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"How many of our factories are producing only for home markets? They are shipping to Australia, New Zealand, Africa, France, Germany, etc. It is these markets that we need today. That is the national policy of today, the only policy entitled to be called the national policy.

"If you take taxation off the implements of production; if you reduce the cost of the implements needed by the farmer and fishermen, they can produce at less cost without the loss of a dollar in wages or profit. The implements they use, their tools and their machinery, is their capital. If the farmer's capital is taxed the cost of production is necessarily increased. In the case of the home market the people pay this increased tax in the commodities they buy."

Mr. Meighen had stated that about 2,000 factories have been closed in Canada, but this Mr. King declared was merely a quotation from Dunn's Record, which includes every little concern that employs six persons. Every failure, no matter from what cause, is there recorded. Only one or two per cent. of these failures was due to competition, and that might mean home competition, not foreign competition at all.

Mr. Meighen's "blue ruin talk", the Prime Minister said, had done more injury to Canada in causing people to lose heart in their own country than all other forces put together. "Of course, we have had hard times. Everybody knows that. How could we escape it? After the war there was a boom for a time in the States, and as everybody knows, ever since there was a Boundary Line some of our people have gone down there and have come back again. Today instead of Canadians going to the States they are coming back to Canada by the hundreds and thousands, according to the statistics."

The figures quoted by Mr. Meighen about emigration, Mr. King declared, were taken from American sources. If a person wanting to get into the States says he is an emigrant from Canada, he is admitted. He could not do that coming from Europe, Mexico, or elsewhere. The result has been that people looking for employment for just a short time have gone over

there and in order to get in declared themselves to be emigrants from Canada. They did not say they were going there for only a short time or they would be turned back. The Canadian Government has kept no record of this, and as a result the American figures were shown to be very high on one side, and the people have been told ever since that we have been losing our population by the thousands; whereas, according to the exact figures the emigration has been nothing more than what has happened in other periods of our history. It certainly did not start when this Government came into office. The migration to the States was going on during the Meighen administration; the Liberal Government has been checking it.

Industrial depression is worse in the States today than it is in Canada, according to departmental statistics from Maine, Connecticut, and New York, Mr. King declared. Woollen mills and other plants have fewer employees than we have in comparison with the number employed generally, and there is a greater proportion of factories closed.

"Talking all the time about the advantages of some other country over our own does not help. We don't want men who are walking with their backs to the sun and looking at their own gloom. Mr. Meighen is walking backwards instead of forwards; he sees his shadow and thinks it is the shadow of the sun. He is like the man on the back of a train who thinks that everything is vanishing before him. He should be out ahead on the engine."

The recently completed trade agreement with the West Indies, by which cheaper rates on West Indies products coming through Maritime ports have been secured, will be of great benefit to this part of Canada. This, Mr. King said,

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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