

By W. H. Mackenzie

DRAFT OF SPEECH TO THE TRADES AND LABOUR CONGRESS OF CANADA

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When I have spoken in the past five years to audiences of national importance such as this, I have necessarily given my attention to the progress of the war, to the reasons behind the development of our enormous war organization or to the wartime policy of economic stabilization. I need not report today on the progress of the war. You are receiving daily the full reports which the able and gallant band of war correspondents are sending to the press of this country. Our war organization is complete though adjustments will be necessary as needs change. Our economic stabilization policy, which has at times been the subject of bitter controversy, is now in my belief more widely accepted and appreciated than ever before. The wartime object of that policy in conjunction with our taxing and borrowing program, is to maintain a broad equity among the people of our country in meeting the inescapable sacrifices of war. In addition, it has an equal justification in providing a known and stable base from which to embark on the policies of reconstruction. It is post-war problems and policies that I am going to discuss today.

In this country we have no bombed houses, factories, docks and railways to rebuild and physical rebuilding is but a small part of reconstruction. For us, reconstruction means, in the first instance, a swift change in the direction of our governmental and economic organization from war to peace. At present, we are so organized that nearly half our efforts go into the operations of war. There is a time coming (not, perhaps, as soon as some people think, but, nevertheless, coming nearer) when our efforts must be re-directed, in an ordered and peaceful world, to the extension of opportunity, welfare and

security