

fruits of the achievement of the mind*.

It necessarily follows, from what has been said, that no government, which was not recreant to its duties and oblivious of the part played by science in the affairs of men, could ignore scientists and their work. Nevertheless, there is a danger in too close a connection between science and the government--the danger that science may become but a hanger-on of the government, serving only the momentary needs of the government's policy rather than the permanent needs of mankind. Such a prostitution of science was seen in Germany before the war, and its results were to strengthen the governmental organization at the expense of the masses of the German people and of the world, yet even so, the scientific achievements of Germany before the war were of signal advantage to her people. Through the training of large numbers of her students in the natural sciences, she captured the great bulk of the chemical trade of the world, the dye industry, the optical glass industry, besides making great strides in electrical and metallurgical industries, while at the same time her agriculture also reaped the benefit of her assiduous devotion to chemistry, and her food production was greatly increased by the use of chemical fertilizers. All these achievements made Germany strong, and were beneficial in themselves, though an unscrupulous government used them as tools in its attempt to overturn the liberties of the world. The remarkable scientific

*. Our own Royal Society of Canada dates from 1881, while the Canadian Institute (now Royal Canadian Institute) ^{since 1914} has existed since 1849. The headquarters of the latter society are at Toronto, while the Royal Society of Canada usually meets in Ottawa.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

Memoranda & Notes

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