

SUBJECT

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

Ottawa Morning Journal, April 30, 1930.

Breezy Interlude In House Between King and Bennett

Subject of Donating Five
Cent Pieces To Province
Feature Natural Resources
Debate.

A brief, but breezy interlude on the subject of donating five cent pieces to the provinces, featured debate on the Alberta natural resources bill, in the House of Commons yesterday. Hon. R. B. Bennett, Conservative Leader, was discussing the matter. In the course of his speech he asserted that Sir Robert Borden, when endeavoring to solve the natural resources problem in 1913, met with some difficulty because two of the western provinces had Liberal Governments.

"He would not give them a five cent piece," interjected Premier Mackenzie King, from across the aisle.

"I am bound to say that his conception of his position was somewhat higher than that," warmly responded Mr. Bennett. "He did not look upon the office of Prime Minister as being one which permitted him to speak to the people in terms of five cent pieces."

"I would point out to my friend that under these acts we are giving these western provinces millions of dollars," was the retort of Mr. King.

"I would point out," countered Mr. Bennett, "that this Government is giving them nothing; that is a difference. When legislation is enacted which confers rights upon the people, the right honorable gentleman seems to think that he is the god bountiful. When he said the other day, 'I would not give a five-cent piece,' one realized that after all power has its disadvantages because it sometimes causes those, who for a few brief moments in this great world of ours find themselves in a position of power and authority, to believe that they have that which they do not possess, or that they have authority which they cannot exercise."

Mr. King did not respond to this, and discussion turned to another phase of the matter.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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