

The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King

and the last, alpha and omega—all. Well, again I say my right hon. friend is quite sincere.

And the government being his, the blasting has commenced. It commenced at the special session. I am reviewing the situation as I am because the methods which have been adopted are going to continue, and the country will have to make up its mind whether such is the way it wishes to be governed, whether it wishes to have its affairs so conducted in relation to other countries of the world. No longer is there an opportunity for saying that "blasting" is a chance phrase used in the heat of a political campaign or debate. It is a method deliberately selected and that is believed in by my right hon. friend, a method which he intends to pursue in his policies, a method which he has shown us already he intends to pursue even in this parliament as far as he can, namely, the method of coercion. Because that in a word is what it is—not the conciliatory method, but the method of coercion, the getting things done by force of economic might—that is the method he intends to adopt.

Having the opportunity and the power he started at once to use that method in the special session. As all know, the special session of parliament was called for the purpose, nominally, of relieving unemployment. We were no sooner assembled than we discovered that the relief of the unemployed was a mere subterfuge, that the session in reality was to revise tariff schedules upward and to amend the Customs Tariff Act so as to give powers to the governor in council to do what council pleased with respect to many matters affecting the tariff. Throughout the campaign it was never thought that at the special session there would be changes of any extent in the tariff. My hon. friend made use of the session as he made use of the Imperial conference—as an instrument of coercion—the use he made of the forthcoming meeting of the conference was as effective as any form of closure. Hon. members know that.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We met here nominally to pass a vote for the relief of unemployment. As was repeatedly said, that could have been done by a governor general's warrant. A governor general's warrant could have been issued for \$20,000,000 without a word of criticism in the circumstances.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say without a word of criticism for this reason, that in the campaign over and over again I said that the

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money if necessity demanded it could be taken by governor general's warrant for that purpose pending the assembling of parliament immediately after the conference. What criticism could I have directed at the administration after having made that perfectly clear? But in my heart I knew very well that my right hon. friend was not thinking of the unemployed primarily in connection with that session. He was thinking of the special interests that came to his rescue towards the end of the campaign and helped to put him where he is at the present time. It was not until the very last days of the campaign that he uttered any expression which gave the country the slightest idea that he intended to put up the tariff against Britain. The campaign had then about run its course and this phase passed unnoticed by the public at large; it was not unnoticed by those who expected to profit by it. But he did make this representation in the very last days of the campaign, and I drew attention to it in the speech to which I have just referred. It was necessary to wait until almost the last night of the campaign to draw attention to this statement, because my right hon. friend had gone up and down the country appealing to the necessities of the people, making their needs the excuse for the promises and pledges that he then made, and it was not until the very last days of the campaign that he told the people what in his own mind he was determined to do, namely, to raise the tariff at the first opportunity in a way that would serve to their great advantage certain special interests in this country. So he called the special session to force those measures through. Supposing we of the opposition at the special session, had said, "We do not intend to allow this arbitrary and high-handed method of procedure. We are going to stay here and see that every item in this tariff program is discussed as it should be and its bearings properly considered." Supposing we had taken that position—a position which many think the opposition ought to have taken—what would have been the result? My right hon. friend made it plain the first day of the session when he said, "I will not go to any Imperial conference unless I get every bit of this program through." But in Toronto only a few days before he had said that the question of the solution of unemployment and the wheat situation hinged largely on the Imperial conference. Well, if we had taken a step of that kind, and my right hon. friend had not gone to the Imperial conference, we would have been told to-day that wheat was not going from Canada into Great Britain on any im-