

The Honourable
W. L. Mackenzie King, M.P. -4-

47 of the same Statutes of 1918. But, of course, that date was six months before the armistice so that there could not be at that time any question about it.

And the only question there could now be as to the two Statutes of 1917 - chapter 34 and chapter 39 - arises from the phrases - "during the present war" and "after the conclusion of peace but before demobilisation".

Notwithstanding the vapourings of Mr. Rowell about "nations of equal status" now constituting the British Empire - he must know, as every law student is taught - the elementary principle of British Constitutional law - that it is the King who legislates. It is the King who speaks in the laws of Canada though speaking by and with the advice and consent of the Canadian Senate and Commons. Equally it is the King who makes war, or who makes peace, and when he so makes war or makes peace he announces it by proclamation to all his liege subjects - not to those in Great Britain alone but equally - and by the same proclamation - to those in Ireland and in His Dominions beyond the Seas as well.

When war broke out between Great Britain and Germany it began as from 11 p.m. on 4th August 1914. Canada was informed of the fact by the Governor General receiving a telegraphic despatch to that effect. See Canada Gazette Vol. xlvi p. 466.

So far as I know the first official announcement on the subject from the Canadian Government was on 19th August, 1914