

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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Subject.....

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much as possible, Canada has a wealth of approximately \$20,000,000,000, which represents \$45 for every dollar of public debt. That, in itself, is something of which we can boast.

OPTIMISTIC OVER FUTURE

"I am very optimistic in regard to Canada's future. Our country has excellent opportunities for development but if the pessimists bother us too much we will have to send them elsewhere. We have a railway problem, but we did not make it. We found two boards of directors functioning where one would have been sufficient, but with Sir Henry Thornton at the head of affairs we believe the railways are in good hands. Our railroad is now the largest in the world, having the stupendous length of all lines, 22,000 miles.

"Your national railways will be a success if you give them a chance. Stop criticizing and show where you can help. I have faith in Canadian people, in those especially who hewed homes for themselves out of the great wildernesses. If you live up to the reputations of your forefathers you will bless the day they came into this land of golden opportunity."

"We're not afraid of an election at any time, so bring on your guns and let's get started," was another catchy phrase he used.

Much interest was taken in the competitions instituted by the central committee for which prizes of five dollar gold pieces, presented by Senator McCoig, were awarded. Recipients had the honor of receiving their prizes from the hands of Premier King.

SPECIAL PRIZES

They were—Special prize to oldest couple, man and wife, on the grounds, won by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, of Kent county.

Oldest lady on grounds, Mrs. Thomas, who was eighty-eight years of age but a few days ago.

Oldest man on grounds, irrespective of party, Robert Brown, who is 87 years of age.

Largest family present, Mr. and Mrs. Adderman with nine children.

J. A. Reycraft of Howard township won the special prize donated to the elector who could name the most candidates he voted for in Federal elections, irrespective of party. He named twelve candidates.

Entries for the competition were made on the lawn of the park superintendent to Secretary J. R. Newkirk and results were announced from the stand by Premier King at the close of the program of speeches.

Music for the day was furnished by the Guilds band and the band of the first battalion, Kent Regiment, of Chatham. The former band kept the crowds cheerful near the sports grounds while the latter gave a concert at the open air auditorium before the speakers arrived.

Half way through the program of speeches Mrs. Elliott sang one verse of "Rule Britannia" which was well received.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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