

this matter? I say to the Prime Minister that the government has been found wholly wanting, not only in its failure to cope with the question of providing employment, but in its inability to find any kind of remedy to prevent a recurrence of similar conditions.

I could devote a great deal of time to outlining all the shortcomings of the administration in this particular, but that is not my purpose this afternoon. I prefer at this moment to emphasize anew what we on this side have been stressing from the very beginning. The government now admits that it has no longer a policy, that it is following a dole system. As a first step it should immediately bring together those men and women with whom it could confer, and as a result of the advice given by them, a national committee should be appointed to deal with this very important problem. At the same time a committee of parliament should take up immediately the matter of unemployment insurance with a view to bringing a measure before parliament at the earliest possible date.

I come now to the one remaining clause in the speech from the throne which refers to anything of a concrete character to be brought before parliament or rather which it was expected would be brought. A problem next in importance to, and probably equal to that of unemployment is that concerning banking, credit and currency. Are not questions of price levels, of purchasing power, of credit and interest those which are receiving most attention to-day in public discussions in this and other countries? The people of Canada had a right to expect that in the speech from the throne, of this year in particular, the government would bring forward some concrete statement of policy with respect to banking, credit and currency. We find instead only another attempt on the part of the administration to free itself from responsibility altogether; to shift to some indefinite time consideration of this all important problem of the moment:

You will be invited to extend Canadian bank charters for one year in order that parliament may be informed of the results of the proposed world economic and financial conference, to be called to consider financial, economic and monetary problems, before undertaking the decennial revision of the Bank Act.

That is all we find in the speech from the throne concerning the all-important question of banking, currency and credit. The action of the government in postponing consideration of the Bank Act is most extraordinary, in view of the fact that, as the administration well knows, banking and allied problems are weigh-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

ing more heavily upon the minds of the people and are being more widely discussed than any others. This postponement of the revision of the Bank Act on the score of a world conference is a mere pretence, a method taken by the administration to avoid discussion concerning banking, credit and currency at the present session. The proposal is to delay consideration until a world conference is held. What was the position taken last session by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens)? He stated it would not be well to deal with those matters last session because they were to be considered at the forthcoming Imperial economic conference. Banking was to be made a chief item of consideration—in fact, I believe in order of importance the minister placed banking on all fours with tariffs. What has the Imperial economic conference done to assist in the solution of this matter? It too shifted the responsibility to a world conference. The statement was made that these were world matters, and nothing was done. The government following suit proposes, at this time, to shift the solution of all its monetary problems to a world conference. May I ask the administration where that conference is to meet; when is it to meet?—no one knows. If the Prime Minister can tell me I wish he would.

Mr. BENNETT: In London.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When?

Mr. BENNETT: That was settled by the League of Nations some time ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When?

Mr. BENNETT: Probably in December; the date will be fixed in November.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am greatly obliged to the Prime Minister, because he is the first person I know who has been able to give any definite information on the subject. I have no doubt my right hon. friend has in mind that he will be representing the government of Canada at the conference, and possibly he has received inside information. I ask him: If nations belonging to one family have found it impossible to arrive at any solution of these intricate matters of banking, currency and credit, does he consider it possible that a conference of foreign nations will be able to throw any light on the situation in a way calculated to be at all helpful to the parliament of Canada? We shall hope that some good may come from a world conference, but we need not wait for a world conference to deal with a domestic problem with which we ourselves alone can deal. This