

time begin to believe that there is no sincerity. The political history of Canada shows that in both Liberal and Conservative administrations there has been plenty of honesty and sincerity. Here are the closing words of the hon. Minister of Finance:

These tariff favours to those who favour our products are not the result of any bargain with any other country but of an attitude in international relations which we believe to be mutually beneficial and are an expression of the spirit in which Canada will approach the Imperial economic conference in a few months time. In other words we do not intend to meet the other countries of the British commonwealth of nations in a spirit of petty bargaining but rather in the broad spirit of willingness to become in ever increasing measure good customers to those who treat us in like manner. This is the spirit in which we desire to meet all nations, but we believe that within the British community of nations lies the greatest measure of opportunity for mutual development of trade because of our common heritage, kindred institutions and a common patriotism.

What have our Conservative friends to offer to the imperial conference? Surely not only that negative amendment presented by the leader of the opposition, because there is nothing constructive in it. There is nothing in it which the British commonwealth of nations could consider or discuss.

The Canadian people are fully aware of the present situation and I am positive that they will be overwhelmingly in favour of the present Liberal administration. I am convinced that the Canadian people will return this Liberal government to power because of its past records. It has inspired general confidence because of its ability to solve the almost insurmountable problems which it has had to face. It has the confidence to-day of the labourers, the farmers, the industrialists and the financiers; in a word, the confidence of every section of the population. Using the words of the Prime Minister uttered at Winnipeg, it has legislated not for one class but for all classes; not for a favoured few, but for the greatest good to the greatest number. Whatever the United States or any other country may do in tariff matters, we believe that our country has reached a stage in its development where it will be able to look after itself. Canada will make its own tariff and find its own markets. An editorial which appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* of July 25, 1928, is proof that the Prime Minister is worthy of being the representative of Canada at the next imperial conference. The editorial is as follows:

The Prime Minister for Geneva

Announcement that Mr. Mackenzie King will go to Geneva personally to represent Canada upon the council of the League of Nations on

the occasion of its meeting in August, ought to be received with hearty commendation by all Canadians irrespective of party. For Mr. King will not, we are sure, journey to Geneva and speak and act there as the leader of a party. He will go, we think, as the Prime Minister of Canada, with a consciousness of the dignity and the responsibility of that office, and he will speak, we believe, not as a Liberal partisan, but as the representative of the whole Canadian people.

The *Journal* is not ashamed nor afraid to say that, in its judgment, Mr. King is in every respect well equipped to represent Canada with high honor and ability. This newspaper, in common with hundreds of thousands of other Canadians, has frequently and vigorously and honestly disagreed with Mr. King upon a multiplicity of things, and it has not infrequently said things about him in the heat of partisan conflict which were perhaps more vehement than just.

That, however, does not prohibit our saying now that, in many fields and in most respects, Mr. King, like all of his predecessors, has shown himself mostly well equipped for the demands of his office. In the field of imperial and foreign affairs, in particular, Mr. King has revealed an informed interest and an outlook that challenge respect. Some among us may think that in some respects he is too greatly influenced by a narrow nationalism that is antagonistic to the ideal, cherished by most Canadians, of earnest and sustained and proud co-operation with the rest of the British Empire. That, however, is but a matter of opinion, and it must be confessed that, in most regards Mr. King, subject to the exigencies of politics, has shown himself to be a good Canadian and a good Imperialist, one who believes with Sir Wilfrid Laurier that Canada answers to a higher destiny than a mere mythical independence or a narrow nationalism.

To Geneva, at all events, he will go with the best wishes and the support of the majority of his countrymen. In has been this country's good fortune to have been represented abroad, both at London and elsewhere, by men who reflected credit upon the Canadian name. It was so, in the old days, when Sir Wilfrid captured the hearts and the imagination of the British people with his compelling personality and charm. It was so when Sir Robert Borden wrote Imperial history by his contributions in the war cabinet, and later on at Versailles. And it was so when Mr. Meighen, fighting almost single-handed, but with his conspicuous courage and ability, helped abrogate the Anglo-Japanese alliance and paved the way for the Washington disarmament conference.

Mr. King, we feel sure, will worthily uphold this tradition. In the field of Imperial and foreign affairs, Canada, as far as is possible, should try to speak with a united voice. That has been the policy and the strength of Britain for more than two hundred years—the policy of Britain whether a Conservative or a Liberal or a Labourite was at 10 Downing street—and it ought to be the policy of this Dominion. Let all of us, therefore, dispense with partisan considerations in our attitude toward Mr. King so long as he is abroad as the spokesman of this country. The *Journal*, for its part, sincerely wishes for him a pleasant journey and everything of usefulness and opportunity in the mission which he has undertaken.