

Subject.....

Date..... Publication.....

REPLIES TO MAYOR REA.

Premier King then devoted his attention to some of the remarks made in the address of Mayor Rea, much of his speech being devoted to a reply to these remarks.

"In your mayor's address," he said, "there were some questions. He said the farmers wanted higher prices and labor wanted higher wages, more comfortable households, and all the different classes had their own aspirations, and he asked how they were all to be met at one and the same time. I intend this afternoon to address myself to that question. I propose to place before you the underlying principles of our policies, and leave you to judge whether these policies are not helping to do the very things which the working men are hoping to have done for them.

"There are those who hold that anything in the nature of exchange involves a gain for one man and a loss for another. That is a fatal mistake in reasoning on politics. It is a mistake often made by the Tories. I will appeal to your intelligence. Have you in making an exchange, no matter what it might have been, deliberately, helped another and injured yourself, or has the other man been seeking to injure himself and help you. There is the question. All exchange presupposes that each will benefit by the exchange. The reason is that all today have needs and wants to satisfy, so each comes to take a profession, or a calling, a business or trade, as inclination or circumstances may direct. Each devotes his time to some pursuit, and gives something created for something he wants. That is how the whole of life is carried on. Keep that in mind in all reasoning on principal questions. It cannot be good for one and evil for another, but each must benefit or there is no exchange.

PRODUCER AND CONSUMER

"Some say how can you help the producer and the consumer at the same time. If you help the consumer, you take it out of the producer, and if you help the producer, you take it out of the consumer. That is the way of providence. Have you ever stopped to consider the universe, the effect of the seasons on all classes of the community? You speak of the producer and the consumer. In the spring they want to

see sufficient moisture and not too much frost, in the summer they watch for the droughts, in the fall they watch for hail and pests to destroy the crops, and are anxious that the frost should not come too soon. Do you mean to tell me that if the farmer is helped by providence in having a good season, and is given good conditions, the consumer is not also benefited? The whole well being of the consumer depends on the well being of the producer.

Let the farmer lose his crop and be the sufferer, and all classes will be affected in a short time.

"It is the same in making human laws as in divine. If a thing is right, it is good for all. If it is wrong, it will sooner or later be injurious to all. That is my belief, and it is the only belief of anyone who looks at the whole world and sees the universal good. All legislation can do is to bring the human laws into conformity with the great divine will.

THE SOURCE OF WEALTH.

"You may say," said Premier King, "that you would like me to say how all things could be made better. If today all possessed so much in the way of wealth, in commodities exchangeable for others, if all possessed it to a certain degree, where did it come from? Whence came the garments, the homes, the grain, the live stock, all these things which are wealth. If we stop and work back, we will find that we can trace them all to the natural resources of the country to the great basic resources of the soil, the mines, the forest and the sea, including the rivers and lakes and streams. These great resources divine providence has placed throughout the world. Labor has been applied, and we have begun to extract wealth from them to administer to human needs. We find that we need instruments. The savage, when he started out to get food, used a stick or a club to kill a beast. The stick or club was capital, or wealth used to produce wealth. All instruments used for the production of wealth, when put into the hands of labor and capital, produce the wealth which is used for all. If all had twice as much tomorrow as they have today, how would that come about? By applying labor and capital to land. That is the point I want you to understand, because we are seeking to solve problems in a fundamental way. The only way to in-

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA