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Misplaced Scorn

Articles and cartoons that have been appearing in the Winnipeg Free Press must make old-time readers of that newspaper rub their eyes. It is going to great lengths in attacking the stand that Mr. King took at Geneva.

The premier is pictured caught up in the trunk of an elephant labelled "War" and addressing to it the words: "I propose to conciliate you and in any event I retain complete freedom of action." His speech to the assembly is described editorially as "the last of a long series of acts by successive Canadian governments and it is the most discreditable of them all because it amounts to the rejection by Canada of the League."

The premier, however, must take some comfort out of the fact that the Free Press is even more critical of the British government than it is of himself. It speaks of the possibility that the people of the Old Land will decide "to sack their so-called statesmen who think the defence of the world is not a vital interest for that country."

But neither Mr. King nor the British ministers have done anything more than face realities. Because they recognize the limitations of the League under existing conditions they are not fairly open to the charge of disloyalty to that organization. "The defence of the world" is more than either Britain or Canada can undertake.

The time, it is to be hoped, will come when the League will be so strengthened that it can enforce its decisions upon aggressor nations and so preserve world peace. Both Britain and Canada, it is safe to say, will then be prepared to do their part in carrying out these decisions. But nothing is to be gained by assuming that the League, as at present constituted, can assume such responsibilities as the Free Press, in its zeal for collective security, thinks it should.