

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, I directed attention to the city of Kingston and the constituency of Kingston for a very special reason. The Prime Minister opened his electoral campaign in Kingston in 1935, and charged me with being a Hitler, a Mussolini and a Stalin, all combined.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Don't flatter yourself.

Mr. BENNETT: I am not in the least flattering myself. I am merely pointing out the language used by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister at Kingston. And he indicated further that the conduct of the administration of business in this country was such that it was highly essential that it should be changed. And at the same time the present Minister of Labour became the candidate in Kingston.

Kingston has been a stormy spot in the politics of this country ever since I can remember coming to this chamber, so far as patronage is concerned. I can recall in 1911 and 1912 the difficulties in connection with the penitentiary, and I recall too the charges made by the late member for Kingston, Doctor Ross, as to the lack of attention to patronage matters by the late administration.

Great hopes and expectations were raised when it became apparent that one who had the high qualifications of the present Minister of Labour was to stand as candidate in Kingston. He is an eminent scholar. He has had long experience at Ottawa in the capacity of private secretary, a position which enabled him to know something about the machinery of government. And no one for a moment suggests that he has had other than the strongest desire to improve conditions, so far as the administration was concerned. I therefore made myself the promise that I would watch and see whether or not these high hopes and expectations would be realized or whether what is known as the machine would crush the minister, and he would be overborne by it, rather than overbear it; whether or not the political patronage committee in Kingston would be able to compel the minister to conform to their mind, or whether he would be able to give effect to those high principles, those noble sentiments he expressed so frequently during the campaign.

And I did watch, with great care. I have made many inquiries. Many questions have appeared on the order paper in the house, both last session and the present one, with respect to the administration of matters in Kingston. There were two camps in and around Kingston. Camp 42 was one and camp 37 was the other. Both camps were closed by the government. There was much clothing

and supplies in one of those camps. They were placed in a storehouse. They were sold. In a public meeting one of the electors of Kingston, at Sydenham, gave illustrations as to the prices received for them and the method of their disposition—horses, wagons and costly equipment. Who got it, and at what price? It is a singular coincidence that within four hours after the conclusion of that speech at Sydenham the storehouse was on fire.

Mr. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, I might as well deal with that now.

Mr. BENNETT: No, no; excuse me—to use the language of the minister, I am making this speech.

Mr. ROGERS: Then I will have ample opportunity later.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, quite.

Mr. ROGERS: There isn't always that opportunity, though.

Mr. BENNETT: I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon?

Mr. ROGERS: My right hon. friend sometimes makes these charges about half past ten or a quarter to eleven.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, that shows after all that the high expectations with respect to the minister were indeed not realized. That shows the calibre and the type. This is a five-cent attitude of mind; that is what it is.

Mr. ROGERS: I will deal with that later.

Mr. BENNETT: This is a five-cent attitude of mind. I now go a step farther.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: Always speak a little louder, if you desire to be heard. If not, don't mutter to yourself so as to interfere.

An hon. MEMBER: Penny ante.

Mr. BENNETT: The penny ante does not come with very great force from the hon. member. Now, to proceed a step farther: The storehouse was burned down. It was destroyed, and the report was made with respect to the fire. The minister has it in his possession.

Mr. ROGERS: Which minister?

Mr. BENNETT: The minister of defence. The relations are so close it does not make much difference.

Mr. ROGERS: I have not seen it.

Mr. BENNETT: I am going to point out that with respect to matters that arose out of that very case we find that the Minister of