

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

*Toronto Mail and Empire April 7/30***PREMIER'S PHRASE
BECOMES WEAPON****Bennett to Start Attack
on "Not a Nickel for
Tories" Speech To-day.****MAY VOTE TO-NIGHT****More Trouble for Govern-
ment Before Start Made
on Estimates.**By H. **JOHN HICKEY.**

Mail Empire Staff Writer.

Ottawa, April 6.—In Parliamentary circles here, the opinion is spreading that, to say the least, Premier Mackenzie King seems prone to a most lamentable tendency to unfortunate phrasing when he enters any discussion of the Dominion Government's fiscal relations with the Provinces.

Last session he coined the phrase "vicious principle," which he applied—and properly, his supporters believe—to the practice of the Dominion making, under certain circumstances, payments of money to a Provincial treasury.

Mr. King's opprobrium, be it right or wrong, could hardly have been put in words better fit for the use of his political opponents. For there seems little room in politics for the man who, speaking from a public platform, cannot lend a most ominous sound to an adjective most frequently applied to ugly-tempered dogs. So it is that the word "vicious" has cropped up time and again, in and out of Parliament, to force Mr. King and his supporters into repeated explanations of their precise attitude on such matters as old age pensions, where Dominion and Provinces jointly pay out money.

Since last Thursday, however, it now seems that Mr. King's expasperated ears may have heard the last of "vicious principle." But at the moment the cure looks worse than the disease. For when the Premier resolved the unemployment question into something less than five-cent pieces where Tory Provincial Governments are concerned, he gave his opponents a catch-phrase that, in their own opinion, could hardly be bettered.

Prominent in Hansard.

At this writing, it looks as if the country will hear a good deal about the five-cent piece this Summer, election or no. And it will not be the Conservatives who will have to explain how that humble coin came to gain its prominence in Hansard.

Mr. Bennett will have something to say on the subject to-morrow when, as is now expected, he will take a hand in the unemployment debate. There is no task more to the liking of the Conservative leader than that of picking up one of Mr. King's phrases and whole-heartedly bludgeoning the Government with it. This time he has a bone that he can work his teeth into properly, and if he speaks the House will have plenty of action.

Unless A. A. Heaps, Winnipeg Laborite who moved the unemployment amendment, withdraws that motion, it is expected that the debate will end in a division Monday night. Mr. King, in his speech, suggested the amendment's withdrawal. Mr. Heaps' intention will not be known until he speaks and closes the debate.

A few Government supporters are not entirely prepared to take the administration's view, to deny altogether that unemployment is a national problem. It is doubtful, however, that such inward convictions will prove strong enough to make them vote against the Government in a division. On the other hand, the Progressives and Independents will join the Conservatives but the Government can be depended upon to vote down the combination.

Counter Attack Ready.

Victory in such a division, though, will by no means give the Government a start on the estimates. If the unemployment debate ends on Monday, the Conservatives are ready to open up Tuesday on a new debate—that is, new for this session at least. This will be a fruit and vegetable tariff debate.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie, it is understood, will move an amendment demanding higher protection for market gardeners who claim to suffer seriously by reason of U.S. competition in early crops. An important branch of this debate will be a demand for an increased tariff on beans. The tariff on beans is now two-fifths of a cent per pound and the producers ask that it be made 40 per cent. ad valorem.

In five Western Ontario counties beans are an important part of many farmers' crops. It is claimed on behalf of these farmers that imports, particularly from Hungary and Japan, both cheap-labor countries, are wreaking havoc in the domestic market.

Nor have the Conservatives failed to note that each of these counties—Lambton, Kent, Essex, Norfolk and Elgin—is represented wholly or in part by Liberal members. The latter, it is understood, have been subjected to considerable pressure on the subject in their ridings. For this reason, the debate may prove inconvenient to the Government.

The administration is expected to premise its reply on the fact that the tariff board has investigated the fruit and vegetable tariff. And, no doubt, the wits on the Government side will sprinkle Hansard with their humor on beans as well as references to several debates in previous sessions on this subject generally. But in some quarters it is rumored as not beyond possibility that the Government may promise a partial relief to market gardeners.

This debate, if opportunity permits its commencement Tuesday, will not be of any great length and should be finished before the House rises Friday for its 12-day Easter vacation.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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