

With the leader of the Liberal party, this proud attitude is rooted in a deep feeling of Canadian patriotism; with the erstwhile Tory leader it was the inconsiderate cry of the arch-imperialist for whom Canada is still merely "talliable and liable forced labour at pleasure." "Ready, aye, ready" he spontaneously exclaimed at the mere call of the British cabinet, not even knowing why he was prepared to launch Canada into another war.

Then when the British government asked the Canadian government to take part in the treaty of Lausanne, Mr. King's reply was that since Canada had not been consulted in the matter, had not taken part in the negotiations, it would not sign the treaty. He added that he would not even seek ratification from the Canadian parliament.

When in 1923, Canada and the United States signed the epoch-making halibut treaty the prime minister, seconded by Mr. Ernest Lapointe, emphatically proclaimed Canada's sovereignty and, for the first time in history of this country, a Canadian minister, our great patriot Mr. Lapointe, signed a treaty on behalf of Canada "without a British representative holding his hand" according to his own words I was just quoting. To be sure, it created quite a stir in London and there were representations not to say protests from the British minister in Washington; but thanks to his staunch Liberalism and enlightened patriotism, Mr. King managed matters so well that all obstacles were cleared—even Canadian Tory opposition—and Mr. Lapointe alone signed the treaty for Canada.

Meanwhile Canada, under Liberal guidance, has kept proudly proclaiming, on every occasion, its independence and diplomatic autonomy: in refusing to ratify the Locarno treaty, which it had not been invited to negotiate; in declining to sign the protocols of Geneva; in sending out its own ministers and plenipotentiaries in the world's great capitals, and in exercising many another prerogative of an autonomous nation.

In 1926, during Mr. King's second term of office, a Canadian, for the first time, was appointed as representative of our country abroad. Since 1935, we have opened legations in almost every South American country and it may be pointed out that, under the present Liberal government, some ten of our representatives have seen their status raised to that of ambassadors.

During the whole of the last world conflict, Mr. King scrupulously and meticulously adhered to the proud Liberal tradition of ever asserting the sovereignty of the Canadian parliament; in 1914, the participation of

Canada in the war had been formally acknowledged by the reproduction in the *Canada Gazette* of the declaration of war, issued in London at the request of the British government. In 1939, His Majesty the King declared war on Germany for Canada, at the request of the Canadian cabinet, by a special proclamation issued and published seven days after the British declaration of war.

From this fact a well known Canadian newspaperman concluded:

This can mean but one thing: by asserting its right to declare war in its own name, Canada has also asserted its right not to declare it whenever it may decide that its interests are not at stake.

Then he added this significant sentence:

It is a certainty that Mr. King is waging war at the side of Mr. Churchill, not behind him.

Writing of "Canada yesterday and today," here is what Mr. André Siegfried stated in *Le Monde Français* of last July:

French opinion is now very much interested in everything concerning Canada. The reasons for this are numerous: Canada is one of the victors of the last war, one of the countries who contributed most to victory; it is, on the other hand, and this is of interest to us, a British country with an important minority of French stock. Besides, the Dominion is remarkably placed, due both to its geographical location and its political relations, to serve as an efficient intermediary between the Anglo-Saxon powers. Last, it is a country with a future on this American continent which remains a continent with a future.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate, in view of the immense problems of the day which the provincial, and especially the federal, governments have to face, that, for paltry political reasons, not only the policies of the federal government are being opposed, but attacks are being launched even against the most distinguished members of the cabinet and discussion is barred of propositions that everyone, or at least the majority of citizens of the province of Quebec, acknowledge as being of immediate concern to that province. They are always the same ones as shown by history. Whether they be disguised Tories, a nationalist or a national unionist, we cannot admit that they do not at least recognize the good faith of their opponents. Mr. Lapointe condemned those trouble-makers in his speech of December 12, 1938, when he said:

More than ever we must rally round our institutions and the authority which protects our rights and our liberty. The world situation is difficult, painful and dangerous. Everywhere distrust, hatred and brutality are rampant. Hatred, which divides people, nationalities and races, rears its ugly head.

Here also, he added, we have our trouble-makers. Those who foster the spread of misunderstanding between provinces or between some provinces and the Dominion authorities,