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The Magic of the Radio

For the first time in history since the days of ancient Greece, we are beginning to witness, owing to the magic of the radio, a return to that condition deemed by the ancients so essential to citizenship and government. In other words, what the citizen of the ideal state of ancient times deprecated most was the appeal to one element only in the community, or to one part only of the community, as contrasted with the appeal to all parts at one and the same time. Already the great world states of to-day are beginning to demand a return on the part of their public men to this essential requirement of ancient days. In our own country, it will not be many years before we shall hear less and less of the sectional appeal, whether it be to race, to creed, to class or to special interest. What will be more and more demanded by the electorate of its leaders is that they speak less frequently, perhaps, but to vaster audiences; that they visit less frequently individual localities, but that they speak more frequently to the nation as a whole.

I regard as prophetic of what the world will expect of its leaders what, but a few days ago, we all witnessed as we listened in common with the citizens not only of all parts of our own country but with the citizens of the United States,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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