

who creates both the party and the policies. For days, the country was kept in a state of suspense, as Mr. Stevens, with scissors and paste in hand, was kept busy going through all the political programs and platforms he could collect, and, piecing them together, with as many excerpts from the report of the Price Spreads Commission, and as many platitudes of his own, as could be included in a document that would not be too long for publication. This document, too, we are told, is being given very wide circulation. But what guarantee is there that, if everyone in Canada receives a copy, he is going to be any better off?

As I speak to you over the radio, I have before me a statement of the Liberal party's position on some immediate problems. This statement was issued by the National Liberal Federation of Canada two and a half years ago. It sets forth the policies of the Liberal party as I was authorized to present them to the House of Commons by every Liberal member in the House, and, indeed, by the unanimous approval, in party caucus, of the Liberal members of both Houses of Parliament. I made it clear, when presenting the statement to Parliament, that it was not intended by the party to be all-inclusive; that there were other matters, than those referred to, as, for example, the party's attitude toward war veterans, towards the aged, and the blind; matters pertaining to health and housing; and such subjects as the Civil Service and reform of penitentiary administration; the granting of titles; and many more, all of which would have to be mentioned, if every important question was to be taken into account. I added that, on most of the matters not referred to in the statement, the party's position had already been made clear, either at the time of the general elections of 1930, or since, upon resolutions, or by

speeches of leading members of the party in parliament. Allowing for all this, you will, I think, be surprised at how up-to-date, and inclusive of most matters of immediate concern, the statement is. Viewed as a whole, you will find, I believe, that the policies set forth constitute a sound basis for the reconstruction of the national life of our Dominion.

Conditions Steadily Worse under Bennett

As I read from the statement of the party's position which is before me, there are four important relevant features which I should like you to keep in mind. The first is, the time at which it was given publicity in Parliament; the second is, the circumstances which called it into being at that particular time; the third is, the authority which lies behind the statement; the fourth is the approval which the policies therein set forth have already received from the electors themselves.

A word as to the time. This statement of the party's position and policies, as I have already mentioned, was made in the House of Commons on February 27th, 1933. You will observe that it was just a little over two and a half years after the present government assumed office, and is a little less than two and a half years ago.

Now a word as to the circumstances which called the statement into being. No one will deny that, from the moment he assumed office, Mr. Bennett was afforded every latitude by way of putting his own policies, and those of the party, into force. He called a special session to deal with unemployment in the autumn of 1930. He did as he pleased at that session. He attended an Imperial Conference in London a little later in the same