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*Mr. King's Radio Address (Number 3)*

### Text of Mr. King's Speech On Unemployment Problem

Following is the full text of the address of Mackenzie King over a national network of the Canadian Radio Commission and independent stations:

Tonight I propose to speak to you of the problem of unemployment, and of the methods by which, should it be returned to power, the Liberal party will seek to effect its solution.

I know that you do not need to be told that unemployment is Canada's most urgent national problem. You were told that by Mr. Bennett at the general election five years ago when he asked you to return him to power. You gave him your support because he said: "I promise to end unemployment"; "I propose to provide work for Canadians. Work, I said, not doles"; "Canadians do not ask for charity or doles. They want work and wages." Perhaps, too, you will recall that Mr. Bennett said: "Someone is responsible for unemployment; not individuals, but governments"; also, "Is there any excuse for Canada to have hard times if the government is discharging its duties as it should"; and, again, "There is no excuse for unemployment in Canada if a government does its duty."

#### Growth of Problem.

Since Mr. Bennett came into office, you have had even stronger reason for believing that unemployment is the most urgent of Canada's national problems. Each year you have seen its menacing shadow creep nearer and nearer your own doors; more and more you have felt its cruel privations in your homes. Everywhere today its terrors stalk abroad in our land. I doubt, however, if even this experience has been sufficient to cause you to realize to what proportions the problem has grown in the years of Mr. Bennett's administration. Let

me give you the figures of the numbers of unemployed and of persons dependent upon relief, so far as it is possible to obtain them from government records. These figures may help you to appreciate why I may be a little more guarded in my language, a little less profuse in my promises, and not quite so ready to guarantee what state action can accomplish as Mr. Bennett, or Mr. Woodsworth, or Mr. Stevens.

#### National Registry.

One thing the government might have done, but which has never been properly done, is to have supplied Parliament and the country with accurate information, year by year, as to the numbers of unemployed and the numbers on relief. There is nothing, even today, in the nature of a national registry, notwithstanding that the federal government, provincial governments and municipalities have, year by year for five years past, been paying out millions upon millions of dollars for the purpose of providing employment and relief. The statistical departments of the government have never been given the necessary instructions or authority to collect detailed information. Moreover, this is a work which requires the co-operation of provinces and municipalities under the direction of some agency that has the supervision of the problem as a whole. Nothing of the kind has ever been established.

There are two explanations.

One is, that the government has never appreciated the importance and magnitude of the problem. The other is, that it has not known how to go about its solution. In order to conceal the growing magnitude of the problem and, at the same time, its own growing incapacity to deal with it, the government either did not seek to obtain information which, at all times, should have been available to the people's representatives in Parliament, or it deliberately withheld such information as it had from them.