

*The Address—Mr. Manion*

Mr. MANION: Well, this is what the Toronto *Daily Star* of Tuesday, October 15, 1935, said. The heading is:

A New charter of Liberalism in statement by Mackenzie King.

"Faith in the ancient and beneficent precepts that it is only by sharing each other's burden, and doing unto others as we would have others do unto us, that men and nations can serve their own interests and the common good."

Ottawa, October 15—From Laurier House, where last night he received returns of the overwhelming Liberal victory, the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King issued the following statement to the people of the dominion.

I am not going to read the whole statement, but I shall read one paragraph. It is headed, "Banish poverty and adversity."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. gentleman states that I said I would banish poverty. I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. MANION: Well, the heading is there, the right hon. gentleman will have to quarrel with the Toronto *Daily Star*. I shall read it, and perhaps the right hon. gentleman will be sorry he interrupted. These are his words; the heading may not be his; it is divided into paragraphs, and whether the headings are by the *Daily Star* or the right hon. gentleman I do not know. He is reported as saying on the night of the election:

In the new era which dawns to-day the struggle for the rights of the people will, in the realm of economic liberty and security, be carried on as never before. Poverty and adversity, want and misery are the enemies which Liberalism will seek to banish from our land.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, "seek to banish".

Mr. MANION: The right hon. gentleman now falls back on the words "will seek"; in other words, they sought but did not find. They were only going to seek; it was just put out for the benefit of the people.

Then he goes on:

They have lain in wait at the gate of every Canadian home during the past five years, and their menacing mien has served to destroy the souls, as well as the minds and bodies, of an ever increasing number of men, women and children in our land. We take up at once, as our supreme task, the endeavour to end poverty in the midst of plenty; starvation and unnecessary suffering in a land of abundance; discontent and distress in a country more blessed by Providence than any other on the face of the globe, and to gain for individual lives, and for the nation as a whole, that "health and peace and sweet content" which is the rightful heritage of all.

With those words I have no quarrel at all, but I should like to know what the right hon. gentleman has done to implement those promises. What has he done? With every word of it I agree, but he says now that he

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

was only going to seek to wipe out poverty and adversity. Well, the people of this country are still seeking to find anything done by him to do away with poverty and adversity. Was this just some more ballyhoo, just some more of the propaganda that has been so prevalent since this government came into power? Was he just attempting to fool the people? He says now he was going to seek; did he not expect to find? What have they done for the youth of this country who are without work, who are estimated by the youth council of Toronto to number 400,000? What have they done for the security of the people? What have they done to bring about social justice? What have they done for the fishermen or miners of Nova Scotia? What have they done to cure unemployment generally? What have they done for Canada generally?

Let me read another little extract which is not a political article at all. The Canadian Welfare Council issued a statement on January 5 last, just the other day. They show this, as far as Canada is concerned—and they are not a political organization; they are not criticising the government but merely setting out the facts:

Relief costs \$900,000,000 since 1930.

Of all the factors in the situation at the present time the most disturbing is probably realization of the fact that by the end of March 1939 Canada will have disbursed in nine years approximately 900 million dollars on direct aid, works and projects for the relief of unemployment and agricultural distress, and at the end of that time has more dependents on public funds voted for this purpose than when she started.

A little further down:

The discouraging fact is that after all these years, in part because of the clashing jurisdictions of the dominion and its provinces, Canada still lacks long term legislation, comprehensive planning, and any integrated and adequate program for a fundamental attack upon the serious national ills which have occasioned these heavy expenditures.

Then further down:

Energetic attack the need.

All in all, a weary country and a disillusioned people have been in a mood of drift, but there appears to be a growing realization that the situation cannot continue, that the attack must be basic, and much more than merely a matter of this or that relief policy, or the relative allocation of functions and costs among different units of government.

And finally:

. . . for it is possible that the threat to Canadian well-being now lies not so largely in the actual sag in employment which we are facing as in the "let-down" of spirit and morale of the country as a whole.