

"A CANADIAN POLICY IN THE FAR EAST"

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

Before attempting to enunciate a Canadian Policy for the Far East I feel it is essential to discuss the basis of all Canadian Foreign Policy; to give a short resumé of the development of that policy; to suggest the two or three outstanding factors in it at the present time; to indicate what I believe to be the attitude of the present Canadian Government toward the situation in the Far East, with reasons for that attitude; and, finally, to express my own views on the subject.

The Basis of Canadian Foreign Policy.

As one distinguished Canadian statesman has declared: "Foreign Policy is in a large measure the extension of domestic policy. It depends upon the balance of social and political forces, upon the industrial organization, upon the racial aspirations, upon the whole background of the people's life. Again, foreign affairs, nowadays, have to do very largely with economic questions - trade, tariffs, coal or oil or railway concessions, international debts, immigration, fishery or power or navigation rights in boundary waters. They are largely neighbours' disputes, naturally arising most frequently with the countries which have most intercourse with it." Or, as another authority puts it in a recent number of FOREIGN AFFAIRS: "Canada, it must be remembered, is a North American federal state, whose population is approximately 58 per cent of British origin, 27 per cent of French, and the rest of mixed descent, mostly European. She is a member of the League of Nations as well as of the British Commonwealth. Before the present depression began, she ranked fifth amongst the countries of the world in absolute volume of foreign trade and second in per capita volume. From such data the study of her international situation must start; the inquiry, indeed, will largely be an analysis of the details and implications of these fundamental facts." In brief, Canada's foreign policy is determined by her geographical position on the North American continent, by her political ties with Great Britain and the League of Nations, and by her dependence, in such large measure upon world conditions and international trade for her prosperity.

The Development of Canadian Foreign Policy.

Canadian foreign policy, in so far as it has been determined or even influenced by the government and people of Canada, is a very recent development. From the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 down to 1854, at about which time Canada had obtained her fiscal independence and entered into a treaty of reciprocity with the United States of America, Canada was but a pawn in the general foreign policy of Great Britain, and while Great Britain did not sacrifice Canadian interests unnecessarily, those interests were considered, not as they affected Canada, but as they affected the British Empire in general, and Great Britain herself in particular. From 1854 onward, however, Canadians began to press for a voice in the negotiations between Great Britain and the United States that affected Canada, and this was, by degrees, granted, although Sir John A. MacDonald, who represented Canada in the