

16

PRESS CLIPPINGS

D 24322
Office of
The Leader of the Opposition

Name of Publication.....

Date.....

Subject.....

Control of the purse was the important thing. As long as you had an executive collecting and spending revenues by simply giving a statement to the people, you had no real control of affairs.

The great struggle for responsible government was to subject the executive to the control of the representatives of the people as a whole. (Applause).

Now that was a long struggle. It cost some lives and sent others into exile, but it did help to bring into this country a condition of parliamentary government which allowed the people control.

Those of the present generation have become so accustomed to our parliament being a free parliament,—the people's representatives exercising control over the executive—that they seem to think there is no danger of losing that.

Let me point out one of two little things which will show you in a few minutes how completely we have changed, and how true it is, as my friend said here tonight, that history is again repeating itself, in that we are having today, only in a different form, the same old struggle to see if we can get again the control of Parliament, in the true sense of the word, over the executive. (Applause).

The Unemployment Question

How has Mr. Bennett dealt with the question of unemployment? He has dealt with it, for the most part, by taking away the whole question from the Parliament of Canada and putting it in the hands of the executive.

He is asking Parliament not to vote so much money for this project and that project, giving reasons to Parliament why this amount was fixed at that and what purpose it was for; but he simply said: "You must give me the right to draw out the amount of money I like out of the public treasury to meet this question of unemployment." In other words, what has been spoken of as a "blank cheque."

After further discussing this matter, Mr. King said:

"We have no Parliament today, but Mr. Bennett takes the authority which he got from the previous Parliament to take out of the public treasury whatever sums of money he pleases, to spend it in any way, during this very time of a general election, so long as he simply writes on the Order-in-Council by which this money is to be spent that is to deal with the question of unemployment.

Mr. Bennett asked Parliament to give him authority, because he said conditions were so serious, that the parliamentary method was the wrong way and that these were times and conditions when he must act quickly—to give him power to enact by Order-in-Council and by the Executive alone, not by Parliament, any measure that he thought necessary for the peace, order and good government of the country.

All he has to do to put through a particular measure today is to simply pass an Order-in-Council under that authority. (Applause).

That was never intended by those who framed our constitution that that power should be given by an Executive.

I told him, as leader of the Opposition, very plainly that if he needed anything more for peace, order and good government, tell us what it is, and if it appeals to this Parliament we will pass it, but don't ask us to give you the authority when Parliament is not in session to enact any order you please. (Applause).

The Marketing Act

I have in my hand a copy of the Marketing Act. He has told the farmers to get together as producers and do this and that, but it has a great deal more than that. It provides for dealing with anything manufactured from the products named there, and they include nearly all the basic products. The manufacturers too can come together in a combine or monopoly and pass regulations excluding everybody else, and fix fees and penalties for anybody who will not be a part of their group, and they can carry on under the law.

Mr. Bennett is giving here power to the Executive itself to control the external trade of this country, to prohibit the export of any commodity or to prohibit the import of any commodity that comes within the things that are called for in this measure, and I say they include a lot of our imports and exports. (Applause).