

The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King

years 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924. They show that during the year 1924 the total production of iron and steel in the United States was 31 million tons; the total production of the preceding year, 1923, was 40 million tons. In other words, in the year just concluded

there was less production by 29 per cent of pig iron in the United States than in the year previous, and there was less production by 19 per cent than in the year 1920. The table is as follows:

Production of pig iron in the United States, 1920-24, as shown by the Iron Age. Official data of the iron and steel trade.

	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
January.....	3,018,890	3,229,604	1,644,951	2,413,292	3,015,181
February.....	3,074,757	2,994,187	1,629,991	1,937,257	2,978,879
March.....	3,466,086	3,523,868	2,035,920	1,595,522	3,375,907
April.....	3,233,428	3,549,736	2,072,114	1,193,041	2,739,797
May.....	2,615,110	3,867,694	2,306,679	1,221,221	2,985,682
June.....	2,026,221	3,676,445	2,361,028	1,064,833	3,043,540
July.....	1,784,899	3,678,334	2,405,365	864,555	3,067,043
August.....	1,887,145	3,449,493	1,816,170	954,193	3,147,402
September.....	2,053,264	3,125,512	2,033,720	985,529	3,129,323
October.....	2,477,127	3,149,158	2,637,844	1,246,676	3,292,597
November.....	2,509,673	2,894,295	2,849,703	1,415,481	2,934,908
December.....	2,961,702	2,920,982	3,086,898	1,649,086	2,703,855

Mr. WHITE: What is the date of the publication?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is for the month of January.

Mr. WHITE: But the date of the Iron Age in which that table appears?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Last month, but it relates to the last calendar year.

Mr. WHITE: The paper is published every week, and I should like to have the date.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I will have to get the date for my hon. friend. It is one of the first numbers of this year. So far as Canada is concerned there has been a falling off in the iron and steel industry this last year as compared with the previous year, but the total production of iron and steel in 1924 was considerably greater than in 1922. The falling off has been, perhaps, a little greater than in the United States, but that was to be expected having regard to the relative size of the steel interests and to the relative demand in the two countries for iron and steel products.

My right hon. friend sought to convey the impression that the employment situation was very much worse in Canada last year than in the United States. I have here some figures taken from the Federal Reserve Bulletin for the month of December which reduces to a scientific table, on the basis of an index number, the conditions of employment in the United States for the months of June, July, August, September, and October. I take these particular months just because they happen to have appeared in this number, and were the latest I was able to find at the time at which I was investigating this subject.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Month	Employment Index No. in the United States		Decrease
June.. . . .	103	90	13
July.. . . .	101	87	14
August.. . . .	101	87	14
September.. . . .	101	90	11
October.. . . .	101	91	10
Average for 5 months	101	89	12

If we take the average for the five months, there was a decrease from the average of 101 as the employment index number for 1923, to 89 as the index number for 1924, or an average reduction of 12.

I have had corresponding figures for Canada prepared by the Bureau of Statistics with respect to the five months ending October, 1924. Instead of showing an average decrease in employment for the five months, of 12 as in the case of the index numbers in the United States, they show an average decrease over the same period in this country of 6.6 for the five months ending October, 1924, as compared with the corresponding months of 1923. I will give the figures by months:

Month	Employment Index No. in Canada		Decrease in Canada	Decrease in United States
	1923	1924		
June.. . . .	93.5	88.4	5.1	13
July.. . . .	93.6	87.7	5.9	14
August.. . . .	93.5	86.2	7.3	14
September.. . . .	93.0	84.5	8.5	11
October.. . . .	91.8	85.7	6.1	10
	93.1	86.5	6.6	12

If we take the average for the five months in Canada, the average during 1923 was 93.1 and during 1924, 86.5, or an average decrease of 6.6 as against an average decrease of 12 in the United States covering the same period.