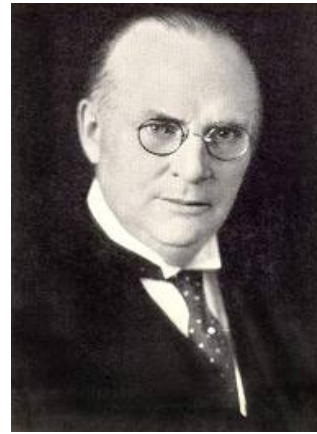


Richard Bedford Bennett

R.B. Bennett was a member of the federal Conservative Party. He was elected in 1930 after William Lyon Mackenzie's "Five-cent piece" speech.



Bennett believed in the economic theory that business and industry will make the most money if the government didn't try to control them. This was called "laissez-faire" or *leave it alone*.

Bennett *did* try to protect jobs in Canadian factories with high tariffs on imports and lower tariffs for countries that offered Canada the same deal which was passed at a conference in Ottawa in 1932.

Unfortunately, the ordinary Canadian didn't feel the effects. People began to lose faith in the Conservatives and poked fun at Bennett (i.e. Bennett Buggy and Bennett Blankets [newspaper coverings]).

In 1933, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) promised Americans a "New Deal" and life began to improve in the United States. Bennett announced his "Bennett's New Deal" in 1935, just before an election. Some items in his plan were: 8- hour workday, unemployment insurance, a minimum wage, and price control.

Unfortunately for Bennett, this plan came to late. R.B. Bennett lost the election to William Lyon Mackenzie King by a landslide. Bennett left Canada for Great Britain a bitter man, and he is the only Canadian prime minister not buried in Canada.

William Lyon Mackenzie King



William Lyon Mackenzie King was a member of the federal Liberal Party and was Prime Minister going into the 1930s. However, in 1930, King and his party chose not to do anything to help end the depression thinking it would figure itself out. He lost the 1930 election to R.B. Bennett.

However, Canadians were ready for a change and in 1935, he was ready to lead the country again.

He scorned Bennett's plan and used the slogan "King or Chaos" to be swept to power. However, King and the Liberals had few real policies. In 1937, he set up the Rowell - Sirois Commission - a Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations.

He wanted to see sweeping changes to the tax system, equalization payments to poorer provinces, and the federal government needed to be responsible for unemployment insurance which happened in 1940.

By the time King and the Liberals were ready to implement these changes, World War II had already begun. Neither R.B. Bennett nor Mackenzie King ended the Depression. It was ended by Adolf Hitler

Thomas Patullo

Thomas Patullo was a part of the Liberal Party in British Columbia. He campaigned on a platform of "work and wages". He tried to introduce Bennett's New Deal policies. He favoured provincial health insurance. Patullo wanted to spend his way out of the Depression, and he was largely unsuccessful in achieving his broader reform goals.

William “Bible Bill” Aberhart

William Aberhart was part of the Social Credit Party in Alberta during the depression. He was born in Egmondville, Ont. and moved to Calgary, Alta.



In 1911 to become a high school principal. He was a radio preacher of the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute (hence the name “Bible Bill”).

In 1932, began to talk about a new political idea, Social Credit. Bill said that the root of the Depression was that people didn’t have enough money for the bare necessities of food, clothing and shelter.

So, he proposed to credit each citizen with a monthly “social dividend” of \$25.

Farmers and Workers in Alberta loved the idea and they voted in the Social Credit party in 1935 making Aberhart premier.

The Federal government ruled that issuing money was a federal power and that Aberhart’s provincial government had no right to give out money. Many Albertans became convinced that Canada was being run by and for eastern interests.

James Shaver (J.S.) Woodsworth

J. S. Woodsworth was the leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in Manitoba.



In 1933, some Progressives, some Labour representatives, and other interested people met in Regina and formed the CCF. They believed in *Socialism*.

Woodsworth was elected leader and he had the *Regina Manifesto* published. Unfortunately, many people confused the socialist CCF with the Communist party and were not completely convinced this was not such a party.

However, Woodsworth was respected by all political parties when he stood up for immigrants, old people, or trade union members.

The Regina Manifesto

1. The people (the government) should own all banks and financial institutions.
2. The people should own key industries such as railways, mines, lumbering, telephone systems, hydro-electric companies.
3. There should be a large-scale program of public works (housing, roads, and public buildings) to provide jobs for the unemployed.
4. Laws should guarantee minimum living standards for all through programs like unemployment insurance, family allowances, old age pensions.
5. Farmers' lands should be protected from mortgage foreclosures.
6. There should be a guaranteed minimum wage.

Mitchell Hepburn

Mitch Hepburn was a part of the Liberal Party in Ontario which swept to power in 1934. He was a self-proclaimed “friend of the little person”.



However, Hepburn was a Conservative in Liberal clothing and was no particular friend of the little person, especially if that person was a unionized worker.

In Hepburn’s eyes, strikes were a threat to law and order, and higher wages would upset the economy. He also engaged in a bitter feud with his fellow-Liberal federal government in Ottawa.

This conflict became serious as the world stumbled into World War II in 1939, and Hepburn’s stance was portrayed as a threat to national unity. By 1942 his time was past.

Maurice Duplessis (“le Chef”)

Maurice Duplessis was part of the *Union Nationale* in Quebec which was founded in Quebec in 1935 by Duplessis.

It was a coalition party that began as a protest against the high unemployment and the severe economic hardship of the depression. Its members wanted social, economic, and political reform in Canada.

In 1936, under Duplessis, the Union Nationale became the government of Quebec and governed until 1939.

