

"Consistent with the fullest inquiry into the application of the principle of Empire free trade, our deliberations must be governed by the time factor. If this change in our economic relationship is to be made it must be made without undue delay. ."

Here the suggestion would be made, "if we approve the principle", to constitute such committees as may, with the greatest expedition and thoroughness, consider the various questions incident to its operation. The Prime Minister of Britain would then have added:-

"I am satisfied that whatever modifications in the general plan Britain may have to suggest will be ready for submission within a period of six months. I assume that you are all capable of a like measure of expedition."

Then would follow an invitation to the Conference to meet at London early this year ---

and the following as a final word of warning:-

"I have said that the time is now at hand when the doctrine of closer Empire economic association, based on free trade within the Empire, must be embraced, if we would not have it slip forever beyond our powers of recall. Once gone it were vain to suppose that

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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