

X

# PRESS CLIPPINGS

**D21244**  
The Leader of the Opposition

Name of Publication.....

Date.....

Subject.....

**Recalls Reason for Statement**

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 year. Not an obstacle was put in his path by any one in Canada. At the sessions of 1931 and 1932, every government measure that was introduced passed both Houses of Parliament, with nothing in the way of prolonged criticism or obstruction, save as respects the arbitrary and autocratic powers sought under relief legislation.

To save the Prime Minister from possible embarrassment, and to permit him the freest hand in negotiation, the Liberal party refrained almost completely from any discussion of public issues immediately prior to and during the meetings of the Imperial Conference in Ottawa in the summer of 1932. When, however, it became apparent, thereafter, that conditions, instead of improving, were becoming steadily worse, and it was evident that the government's policies, combined with the Prime Minister's methods, were the main contributory cause, the Liberal members of parliament decided that it was necessary and desirable to reduce to writing, in the fewest possible words, a statement of the Liberal party's position, based upon the party's policies as repeatedly enunciated by the Opposition in parliament, and the soundness of which had become increasingly apparent from year to year. From that time on, the party continued to press its point of view upon the government, and to advocate, both in and out of parliament, the policies as set forth.

**With Fullest Authority**

Now, as to the authority which lies behind this statement of Liberal policy, and which constitutes the surest of all guarantees that, if the Liberal party is returned to power, the country may expect to see the party's undertakings carried out. As I have said, the policies, speaking generally, are those which the Liberal members of the House of Commons have been consistently advocating during the past five years. They have received the unanimous approval of the parliamentary party; but they have also received approval and endorsement by the party generally throughout the country.

The National Liberal Federation, which was organized in 1931, was founded for the express purpose of serving to unite in political effort and of bringing together in annual meeting, the representatives of all Liberal organizations, associations, and clubs throughout the Dominion. Its meetings have been attended by representatives of the provincial Liberal organizations in all the provinces of Canada, by representatives of the National Federation of Liberal Women of Canada, the Twentieth Century Liberal Clubs, and similar bodies. At each of the annual meetings of the National Liberal Federation held since this statement was published the party's position as therein set forth has been endorsed unanimously. It has been

similarly endorsed by local Liberal organizations throughout Canada at their individual meetings.

**United and Happy Party.**

In 1933, a Liberal summer conference was held at Port Hope, and the several policies enunciated were made a subject of special investigation, instruction, and study. In these ways, men and women, old and young, from all parts of Canada, and representative of all shades of Liberal thought and opinion, have been brought together, and are today united on a set of principles and policies, toward which all have made their contribution, and to the promotion of which all are prepared to give their utmost endeavor. We are not only a united party, with traditions and a past in which we all share a pride, but we are a happy party as well, rejoicing that, in the face of the most severe and prolonged economic crisis our country has known, Canadian Liberalism stands today at the threshold of its greatest opportunity.