

W. L. MACKENZIE KING

THE NEW LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY IN CANADA

BY NEWTON MACTAVISH

Let us be assured of this: the unrest in the world of industry to-day is no ephemeral and transitory affair; no mere aftermath of the hideous convulsion which has shaken existing society to its very foundations. It is the voice of a grief-stricken humanity crying for justice in the relations of industry. Let us be equally assured that the sword is not the instrument, and repression not the method, to stay this unrest. The truth is mightier than the sword, and in conference and co-operation between all the parties in interest, not in coercion of the others by any one, lies the only hope of an ultimate solution.—“The Four Parties to Industry,” by W. L. Mackenzie King.



HE public eye of Canada rests to-day on Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King. Men there are in higher position. Political questions there are of supreme national importance. But no man or no question appeals to everybody's imagination so much as the youthful leader of the Liberal party.

After all, perhaps Mackenzie King should not be classed as youthful, for he has passed Sir William Osler's limit of usefulness and has entered the dubious realm of the middle-aged. He will be forty-five next month.

We acknowledge the dignity of years, because ever since he emerged into prominence eleven years ago, when he undertook the difficult task of organizing and administering the Department of Labour in the Laurier Government, youth has seemed to be his greatest foe. All along the line, men, even of his own party, have said that he is too young, and his best friends have had to live down the impression that he has been almost a political nursling. Even to-day, in all parts of the Dominion, and notwithstanding his two score years and five, you may hear expressed the opinion

that he is too young to be the leader of a great historical party—a party that for generations has been used to the leadership and lieutenantancy of such grayheads as Brown and Mackenzie, Blake and Cartwright, Blair and Paterson, Fielding and Laurier. What fallacy! To disprove it one might make instance of Napoleon. One might make instance of Pitt. One might make instance of Gladstone. One might make the supreme instance of Wolfe. But in our own day and in our own country, one might make the fascinating instance of Beatty, a younger man than King, the President of the greatest transporting organization in the world.

Let it be understood, then, that Mackenzie King is not a young man. For he has passed the meridian. He is seasoned in affairs. He is by reason of his studies, by reason of his opportunities, by reason of his great endowments, by reason of his unusual experiences, equipped for the important role of statesman.

But what have been his experiences? To review them we must catch a glimpse of him at the age of twenty-one, emerging from the University of Toronto, a graduate in political science, with a noble fighting