

Now my right hon. friend is always referring to the importance of being strictly accurate. He took my colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) to task when the minister said he did not think there was any provision in the Inquiries Act which stipulated the amount which should be paid to commissioners. I think my colleague the Minister of Labour was right and that the leader of the opposition was wrong in that respect.

Mr. BENNETT: There was provision in the statute.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have a copy of the Inquiries Act in my hand, which I shall be glad to send to my right hon. friend, and I shall be very much surprised if he can find in it any clause that fixes the amount to be paid. There has been one amendment to the act, but there is no such provision in that. What my right hon. friend may have had in mind was some order in council, which may have been passed, limiting the amount which should be paid to commissioners or fixing an amount for the guidance of council, but there is nothing in the statute which names the amount to be paid to commissioners.

Mr. DEACHMAN: I rise to enter a protest against the air of pessimism which has prevailed in the committee this afternoon. My hon. friend the member for Kootenay East (Mr. Stevens) expressed the idea that there was no further hope for the development of international trade. I desire to point out to him and to the committee that between 1933 and 1936, under a government which has done more to repress trade than any other government we have ever had in Canada, the total exports of the dominion increased a matter of \$280,000,000 in three years, or at the rate of approximately \$90,000,000 a year. I have sufficient confidence in my hon. friends who are now in charge of affairs to suggest that they will better that record at least slightly during the coming two or three years, and if they do we shall then have Canadian export trade established once more on the basis of a billion dollars a year. And barring war years and the immediate post-war years there have been only seven years in Canadian history in which we exceeded that total. If we succeed in bringing exports up to that point imports will naturally follow to approximately the same level. The result will be a marked increase in the revenue from customs duties, an expansion of business on the Canadian National Railways, these clouds which we so much dread to-day will have broken and disappeared, and Canada will be once more on the way to prosperity.

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I am not so much surprised at the note of pessimism struck by the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer), who unfortunately has been believing a number of things which are not precisely true. Believing them he became bluer and bluer as the time went on until when he delivered his speech the other day he reminded me of what I heard a man in the west say of a certain person, that he was so dreary and sad he would make a prairie chicken chicken-hearted. Here is one statement he made the other day. He quoted Sir Robert Borden as follows:

In 1931, according to the figures recently compiled by the national committee in public finance, working under the auspices of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the total amount of income assessed by the dominion against individuals for purposes of the income tax was \$815,714,684, and this was the greatest amount assessed in any year. Exemptions under the act were \$3,000 for married persons and \$1,500 for single persons. In 1931, the ordinary expenditure of the governments of the country, federal, provincial and municipal, totalled \$920,000,000. In other words, if the governments had taken every dollar of income in excess of the moderate exemptions mentioned above, they would still be \$100,000,000 short of enough money to pay their bills.

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden did not represent that the amounts assessed for income tax represented the total income of the people of the Dominion of Canada. But the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer) did, for this is his statement:

When taxation rises to the point where income is exhausted, then government is threatened with the disaster which must come from financial impotency.

I should like to give the figures of national income as compiled by the bureau of statistics. I have before me a pamphlet issued by the bureau with the name of the one who authorized it at that time, the hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Stevens). On page 2 of this pamphlet I find this statement:

In the year 1930, with which the present study is principally concerned, the total amount of income falling under the observation of the income tax branch and paying income tax within the fiscal year ended March 31, 1932, was \$992,000,000, or approximately one-fifth of what would appear to have been the aggregate national income of that year.

In other words, the total income of the Dominion of Canada was approximately \$5,000,000,000 and not \$815,000,000 as was suggested by this speaker. At the conclusion of twenty-eight pages of study of this important question, I find these words:

Thus these three estimates would indicate that the national income of Canada in 1930, after making provision for net interest and