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Mr. King eulogized the work of the Tariff Advisory Board; strongly deprecated the suggestion from the Tory Leader that the Dunning tariff changes were of the "on the spur of the moment" type; argued with equal force that the revisions were the result of long and careful investigation and thought; and traced, step by step, Canada's representations from time to time in the face of prospective tariff rises at Washington. It was his contention that the "cool-headed" attitude of his Government in leading up to alterations of the Dominion's tariff had worked far more successfully than the "red-blooded" attitude that Hon. Dr. Manion had once advocated as the way to handle Washington.

Liquor Export Ban.

Mr. King referred to the Government's banning of export of liquor to the United States. He felt that difficult situations in the handling of the tariff and other questions with the United States might have eventuated had the Government clearances been continued in the export of liquor.

"Imagine," said he, "the feeling between the countries if a boat had been lives, American and Canadians, and with our own Government officials having passed the boat's shipment, and actually being a party to it."

"I knew," continued the Premier, "what we were facing in the matter of the tariff legislation. I knew how that would be felt in many quarters. I wanted to be particularly careful that in no particular the Government of the United States should have cause to think that this Government was not playing fair with them, as with every country in the world."

Unemployment Situation.

Mr. King referred to the unemployment situation as follows: "Mr. Bennett has been saying a great deal concerning conditions of unemployment in Canada during the course of the last few months. I have no complaint to make of the attention he has directed to this great economic problem, but I do object most strenuously to the manner in which he has exaggerated it out of all proportions, and to his attempt to convey the impression that the present unemployment in Canada is due to my neglect, or failure upon the part of the present Administration."

"As is well known by all students of economic conditions, the world is now passing through a period of price dislocation, following the recent financial crisis from stock markets."

"In some countries this price dislocation has led to a pronounced industrial depression and to widespread unemployment. It would be unreasonable to expect that they could remain entirely free from the effects of a situation which is universal in its application. At the same time, Mr. Bennett is perfectly aware that no country in the world has suffered less from the present depression than this Dominion, and, were it not for his desire to exploit unemployment for political purposes, he would, I think, as a Canadian, be proud to acknowledge it, and to assert there could have been no greater tribute to

the stability of our industrial and commercial foundation of our prosperity than the manner in which we have met the slackening of business which has taken place within the recent months.

Canada Best of All.

"I make this statement without any reservations: that no country in the world has come through the recent financial crisis with more creditable showing than Canada. This is not merely the testimony of Government officials, but it is the unanimous verdict of presidents and general managers of financial institutions and the heads of investment houses whose business it is to study comparative statistics of trade and industry."

"Before leaving Ottawa a few days ago, I asked the Bureau of Statistics to prepare for me a statement dealing with the position in this country with respect to employment and unemployment during the recent years. The Bureau of Statistics collected monthly reports on the number of employees of over 7,000 firms who employed, on May 1, 1930, some 976,000 persons. These statistics have been collected monthly since 1921 and are expressed as index numbers, with the average for the calendar year 1926 taken as 100. I should like to point out to Mr. Bennett that for every 88 persons employed in these industries when the last Conservative Government was in office there were 119 persons employed in the year 1929. I should like further to point out that, for every 85 persons employed in April, 1921, there are over 111 employed in April, 1930. In other words, during the period of this Administration, in this country employment in these manufacturing industries has increased by 30 per cent., while the population of the country has increased only at the rate of 15 per cent. These are figures in which Canadians should take the greatest pride. While realizing to the full the necessity of meeting the existing conditions of unemployment, this evidence of stability should give us cause for faith and confidence in the sound and unassailable economic structure of our country."

Tories Silent on This.

"I venture to predict, however, that no Conservative speakers, despite their avowed attachment to 'Canada First,' will inform you of this splendid tribute to the stability of the Dominion, at a time when other countries are suffering severely from the effects of economic dislocation. They will continue to exaggerate conditions of unemployment, and will persist in conveying a false impression of the situation that exists."

"May I say further, in dealing with the question of unemployment, that in all the discussion of this important question the Conservative Party has put forward no constructive proposal to deal with the root cause of the unemployment problem."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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