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ELECTION

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EXTRACTS FROM MR. KING'S SPEECHES IN ONTARIO AND MARITIMES  
AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL ELECTION BY PREMIER MEIGHEN

TORONTO JUNCTION, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 20, 1921:

(Typewritten copy in Bound Speech Book, 1921)

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The Nature of Contending Forces

All through history there are traceable two opposing forces, each contending for the control of government in the affairs of nations. The one is a reactionary force, born of the conservative instinct which all of us to some degree possess, but which carried to extremes, develops an attitude wholly antagonistic to change and progress. It seeks, at all costs, the maintenance of an existing order and the retention of rights and privileges for a favoured few. That is the force in control of government in our country to-day. It is the logical sequence and natural outcome of the repressive and restrictive attitude assumed by Government, and which is possibly necessary and inevitable in time of war. It is altogether fatal to the work of reconstruction, and therefore wholly unsuited to a time like the present.

The other is a liberalizing force, born of the aspirations for a wider freedom which all of us also share to some degree, the young in greater measure perhaps than the old. It is often impatient of the existing order in its desire to improve conditions for the mass of men. Carried to an extreme, however, it is apt to demand change merely for the sake of change, and regardless altogether of the cost or the enduring quality of the results. With such an extreme in matters of government we are threatened to-day, as a consequence of the extreme in reactionary methods to which the country has been subjected under the present administration. Between these two extremes lies the just balance which is the secret spring of orderly progress and advance. It does not forget the past; neither does it fear the future. It has both traditions and aspirations, and both are inseparably interwoven with the love of freedom. In a word, it is Liberalism in the broadest and truest sense, and it is a new era of Liberalism that Canada needs to-day if a higher and better economic and social order is to replace the old order which the War was fought to destroy.

Unity Essential to Victory

How is this new Liberalism to be attained? Surely it is not by the forces of freedom being divided in the face of a common enemy! Neither will it be possible through the shifty