

The Regina Leader contained this comment:

Taken by and large, the budget of this year is very satisfactory. It appears to be well received both in the east and in the west. Comment of the British press bears out the claims of Hon. Mr. Robb, Minister of Finance, that Canada has entered upon a period of marked prosperity. It is evident that the minister's statement is contributing to a better feeling regarding Canada abroad as well as proving a stimulant to trade and industry at home.

The Swift Current Herald, an independent paper published in the constituency which I have the honour to represent, announced:

One can be reasonably assured that the budget speech by Hon. J. A. Robb announcing wholesale tax reductions will be hailed with general satisfaction throughout the length and breadth of Canada. Although the politically-steeped man on the street is apt to sniff and sagely inform the stove-league that the entire business is a political dodge and lifebelt for the government, the public can well afford to discount any thought of ulterior motives which might lurk in connection with the budget, and accept it for what it is worth.

A careful perusal of Hon. J. A. Robb's budget speech indicates that Canada is definitely on the upgrade of prosperity and beginning to experience a degree of financial stability paramountly welcome after the lean and trying years of reconstruction following the upheaval of business and general economic conditions brought about not only in Canada, but throughout the world, due to the Great war which shattered and wrecked both social and business structures.

The Herald winds up with these words:

While all countries of the world are groaning and writhing with the heavy burden of taxation, Canada now finds itself in the happy position of being enabled to make a wholesale reduction, one which tends to renew confidence in all classes of people comprising its population, and creates a business condition which is certain to reflect in a prosperity, which at one time seemed beyond hope and like searching for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have concluded the remarks I intended to make, except those dealing with the railway situation. This subject however has already been covered to some extent by other speakers and will no doubt be considered by those who will follow me, and the hour is too late for me to enter upon it now. I thank you, Sir, and the House for the patient hearing you have given me.

On motion of Mr. Rogers the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Robb, the House adjourned at 11.58 p.m.

## Tuesday, May 4, 1926

The House met at three o'clock.

### PRIVATE BILL

#### FIRST READING

Bill No. 95, to incorporate the Red Lake and Northwestern Railway Company.—Mr. Heenan.

## PEACE RIVER ELECTION

### PETITION ASKING THAT RETURN OF MR. KENNEDY BE DECLARED VOID

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I wish to ask whether the petition presented by the hon. member for West Calgary (Mr. Bennett) with respect to the return of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) has been examined; I should like to draw attention to the fact that the matters to which it refers are before the courts under the Controverted Elections Act. This being the case I desire to raise a point of order as to whether the petition can properly be received.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed by the Clerk of the House that the report of the examiner of petitions in reference to this matter is in to-day.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then, Mr. Speaker, I would raise the point of order to which I have already alluded, namely, whether under the existing circumstances the petition can properly be received by the House. In raising the point of order, I have no desire to express any view one way or the other with respect to the matters referred to in the petition, but I simply draw Your Honour's attention to the fact that when resort has been had to a similar proceeding in the past, the House has more than once declined to receive a petition relating exclusively to a matter before the court and pertaining to the Controverted Elections Act.

Mr. BENNETT: We might as well have the petition read.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend in presenting the petition to the House indicated very clearly the nature of it. The statement of the hon. member for West Calgary was as follows:

Hon. R. B. Bennett (West Calgary): Mr. Speaker, I desire to present the petition of James Arthur Collins, of Chisholm, in the province of Alberta, lumberman, praying that the House of Commons of Canada may determine and declare that Donald Macbeth Kennedy was not duly elected and returned at the election held on the 29th day of October, 1925, and that the said return was and is void, and that it may be declared that the petitioner was duly elected at the said election and is entitled to be returned as the member elected to represent the electoral district of Peace River in the House of Commons of Canada.

The remarks of my hon. friend indicate clearly that the petition relates to a controverted election, one which he and the House know is before the courts at the present time.

I point out, Mr. Speaker, that there are four acts under which methods are provided