

Let the Prime Minister no longer declare that he has met only with opposition in this house. I ask him to join with the Liberal members of this house, and with myself, in seeking to supplement those measures of social and industrial reform; measures in which I have been interested, not on the eve of an election only, but throughout my life.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I assume that the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Mackenzie King) knew that during the latter part of his discourse he was entirely out of order, for our rules provide that the subject matter of a future debate may not be discussed in the present debate. But owing to his assumption of wide knowledge, as explained in his book, I thought it undesirable to intervene.

I do not know that I have listened to anything that more clearly demonstrated the soundness of the views I have put forward in the last few weeks than the speech which we have just heard. Nothing more clearly indicated the necessity for the reforms I have proposed, nothing more clearly indicated the urgent need of them, than the speech to which we have just listened. But the difference between the two parties is readily explained in one sentence of the right hon. gentleman. He said, "I put these things in a book".

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is more than the Prime Minister has ever done.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman now makes it clear that the book he referred to is *Industry and Humanity*. Well, I have always found it a little difficult to discover what Job meant when he said he wished his adversary had written a book, until I heard the speech this afternoon, and then I realized the full meaning of the observation. But I turned to a more modern and relevant comment to be found in *Revelation*:

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Mr. DUFF: Let the Prime Minister read verse 11 of the same chapter.

Mr. GRAY: Bitter or sweet, the right hon. gentleman has swallowed the book.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sorry to see that an observation from Scripture so disconcerts hon. gentlemen opposite, but it was to be expected. Now, let us have a clear understanding. I said in the broadcast addresses to which reference was made that my concern is with the Liberal party in Canada

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

since the war. My concern is with the Liberal party in Canada since the war, confronted with conditions such as have never been known in the world. I endeavoured to inquire, and I now propose to inquire, just what the right hon. gentleman did—besides putting it in a book—with respect to the problems to which he has referred. To start with, he came into office in December, 1921. He was in power during 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 with a short break, 1927, 1928, 1929 and part of 1930. During the latter part of his term of office this country was in a higher degree of speculation than it had ever before been in its history, and as a result of the failure of his government to take adequate measures to safeguard the public interest, thousands of people became bankrupt and were ruined. Further, the very friends upon whom he relies and upon whom he has relied were those who accomplished those purposes. That is the reason I say that the times cry for reform and that the right hon. gentleman is wholly incapable of effecting reform, because during the period when he had the opportunity in the full flush of power, when he appealed to the electorate in 1925, when he did not receive the majority he sought, and when he came back in 1926, the only reform he put upon the statute books in that year, the measure to which he referred to-night, was a reform forced upon him by the hon. gentlemen who sit to his left. The record of Hansard shows conclusively that that is so and the issue is plain and simple: Are these evils to which he has referred, these evils which we see all about us and which are known to every one of us, the result or not of the capitalist system as it flourished during those years? That is the question. Are they or are they not the result of capitalism as it flourished during those years? If ever there were a case proven it has been by the evidence given by the right hon. gentleman himself to-night. With the amplitude of his power, with all the surrounding he had, he sat quietly by and let those evils flourish to the extent of thousands of his fellow citizens being ruined, and yet his voice was not raised against those evils.

That is not all. When in 1928 I ventured in this chamber to point out the way in which we were proceeding what happened? Those hon. members who may be interested will read in Hansard that on June 9, 1928, I used these words:

It is true that we have a vast, untouched estate, and that new wealth may be produced much more readily from that than from an old and cultivated estate. But it is also true that where we cultivate, it is necessary that we