

what was said about this act in a letter dated September 15, 1931, from the deputy minister of labour at Ottawa to the provincial governments:

I am instructed by the minister, however, to advise all provinces that after careful consideration by the government it has been decided to postpone the operation of the act until such time as the economic conditions of the country warrant expenditures being made in connection with the work to be promoted under the terms of the act.

I suppose that is what we shall hear in regard to any more social legislation hon. gentlemen opposite may introduce. If they are going to attempt all this social legislation and at the same time keep up the tariff walls of this country and restrict trade as they have been doing, I am afraid all the social legislation will go by the boards just as this measure in regard to vocational training has gone and for the same reason. So much by way of reply for the present to the Prime Minister's question to the people of Canada as to whom they should support, when they came to consider matters of social and industrial legislation, whether they should support him or support me.

I said this afternoon that I thought the Prime Minister might have been reading this book of mine on Industry and Humanity and obtained some of his social views from that perusal, but he shook his head, so I conclude that he has not yet seen it and that somebody has told him about the contents.

Mr. BENNETT: Not yet. I have not seen anybody that has read it; that is the trouble.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is one document, however, with which I know the Prime Minister is familiar and that is one embodying the statement that I made in this house, not just on the eve of an election but on February 27, 1933, two years ago, when I set out the position of the Liberal party in regard to some immediate problems. My right hon. friend has been saying that the Liberal party has no constructive policy; he has passed the word around among his followers that the cry is to be that the Liberal party has no policy. He has said as much in his radio broadcasts. He says however, that our policy is at once activity and inactivity. That is pretty much the line he takes all through; he gets in the opposites on all occasions, so that the compass will be boxed on all sides. While he did say that we had no policy at all, there is one thing I feel a little pleased about and it is that in the speech from the throne the Prime Minister has embodied amongst his measures a good many that have been put forward as their policies by the

Liberal party. There can be no dispute on this fact, as all that is needed by way of comparison with what appears in the speech from the throne is a reference to Hansard of February 27, 1933, where there is set forth an exact statement of what those policies are.

I shall take a few minutes to refer to those parts of the speech from the throne which deal with the matters which the Prime Minister says constitute a part of his reform program. The speech otherwise is not so important. Part of it has pleasant references, I am glad to see, to the Jacques Cartier celebration and also to His Majesty's silver jubilee. Then there are references to some administration measures and references to some agreements and commissions which are to be further dealt with, which by the way happen to be also Liberal measures. The Duncan commission to which reference was made was appointed by a Liberal administration and a large part of its findings were implemented by the late Liberal administration. The agreements with Saskatchewan and Alberta were part of the agreements made by the late Liberal administration with the western provinces, including Manitoba, whereby the natural resources of these provinces were returned to them. There are a few matters of that kind, and one or two administrative measures that we may hear about during this session. Apart from that the speech from the throne relates to proposed social legislation.

Where, may I ask, do these proposed measures come from? We read this in the speech:

In these improved conditions, there may now successfully be carried forward those great tasks of reform upon which the well-being of this country depends . . . reform measures will therefore be submitted to you as part of a comprehensive plan designed to remedy the social and economic injustices now prevailing, and to ensure to all classes and to all parts of the country a greater degree of equality and the distribution of the benefits of the capitalist system.

The first of these—and it has to be read along with one which appears a little further on—relates to the social matters that I have just recited:

Better provision will be made for the security of the worker during unemployment, in sickness and in old age.

Also:

Action will be taken to ameliorate the conditions of labour, to provide a better and more assured standard of living for the worker, to secure minimum wages and a maximum working week, and to alter the incidence of taxation so that it will more directly conform to capacity to pay.