

make excerpts from the speeches, arrange and classify them according to topics dealt with, and then present them to parliament - in order to be of real value in the future in exact quotation from the paper, giving place and date on each occasion. All of this material should have been assembled by a Liberal information office and made available in pamphlet form for myself and others before parliament met. There was, however, no provision for anything of the kind, no one to prepare the material, nothing set aside for the printing and publishing. It would be difficult to estimate the value of having this material somewhere of record. There is nothing so fugitive and ephemeral as speeches and what appears of them in the daily press. The papers soon become inaccessible and disappear. Fortunately I had given instructions to my Secretaries to have a complete file of election speeches kept. This was done, but I found when I came to prepare the material that in too many cases it was not from the paper in the locality where the speech was delivered, and these had to be looked up as well for purposes of verification. When the accuracy of some of the press reports of his speeches as then recorded was questioned by Mr. Bennett, the Ottawa Journal, the Conservative organ in the Capital, said it had gone over every one of the extracts, and 120 in all, and was able to vouch for the accuracy of every single one. The record as I say is a valuable

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Speeches-1922 - 1932

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