

Subject.....

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established the principle of responsible government and the supremacy of parliament, and had during a difficult period been successful in reducing the public debt, in reducing expenditures and taxation, and in increasing revenues. In short, the whole policy had been aimed at the general good of the nation, and particularly was this true of the Robb budget, with its decreased duties on implements of production.

Dealing with the question of the Senate, the premier believed that as the machinery of the government became more and more democratic there was possibly a special reason for maintaining a second chamber, but in regard to certain measures that the people as a whole were anxious to see enacted, it was essential when the House of Commons had expressed its approval in no unmistakable manner that some means should be found of preventing the Senate from blocking the will of the people.

"We intend," he said, "to see that the second chamber is not made an instrument for defeating the will of the Commons."

In this connection he recalled how the House of Lords had been prevented from blocking the will of the English people regarding measures that had twice passed the British Commons.

Will Use Caution.

The government would proceed with all due caution in an effort to secure supremacy of the people's will. Any step taken by the government would be with due regard to what the fathers of confederation had in mind when they established the Senate as one of the bodies to be concerned in legislation. But I do believe the people will expect a Liberal government to see that the machinery of government is so arranged as to make possible that the will of the people will prevail in those great measures which are of such great concern to the people as a whole.

Paying a compliment to Hon. James Murdock, he said he had been as able a minister of labor as any who preceded him. The premier presented a number of prizes donated by Senator McCoig. Mrs. Thomas, aged 88, won the prize for the oldest lady elector, Robert Brown, aged 87, that for the oldest male elector, and J. Reycraft for the elector who had voted for the largest number of candidates in federal elections, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown for the oldest married couple.

Would Follow Example.

Roars of laughter and applause greeted the premier's statement when presenting the prize to Mr. and Mrs. Adderman for the largest family. They have nine children. "Give me time, and I will try to follow their example," he said.

And Hon. G. P. Graham interjected, "If I were the prime minister I would be ashamed of myself."

Bouquets were presented to Hon. Mr. King, by Helen Burnie of Chatham and Maxine Gillis of Ridgetown.

Hon. James Murdock dealt with the unemployment question and the combines act, and Hon. G. P. Graham discussed the national railways. Senator McCoig, the former member for Kent also spoke. James A. McNevin presided.

HON. JAMES MURDOCK.

Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, made his first public appearance in the constituency since he was returned by acclamation.

"Unemployment in Canada has been a very serious point of contention during the past two or three

years," he said. "The leader of the opposition and others have referred to the considerable number of unemployed at present and during the last few years. I don't believe that any citizen of this country can hold that we have a larger proportion or that we have had during the post-war years a larger per cent of unemployed for the entire population than any other country in the world."

"It is true that we had some unemployment during the past two or three years. It is true that we have some unemployment at the present time. But there would be a good deal less unemployment in the Dominion if many of those who find themselves unemployed were as ready to take that which comes to their hand today as men were ready a number of years ago."

"The trouble with so many unemployed in Canada and the rest of the world since the war was that those out of work were only desirous of securing work which looked good to them and at wages which they considered sufficient for the capabilities which they felt they possessed."

Only Solution.

"In my judgment the time has got to come in Canada and in other countries where the unemployed will be ready to turn their hand to anything that comes their way, before we can solve the unemployment question."

Touching on the cost of living, Mr. Murdock said it was 50 per cent higher than in 1913, except for rent, which on the average was 43 per cent higher. That was a condition resulting from war and which affected the world generally. He was confident the government was on the high road to straightening it out—at least to a greater extent than at present. "If we can only keep on the road which has been blazed and follow to a conclusion the things which have been and will be undertaken."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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