

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

*London Free Press April 8/30.***Why Blame the Conservatives?**

Mitchell F. Hepburn, M. P. for West Elgin, is the first man with the temerity to defend the astounding statement of Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King that he would not give five cents for unemployment to a Conservative Government. Mr. Hepburn, speaking at a Liberal convention at Brampton, explained that Premier King had been so frequently interrupted in the course of his speech by the Conservatives that he lost his temper. Mr. Hepburn added: "If I had been in his position, I think I would have said a lot worse."

If Mr. Hepburn will take the pains to look up Hansard, the official report of the debates of the House of Commons, he will make the rather astonishing discovery that up to the time Mr. King made his outburst there had not been a solitary interruption from the Conservative benches. The only interruptions—and they were not many—were from the Labor and Progressive members of the House. Edward Joseph Garland, U. F. A. member for Bow River, had some questions to ask, as did also James S. Woodsworth, Winnipeg Labor member, and Herbert B. Adshead, Labor member for Calgary East. It was interruptions by William Irvine, U. F. A. member for Wetas-kiwin, which started the fireworks.

Incidentally, the resolution which started all the trouble was moved by a Labor member, A. A. Heaps, member for North Winnipeg. His resolution was an innocent one. It said nothing about paying money to the provinces. It was a resolution one would imagine any Government, or any party, could accept. It was moved as an amendment in going into supply and read as follows:

"In the opinion of this House the Government should take immediate steps to deal with the question of unemployment."

Why Mr. King should oppose such an amendment is hard to understand. If Mr. King lost his temper, it was due to his old allies, the Progressives and Labor. Possibly the fact that they refused to fall in line at the crack of the Liberal whip was the cause. Mr. Hepburn is undoubtedly right in saying that Mr. King lost his temper; there is no other possible explanation. But why blame the Conservatives?

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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