

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that he has not given a five cent piece. Such were the means taken by my hon. friend to gain power. He sits in this parliament to-day as Prime Minister in view of the appeal that he made to the necessities of the poor, and because of the extent to which he exploited those necessities.

What did he say further? He gave an alleged reason as to why he had not touched the question of unemployment in the house. Listen to this. He said at Regina on June 10 as reported in the Toronto Globe of the following day:

I did not mention it in parliament.

That is the question of unemployment in the House of Commons here. It may be the reason why he is not speaking at the moment.

I said I did not wish to have it regarded as a political matter.

I suppose all that my hon. friend said on the subject of unemployment in the course of the campaign was not in any way for a political purpose. The report continues:

Mr. Bennett spoke of the sense of responsibility which seized him in the position he now occupied. Canada was blessed with great natural resources, he proceeded, but yet we find something which saddens my heart to-day. 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.

He went on: "I never in all my life saw such unemployment in this Canada of ours as in this year of 1930."

I wish my hon. friend would tell us who paid for those white buttons.

Then at Three Rivers on July 14, as reported in the Ottawa Morning Citizen of July 16:

"Do you believe," the Conservative chieftain exclaimed, "in a fair deal, an even chance for Canadians? Do you believe Canadians should have a chance to work on the raw materials of this country in Canada? Do you believe Canadian industry should have the opportunity to supply the wants of Canadian consumers? If you do, vote for us. But if you believe our boys and girls should grow up to manhood and womanhood estate and then have to go to the United States to find jobs, vote for the Liberals. If you want to give work to Japan, Czechoslovakia or some other country in place of Canada, vote for the Liberals."

So much for the picture which my hon. friend painted of the situation in Canada, the distress that extended from coast to coast.

Now we come to the great deliverance. Here is the great deliverance from the lips of my hon. friend—and note this is all to be done by the administration in the first session. A session was to be called immediately and

[Mr. King.]

within the period of that session all this distress was to be relieved and unemployment completely ended.

Speaking at Regina on June 10, the present Prime Minister said, as reported in the Regina Leader-Post, June 11, 1930:

If the party I belong to on the 28th day of July is given authority to conduct the affairs of this country, at the first session of our parliament, the government of which I am the head will pass laws that will give Canadians an equal opportunity with their competitors outside of Canada, or we go out of power.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am glad to see my hon. friend sticking to his statement.

At Calgary on June 12, he said, as reported in the Calgary Herald of June 13:

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

I am convinced this unemployment has now ceased to be local and provincial and has become national in its importance. It, has reached far beyond the narrow confines of Calgary or Alberta and is stretching into the broad confines of our Dominion. I will not permit this country with my voice or vote to ever become committed to the dole system. I will not permit those to share in any benefits that may accrue unless they are willing to work, if they are fit to work, and my duty is to provide them with work to do. . . . There are great national works that may be undertaken in times of stress and strain. . . . They will be undertaken, and I propose that parliament shall formulate a definite plan for permanent relief, and that parliament shall deal with this national problem and provide amelioration for the conditions in order that next winter the Canadian people may not be facing the crisis that is upon us without having a remedy at hand.

I follow his course as he went further west, and then his coming to the east. Speaking at Edmonton on June 13, he is reported in the Ottawa Journal of the following day as follows:

"I spoke of unemployment last night at Calgary," the Conservative chieftain declared.

"We must face it absolutely at once". . . .

"I accept the challenge and I say again that I will call parliament together, at the earliest possible moment to provide at once the remedy—employment for all who can and will work. It is in the interests of every one of us, rich and poor, happy and unhappy, alike, that this should be done. If there be those who think that their idleness, now unsought, may by aid of government be continued at their will, they mistake my meaning and my purpose. I will help them to help themselves; but I will not help them to remain in idleness. That would be bad for them and bad for the country as a whole. And in this, as in all other things, I will act for the common good. That is my guide. Any other would surely lead me astray."

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