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SUBJECT—

Canadian Budget.

Gen'l Elec's

Name and Date of Newspaper:—

New Statesman, 10th May, 1930.

pm

Leadership

The Canadian Premier has announced an early general election. It is not necessary this year, but Mr. Mackenzie King, who is one of the most astute of party leaders, has surveyed the field and is convinced of the favourable conditions now prevailing for his side. The decision to appeal to the electorate is undoubtedly

Mr. King's and his alone. The Conservatives have been without an effective head ever since the retirement of Sir Robert Borden. Mr. Bennett, their present leader, is inexperienced and is no match for Mr. Mackenzie King, who has contrived to annex for the Liberals the strategic value of the fierce Canadian resentment against the United States tariff now going through, as well as—by a stroke of grotesque irony—the sequelæ of Mr. J. H. Thomas's visit of last summer and the humours of our Empire Crusaders at home. To those Canadian Conservatives whose memories go back to the Reciprocity election of 1911 and the encounters between Laurier and Borden, the coming Mackenzie King campaign must seem like a nightmare. It is possible, of course, that the prospects of the Liberals may not be so satisfactory later in the summer as they appear to-day. But Mr. King has made certain of a general election which will turn largely upon hostility to the commercial policy of the United States and closer trade relations with the mother country.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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