

THE ELIBANK INCIDENT

The Minister of National Defence made public comment to the foregoing effect. He gave an oral interview in reply to inquiries of press correspondents.

His remarks were quoted in the Toronto Globe and the Toronto Mail and Empire, in exactly the same language. Both papers used the Canadian Press report, as follows:

"We are Canadians here and we don't want any peregrinating Imperialists to dictate our defence policies" declared Defence Minister Ian Mackenzie today, commenting on the reports of a speech in Toronto by Lord Elibank, President of the British Central Chamber of Commerce. Lord Elibank spoke of the vulnerability of Canada in the event of war, declared that if Great Britain were involved in a war Canada could not keep out of it.

"I should think", the Defence Minister declared, "that Lord Elibank should adopt the principle of Canadians with respect to British affairs. I don't think any person should come here from another country and attempt to tell us what to do."

Mr. Mackenzie recalled that six Canadian Ministers were in Great Britain this summer. "And" he added, "we attended scrupulously to our own affairs. We do not go over there telling them what they should do. We, in Canada, can take care of our own policies, defense and otherwise."

The Defence Minister, who returned a week ago from attending the Vimy Unveiling in France and spending some time in England said he "resented" the idea of Lord Elibank or any other person from outside Canada attempting to dictate Dominion policies.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
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