reported in the Ottawa Evening Journal of the 17th:

Mr. King gets men to depart from their faiths and then to parade their apostasy in the market places.

He goes on to say:

Is there no such thing as public honour? Is public honour to be flouted and laughed at? Is all sense of national honesty to be dragged in the dust by the purposes of a party?

Having made those references to the members of my party and to myself the hon. gen-
[Mr. King.]

tleman had a word to say about himself. We find his words in a speech he delivered at Regina on June 10, according to a report which appeared in the Regina Leader-Post the following day:

There is a good time coming. We may not live to see it, but there is a good time coming. I came to call the sinners, not the righteous.

I wonder whom my hon friend thought he was at the time he made that statement? Speaking at Perth on July 16 my hon. friend said, as reported in the Ottawa Morning Journal of July 17:

This country has done much for me; I am doing the best I can for this country, according to the convictions I hold.

Speaking at Vancouver on June 18, he said:

Montreal Gazette, June 19:

My conscience is clear. My record runs into the past for all to see.

When my hon. friend was giving himself that particular encomium he might have been just a little more generous towards others. That is the picture, Mr. Speaker, of the personnel.

I come now to his references to conditions in Canada, and here I wish to take the strongest exception to the attitude adopted by my hon. friend throughout the campaign. He knew very well then, just as he knows now, that such conditions of unemployment as there were in Canada at that time, and as there are in Canada to-day, are in largest part owing to world-wide conditions over which no government whatever has any control. He knew then as well as he knows now that the financial crashes on the stock exchange which took place earlier in the year had a very far-reaching effect upon unemployment in Canada. He knew also, when he was speaking throughout the campaign, as he knows now, that the fact that the western wheat crop was not as large last year as it had been in previous years had also an effect which helped to account for unemployment. But more than that, he knew above all else that the circumstance that the wheat crop had not been moved as early or in anything like the same volume as in previous years caused a very considerable amount of unemployment on the agencies of transportation, which also had its effect upon employment in mines and other branches of industry. My hon. friend knew all these facts, yet never once throughout the whole campaign did he come out honestly and straightforwardly and assert them to the people of this country. But to-day we have in the speech from the throne which he