

POOR
COPY

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

D 11833

Subject.....

Date..... Publication.....

Just below four hundred million. It was \$430,000,000 when we came into power. Do you not see a difference there? I forget the total public debt when Sir Wilfred Laurier came into power, but I know the interest charges amounted to between twelve and fifteen million dollars. Today we are faced with a public debt of \$2,440,000,000. We have to pay \$135,000,000 in interest on that debt, and have to find that before we can raise a dollar for the purposes of the government itself, while the whole cost, when Laurier was in office, including the interest, was forty million dollars.

"When we went into power, we found the deficit on the railways which Mr. Meighen had bought amounted to \$77,000,000 a year. Unfortunately for the era of peace, war expenditures has increased the taxation by fifty millions. There was a total uncontrollable expense of \$300,000,000 before we could raise the \$100,000,000 necessary to carry on the government of the country.

"Let us look at the railways. We have had to meet deficits. Laurier had miles and miles of land to hand out to the railways to induce them to build. There was no government system. In these days land was given away and settlers attracted from all parts of the globe by the large grants. We are unable to make such offers. In spite of that we have been successful in bringing down expenditures and increasing revenue, and have been able to have a surplus of thirty million dollars and relieve the tax payers of a sum of twenty-five million dollars. In this way, we have succeeded, not only in uniting the Liberal party, but, more than that, in uniting the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and restoring the old feeling of confidence and optimism, bringing together the various elements in our country. I believe that, given time, our policy will work out to its natural effect and will restore that prosperity, plenty and contentment which was the pride of the Liberals of the past and will be the pride and glory of the Liberals under the government which is carrying on the present administration."

Three hearty cheers, led by the chairman, were given for the premier as he resumed his seat on the platform.

RECEPTION BY PREMIER.

Following the meeting a reception was held by Premier King in the pavilion at the park. The pavilion was appropriately decorated, and for a considerable time the premier remained there and shook hands with hundreds of people who flocked around the pavilion to have the privilege of being introduced to him. Hon. Duncan Marshall, Liberal organizer for Ontario, acted as the introducer, and Mr. King was in a happy mood as he met young and old, men and women and children, and received their congratulations on a particularly able address.

THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

The members of the reception committee were as follows: Dr. Sinclair, M.P., M. J. Brophy, A. E. Grant, Dr. G. M. Brodie, Fred Bean, A. O. Whitelaw, R. H. Bogart, E. L. Pearson, James Davis, Henry Sneath, Dr. Andrew Mackay and A. T. MacNeill.

Ladies committee: Mrs. D. J. Sinclair, Mrs. A. T. MacNeill, Mrs. M. J. Brophy, Mrs. A. E. Grant, Mrs. J. G. Archibald, Mrs. James Vance, Mrs. John Markey, Miss Isabel Whitelaw, Mrs. George Eden, Mrs. A. Gardner, Mrs. (Col.) John White, the Misses White, Miss T. Kerr, Mrs. M. Douglas and Mrs. Andrew McKay.

At the close of the reception, the premier and the visiting ministers and members motored to the home of Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Sinclair, where they were entertained at dinner. Those in the party were: Premier King, Hon. Mr. Murdock, Hon. Mr. Graham, W. G. Raymond, M.P., W. D. Euler, M.P., Dr. Rankin, M.P., and Sidney Little of London.

LEFT CITY AT 8.15.

Premier King and the two ministers left the city on the 8.15 C.N.R. train for Ottawa, where a cabinet council is being held today. There were many citizens assembled on the platform to give him a hearty send-off, and he stood on the platform and chatted for a few minutes with a group of the local and visiting Liberals. As the train drew out, three hearty cheers were given for the premier by those who were gathered at the station.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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