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PRESS CLIPPINGS

D21254 Office of  
The Leader of the Opposition

Name of Publication.....  
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Subject.....

**Unemployed Band Together.**

It was in the same city that, from the public platform, Mr. Bennett said: "I meet men wearing the white buttons, and all they ask for is the chance to work. Think what it is to have a wife and children, and all you men ask is a chance for employment." It was also in Regina that, for political purposes, the unemployed were first banded together, and supplied with white buttons, and organized to interrupt political meetings. The ancient Greeks had a clear understanding of human nature and behavior when they accorded Nemesis the place they did in most of their tragedies.

To cope with this nation-wide situation, the Liberal party proposes, if returned to power, to adopt the policies which it has consistently advocated, and which are set forth in the paragraph that appears as the first item in the statement of the party's position, which I read to you on Friday evening last. Let me read that paragraph to you again. You will recall that the statement was first given publicity after it was made in the House of Commons on February 27, 1933. The paragraph is as follows:

**Unemployment of First Concern.**

The Liberal party believes unemployment is Canada's most urgent national problem. It would deal with the present emergency conditions through a representative national commission, which would co-operate with the provinces and municipalities in the administration of unemployment relief and in an endeavor to provide work for the unemployed.

As permanent measures, the Liberal party is pledged to introduce policies which will serve to provide employment by reviving industry and trade; and to introduce a national system of unemployment insurance.

You will see, from what I have read, that the Liberal party recognizes that a solution of the unemployment problem must be sought in two directions. Long range policies and permanent measures must be instituted which, through a revival of trade and industry, will serve to bring about a measure of prosperity. This, of itself, by providing employment, will more effectively than anything else reduce unemployment.

**Must Cut Expenditures.**

It must be clear that expenditures for the purpose of relief, or for providing employment at the instance of the state, cannot be continued indefinitely. Only by removing the restrictions which have throttled and strangled the movement of goods into and out of the country, and through persistent and persuasive endeavor to regain markets which have been closed against us, and to discover new markets, can there come a revival of trade and business, and the return of work for the men and women of our land.

Confidence in the institutions of government, certainty and stability in the administration of public business, are also essential to recovery. Release from, rather than increase in the burden of the cost of government, reductions, rather than increases, in taxation; co-operation and goodwill between the federal and provincial administrations, and between all parts and classes of the country, must also be achieved, if commerce and industry are to revive.

**Time is Required.**

Time is required to give effect to long-range policies and measures, however sound they may be. Something additional is, therefore, required to meet conditions of unemployment and distress which long since have constituted a national emergency. This situation the Liberal party proposes to meet by regarding the problem of unemployment, as it has endeavored to have the present government regard it, as Canada's most urgent national problem, and will deal with it as such.

You will recall that during the war there was established, under act of the federal Parliament, what was known as the Canadian Patriotic Fund. Its purpose was to provide relief allowances for the needs of dependent wives and families of soldiers overseas. The affairs of the fund were administered by a national executive committee, which included many of the outstanding citizens of Canada. This committee co-operated with provincial and local organizations. Much of the work was done by voluntary workers. A close supervision was made of all expenditures. Some fifty million dollars were raised and expended, every cent of which was audited under the supervision of the auditor-general of Canada.