

Mr. HANSON: Surely.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend says "surely." In the last campaign he and others continually said that the current economic situation required that these things should be done at once, and not only at once but regardless of expense. We were to have a national highway running all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific by an all-Canadian route; we were to have a St. Lawrence waterway, also by an all-Canadian route; we were to have the Peace river outlet to the ocean; we were to have other routes to Hudson bay. Everything was to be done at once. There was to be more in the way of aid to agriculture, technical education and old age pensions. Every old man and old woman who had a vote was made to believe that he and she were going to get full pensions as soon as this parliament met, but now they are told that they will get pensions as soon as the current economic situation warrants. Then listen to the next words:

... and such as can be undertaken without undue demands upon the national exchequer.

When the late Liberal administration was in office, Mr. Speaker, that administration had control of the exchequer of this country. If we had wished to play in the campaign the part which was played by hon. gentlemen opposite we could have said, "Here is the exchequer in our hands. We will take the moneys out of this exchequer to provide old age pensions for everyone, aid to agriculture for every one, more in the way of technical education for everyone and highways across the country for everyone. We will do it immediately and out of the money of the people of this country." We could have said all that and we might have achieved the result which was achieved by hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. COTNAM: Are you sorry?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should say not, but I should think hon. gentlemen opposite might well be sorry, and I think they will be still more sorry before they have been in office very long. What I want to make perfectly clear is that we understood what these obligations amounted to. We knew what would be required in the way of taxation to do these things, and we were honest with the people.

Now may I refer to what is said in regard to the revision of the tariff and the establishment of a tariff board. I assume that the revisions will be of the character of those made at the special session, more revisions upward,

and I will have something to say in that regard a little later on. With regard to the tariff board we will naturally wait and see what functions this board will be expected to exercise before pronouncing upon it. The first act of my hon. friend, after coming into office, was to dismiss the existing tariff board, which had collected a great deal of most valuable information and which had given satisfaction to all classes in this country, industry, agriculture, labour and others. So far as it is humanly possible for any one organization to reconcile differences of opinion and find common ground to help keep groups and parties united, this was done by the tariff board under the administration of Mr. Moore. But my hon. friend abolished the board immediately upon his assumption of office. Now he proposes to establish another tariff board. Was the abolition simply for the purpose of placing partisans on the board, simply to get a new board composed of those who were of his own political persuasion, or is the tariff board to be another instrument designed to wrest from parliament its authority over taxation and the control of tariffs and hence also of moneys of the people? If my hon. friend has in mind giving to any board the power to adjust the tariff at its will, without the consent of this parliament in the first instance, I will tell him now that he will have to fight pretty hard before he will succeed in a step of the kind. May I remind my right hon. friend this is not a special session of parliament. Let me tell him further that we assume the postponed conference is going to take place, and that he had better fix the date of that conference at a period when he may be expected to have leisure to deal with it. Do not let him think that because last year he succeeded in using the Imperial conference as a reason for proroguing parliament and getting through the business of this house in a rush, he is going to succeed by any device of that kind this year. We shall get through the business of the house in an orderly way or the country will know the reason why.

The next measures mentioned are those that refer to the control of finances and to the Naturalization Act and the Copyright Act. We shall have to wait until those measures are down before saying anything about them. That concludes the program with the exception of the reference to public accounts, which contains this interesting statement:

The estimates will manifest my ministers' resolve that, until the revenues of the country reflect a definite improvement in the economic