

I said a minute ago that when my right hon. friend was making his appeal he blamed the policies of his predecessors. Let me read one or two statements he made in that regard, and when I read them I would ask hon. members to bear in mind the application of his words to his own policies. At Sarnia on July 17, 1930, as reported in the Montreal Gazette of July 18, my right hon. friend said:

Canada was now in a "critical condition;" unemployment exists "on a scale which never before was known in the history of this country; all this by reason of the policies of the Ottawa government."

Speaking at Montreal on June 26th, 1930, as reported in the Montreal Gazette of June 27th, my right hon. friend said:

Unemployment has become a national problem in Canada. It is the direct result of nine years of unsound economic policies applied by Liberals—under Premier King.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Just wait a moment. I will not give you nine years of Conservative rule, I will give you the record for one and a half years.

An hon. MEMBER: Don't give us any.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Mail and Empire of January 20th, 1931, contains the following report of a speech by my right hon. friend on the preceding day:

"Had it not been," said Mr. Bennett "that due to the policies of the preceding eight or nine years which left the country ill-prepared for depression of the present character, Canada would have met the ensuing crisis even better than she has."

That is what my right hon. friend said with regard to the record of the Liberal administration,—an administration which changed deficit into surpluses, which for eight years in succession reduced the public debt, reduced taxation, vastly increased trade, did not do any borrowing but met all expenditures, including capital expenditures, out of current revenues, and brought about a condition of prosperity such as the country had not known before.

Now, then, if policies are responsible for results, what is to be said of the policies which my right hon. friend has put into effect? What is to be said of a policy that inside of a year and a half made it necessary for this administration after borrowing \$100,000,000 to borrow not \$100,000,000 but over \$200,000,000 more; that has created enormous deficits instead of surpluses, that has vastly increased the taxation of the people, that in very large measure has crippled the trade of the country and that has enormously increased the public debt? If you are going to judge policies by results

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

there is the record of hon. gentlemen since they assumed office. But my right hon. friend said "There is something more important than policies, namely governments. Governments can do anything." Let us hear what he has to say on this score.

Speaking at Calgary on June 12th, 1930, according to the Calgary Herald of June 13th, he said:

This is a new country and there is no excuse for unemployment in Canada if a government does its duty.

I do not hear any applause from my hon. friends opposite.

An hon. MEMBER: You will.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let us take his next utterance. Speaking at North Vancouver on June 17th, 1930, according to the Vancouver Province of the 18th, he said:

Governments can regulate policies of the country so that facilities may be provided to give employment and not make it necessary for thousands to leave home and go elsewhere to get jobs to make a living.

At Victoria, according to the Colonist of June 17th, my right hon. friend said:

Is there any excuse for Canada to have hard times if the government is discharging its duties as it should?

I ask my right hon. friend that question now, in his own words: Is there any excuse for Canada to have hard times if the government is discharging its duties as it should? I am sure that neither my right hon. friend nor any of his colleagues will say that we are not having hard times to-day. If they admit that, there is according to the Prime Minister no excuse for hard times if the government is doing its duty, what according to his own dictum then is to be said for my right hon. friend's government?

Speaking at Sarnia on July 16th, 1930—and these are the words that helped my right hon. friend to win the position of power that he occupies to-day—he was most emphatic:

"Someone," he said, "is responsible for unemployment; not individuals, but governments; governments by their majorities in parliament are responsible for enacting all legislation."

There is condemnation not only of himself and his administration but of all his followers, for he says:

Governments by their majorities in parliament are responsible—

So according to the words of the Prime Minister our hard times are due to the action of his government and his followers.

But my right hon. friend left no doubt in the minds of those who heard him that every-