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CANADA DIDN'T WRECK THE LEAGUE

If Premier King had to incur the disapproval of some London newspaper publisher, fortune did him a favor when it selected as castigator His Lordship of Beaverbrook, proprietor of the Daily Express, better known to Canadians as Sir Max Aitken, father of the cement merger. A knock from Sir Max is a boost for anybody.

In the editorial opinion of His Lordship, Premier King's statement at Geneva—that the parliament of Canada will decide whether or not the Dominion is to go to war—leaves "Nothing but rags and tatters of collective security."

That rags and tatters fittingly symbolize what is left of collective security under the League of Nations nobody will dispute. But when His Lordship tries to blame Canada or its Premier for that deplorable state of affairs he is making himself even more ridiculous than common.

Collective security became nothing better than a recognized scare-crow when the Governments of Europe welshed on the proposition that they back Britain and France in extending that security to Ethiopia. For itself the independence of Ethiopia and the preservation of its particular type of government and civilization was not worth the spilling of foreign blood. But as a member of the League that country was as much entitled to the joint-protection of its fellow-members as any other country. When that protection was denied it, collective security under League auspices was exposed as a sham and mockery.

Canada did not halt the attempt of Britain to align the League countries on the side of law enforcement. It went the whole way in employing economic sanctions against Italy, which was all the others did or would do, and more than some of them did. Neither Canada, nor its Premier can be made responsible, on the say-so of Lord Beaverbrook, for the collapse of collective security that was actively engineered on the other side of the Atlantic, and which actually took place while his esteemed former townsman and employer, Hon. R. B. Bennett, was still head of the Government of this Dominion.