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The Prime Minister, this afternoon, issued the following statement to the Press:

News of the death of the Right Honourable Michael J. Savage will be received with deep regret by all who had followed his career as Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Mr. Savage had had an active and prominent part in the political affairs of his country for many years, and had been leader of the Labour Party since 1933. The advances in legislation, particularly in matters of social welfare, made during his period of office, attracted widespread attention throughout the world. For this reason also, the participation of the New Zealand government in the work of the International Labour Organization at Geneva took on a special importance. Mr. Savage and his colleagues gave much care and thought to the place of New Zealand in world affairs while seeking constantly to develop and strengthen the avenues of co-operation among all the British Dominions. The personal efforts of the Prime Minister in this direction will be long remembered.

I had many opportunities for personal acquaintance with Mr. Savage at the time of the Coronation in 1937 and the Imperial Conference which followed it. I have since retained the most pleasant recollections of our association together in those memorable events.

I should like to join in the many expressions of sympathy being extended to the Government and people of New Zealand on the loss which our sister Dominion has sustained.