

*The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King*

Mr. MEIGHEN: I know it contains that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let me read the words, and if anything could be more specific and true, I would like my right hon. friend to tell me what it is:

Though the general economic situation still reflects the consequences of the world war, the records of production, trade, transportation, employment and public finance have been uniformly increasingly favourable throughout the Dominion. The state of general employment has been distinctly better. The volume of business has steadily increased. Especially has the country reason to feel gratified at the expansion to a notable degree of its public revenues and the decline of its expenditures.

This is about as specific and concrete a statement as could be given of the condition of affairs in Canada to-day, a statement which my right hon. friend was not able to put into any address which he ever presented to parliament.

My right hon. friend said: "Why should there be mention in this address of the Industrial Disputes Act?" I suppose because it referred to labour, he thought it was too insignificant a matter to mention. I notice in his own address he said.

An investigation is being conducted by the Department of Labour into systems of unemployment insurances and old age pensions.

That was the announcement he made, but nothing ever came of it one way or another. The reason reference is made in the Speech from the Throne to the Industrial Disputes Act is the same reason as applies to racetrack gambling and to the construction of the Canadian National Railway Lines bill which is mentioned in the same clause, because those were measures which passed this Commons at the last session, but were thrown out by my right hon. friend's friends in the Senate and which we intend to reintroduce at the present session.

Mr. MEIGHEN: And by my right hon. friend's friends too.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think the next subject which was touched upon by my right hon. friend was that of immigration.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Emigration.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, emigration, if he wishes to put it in that way.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is the fact.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend, in discussing this question, undertook to give to the House a quantity of statistics which he said were based upon returns of the American government. He gave those figures to parliament, but he did not tell parliament in the figures that he quoted that while the

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American government keep a record of the number of persons who leave Canada to go to the United States, they keep no record, nor do we keep a record of those same persons returning from the United States to Canada. Nor did he tell the House a fact which I think is, or ought to be known to him, that a little time ago an officer or officers of the Immigration Department made an examination of a number of cases specifically given to them by United States officials of names of persons who were put down on American lists as emigrants from Canada to the United States, persons who had crossed the boundary line, and of the total number of cases that were cited, 60 per cent were found to be the names of individuals who had returned and who were living in Canada again. The figures my right hon. friend cited this afternoon are not true as an indication of the extent of the so-called exodus from this country to the United States. He knows as well, that at different times in the past there have been periods when there has been a considerable efflux of population from Canada to the United States. We have witnessed some of it recently, but what is the reason? If we go back to the original cause, we shall find that one of the reasons was the fact that for a few years the machinery of immigration from other countries to this was completely disused. Of course during the period of the war no effort was made to bring in immigrants. Immediately after the war the immigration machinery was not set in motion; the offices on the other side remained closed. My right hon. friend did nothing to start immigration to this country during the entire time that he was in office. As everyone knows immigrants are not brought to a country in a day; a great deal has to be done in the way of advertising, in the way of establishing immigration offices for the purpose of giving information and the like, and it takes some little time before a movement will begin to set in from one country towards another. When we came into office we began immediately to establish that machinery. We opened offices in Europe and particularly in the British Isles, and to-day we are beginning to see the fruits of our work in the tide of immigration which is now setting towards our shores. One of the things which I wish to bring out is that the fact that immigration has not been coming for a number of years, lessens to a considerable extent the quantity of work which would be in course of development in the country and does not give the same amount of employment that would otherwise be the case, and for that reason in part some of our people, not finding the oppor-