

that I had described that platform as a chart and compass to be looked at and not followed. He knows I never uttered such words in my life.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It follows from the event.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We are getting used to the casuistry of my hon. friend. I said that the Liberal platform was a chart; that the compass would be the government of the day, composed of men who were in a position to judge of the country's needs and situation, that they would be guided by the light of facts as to how far at any particular time it would be wise to go in carrying out the provisions as set forth in the platform. That is the position we took on coming into office, and that is the position we take to-day in reference to the tariff. If we needed any vindication of our position, if we needed any single statement to show that the position which we had taken was the right and proper one, it would be the attitude of my hon. friend to-day, who does not know on which score to condemn us, and which is equivalent to saying that we have avoided extremes and that in dealing with tariff matters we have exercised that caution, and prudence, and wisdom so necessary in whatever is being done.

We tell my right hon. friend that what we have done we believe to be in the country's interest, that to carry out what he himself a little earlier in his address mentioned was one of the most necessary and essential things for the development of this country may require us perhaps to go a step further. My right hon. friend spent a great deal of time in pointing out what we should be doing to develop our natural resources. If I gathered the burden of his theme at the start, when he began to speak of trade with the United States and other countries, it was to the effect that the duty of the government was to do all it possibly could to develop within Canada our natural resources. What is necessary for the development of these resources? Two things—capital and labour. We are seeking to increase the labour by adding to the numbers coming into the country through our immigration policy. What is the capital necessary for the development of our natural resources? It is first and foremost the instruments that are necessary for production in the basic industries. This is the capital that men have to work with. It is by the aid of capital and labour, made as plentiful, as ready and as efficient as it can possibly be, that the industries of our country will be best developed.

And so we as a government have taken this position, believing that in the development of our natural resources lies the foundation of our national prosperity. We have said that just as soon as our finances would permit us to do it we would take the proper steps to relieve essential capital of taxation. We believe that when we announce the budget we will be able to declare that the time has come when there can be some relief from the burden of taxation of those instruments of production which are essential to the full development of the basic industries of the country.

Now, my right hon. friend said that he doubted our prosperity, that he did not know what evidences there were of prosperity, nor did he know what the government had done to contribute towards it. In the course of his speech he touched on some matters that appear in the Speech from the Throne, but he ignored other very important matters: He said nothing of what this government has done to reduce the public debt, to lessen taxation, and to effect economies in the public service—of these things my right hon. friend never said a word.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not know they existed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, before the night is over I shall teach my right hon. friend that they do exist. The trouble is that in his pilgrimage of woe which he has been engaged in during the last six or eight months he has repeated so often statements that are wholly untrue, statements that are in no way borne out by the facts, and has become so accustomed to listening to his own voice in public, that he has forgotten altogether what the truth is and what the facts are. I purpose tonight not to give my right hon. friend the kind of generalizations in which he has been indulging, not to make the imprudent and reckless statements he has been resorting to in the various provinces, but to appeal from the misrepresentations he has been making to the facts, and to leave the country to judge between us as to whether or not the propaganda which he and his friends have sent broadcast about the alleged extravagance and the waste of the present administration has any foundation in fact.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Start on the reduction of debt.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I will do as my right hon. friend suggests.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What did my right hon. friend say with regard to the re-