

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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Office of
The Leader of the Opposition

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Subject.....

Instances Japan Breach

The Bennett government, he held, had made trade a matter of economic warfare. The policy had not only not succeeded, but had measurably increased the volume of unemployment. Trade could not travel one way and he instanced the breach with Japan since parliament prorogued.

Throughout his speech ran bitter criticism of the Bennett ministry for hanging on to office for two years after it had become apparent that public confidence was lost and for, up to the moment that he spoke, declining to announce the date of the election though the ministry had been in office for five years last Wednesday.

The constitutional limit of five years was not meant, Mr. King held, to say that a government should carry on for that period. The by-elections of the past two years and the provincial elections had abundantly proved the lack of confidence of the public in the administration and the policy of the ministry had been to deprive the people of the right of self-government.

Mr. King assailed "third party" candidates as an effort to undermine the will of the people and followed up the attack which Mr. Hepburn made upon Hon. H. H. Stevens with more evidence that for nearly five years the head of the Reconstruction party had stood behind every policy advanced by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Hepburn said he had only started the mutiny "below decks" when it became obvious to him that Mr. Bennett was on the skids.

"These are things the public cannot ignore if they wish to preserve their liberties," Mr. King affirmed as he spoke of the appointment of Hon. Hugh Guthrie as chairman of the board of railway commissioners. The position was left vacant for 20 months along with 17 senatorships and many other important positions in order that Mr. Bennett might exercise a control over members of the House of Commons to which he was entitled, and would not otherwise have wielded, Mr. King said.

Mr. King paid high tribute to Premier Hepburn and held that no man in Canadian public life had accomplished so much in so little time in the interests of the people. He predicted for him a future in public life that could only be interpreted as eventual leadership of the federal party.

Opening of Provincial Campaigns

Mr. King, in opening his address, drew attention to his pre-campaign radio speeches. He hoped everybody would be able to secure a copy of his booklet: "Mackenzie King to the Canadian People."

Referring to the meeting at Kingston, held under the auspices of the National Liberal Federation, Mr. King said it was for a nationwide association and it was thought advisable to open the radio campaign at Kingston. Now a new aspect of the campaign—the campaign in the provinces—was being launched.

He was glad that the campaign in Ontario should be opened under the auspices of the young Liberal premier of Ontario. He thanked him for his fine encouragement as extended at the Woodstock meeting. He said that it was a matter of pride to the Liberals who were getting on in years to regard the gallant work which had been done by Premier Hepburn since he took over the reins of government.

"Mr. Hepburn has not been the leader of his party nor the leader of his government for very long, but I venture to say that no government and no leader has accomplished so much for the mass of the people as the present premier of Ontario," he declared.

Referring to Mr. Hepburn's comparative youth, Mr. King recalled his own youth when he started his political career.

Predicts Hepburn to Rise

"In Mr. Hepburn's accomplishments to date the people of Ontario have the promise of one who will play a part, second to none in the furthering of our great Liberal policies," declared Mr. King.

He paid tribute to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and to J. F. MacKay, prominent Ontario Liberal. "When Mr. Laurier had Mr. MacKay come to Ottawa and asked him to open a seat for me in the House of Commons he chose the county of Oxford because he thought that there was no constituency in Canada which so represented the heart of Liberalism as the county of Oxford."