

SUBJECT

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

*Vancouver Province April 9/32***"Not a Five-Cent Piece"**

(From the Victoria Colonist.)

MR. MACKENZIE KING, Prime Minister of Canada, says, in speaking of unemployment conditions in the provinces, that he will not give a five-cent piece to any Tory government for relief. Very naturally Conservative members in the House of Commons, on hearing a statement of this character, could not refrain from alluding to it as shameful. The Prime Minister, however, means what he says for he repeated the words that are likely to be remembered for many a long day. They indicate he grew unusually bitter in the course of the debate on unemployment when he used language of a character wholly unbecoming the Prime Minister of this Dominion.

During the last election campaign in British Columbia many will recall that one of the arguments used in favor of the Liberals being returned to power was that they had the ear of the government at Ottawa. The people were told that in the re-election of the Liberals lay the only chance of solving the problem of the Pacific Great Eastern, that the Liberals were at the time negotiating with the Canadian National Railways for its sale, and that the sale would be jeopardized by the return of the Conservatives to power. This viewpoint of politics is now subscribed to in an emphatic sense by Mr. Mackenzie King.

The Prime Minister has made it clear that of whatever money the Federal Government has available while he is in power not five cents will be given to any provincial Tory government. Thus Mr. Mackenzie King has enunciated a policy of relationship between the Dominion and the provinces that was never contemplated when Confederation was accomplished. Fortunately such a policy could only prevail under the leadership of Mr. Mackenzie King himself. No other Prime Minister of the Dominion has ever viewed his duties in a similar vein.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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