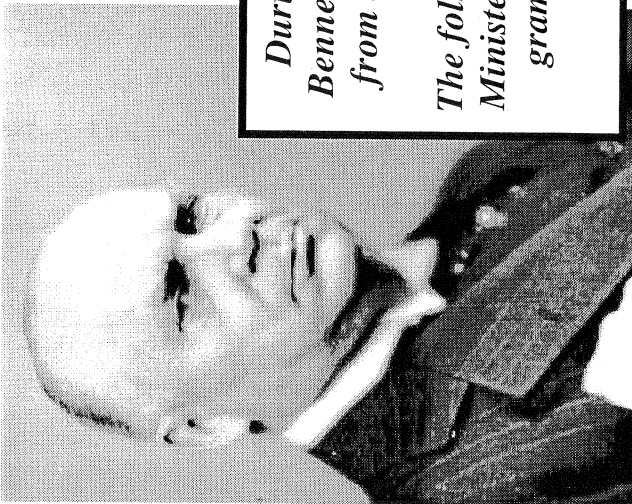


IMPACT OF THE DEPRESSION ON FAMILIES



During the Depression, Prime Minister R.B. Bennett personally answered hundreds of letters from desperate Canadians requesting his help.

The following are copies of REAL letters to Prime Minister Bennett and his responses. Spelling and grammatical errors are those of the original writers.

Dear Sir,

Three little baby boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuels in our vicinity. Like many others they have had some very bad luck. The parents are a very fine type, not the kind with the hand out for help. We hope you will feel toward these unfortunate people the way we do.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Ratray

Welsley Ont, (Sept. 27, 1933)

Dear Mr. and Mrs Samuels,

I am enclosing herewith a 20 dollar bill, which I trust may be of some little service to you during the Christmas season. I learned the other day that one of the triplet boys had passed away and I extend to you my sincerest sympathy. With best wishes, believe me I am yours faithfully,

RB Bennett Ottawa (Oct 13, 1933)

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am a litte boy eight years old and I'm in Grade III at school. I've wanted a littel red wagon to hich my dog to for so many year, but daddy has no money. Please, Mr. Bennett would you send me enuff money to buy my wagon. Thank you so much.

Your very good friend,
Maurice Stanley

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank very much for the money. I'm going to get the wagon. Mamma said I could.

Ardath Sask (Aug 31, 1935)

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I believe you to be good as well as a great man therefore I am appealing to you to save my home. Picture yourself, through no fault of your own, homeless with sons willing, but unable to provide for you. Please help me or tell me what I can do.

Yours Sincerely and hopefully,
Laura Bates.

Toronto (Sept 3, 1933)

Dear Madam,

I am certainly willing to help you and if you will be good enough to let me know what company holds the mortgage on your home I will look into the matter and see if anything can be done to straighten out your difficulties.

Yours faithfully,
R.B. Bennett