

All orders have their survivals, and it is interesting to recall that even in our own day we have witnessed the overthrow of dynasties which base their existence upon the doctrine of hereditary right extending back to the absolutism of remote ages. They have fallen before the principle of the future, under which new republics have had their birth, or where the thrones of monarchs exist "broad based upon a people's will".

We recall with amazement under the enlightenment of today that, only as recently as the American Civil War, slavery as an institution was perpetuating itself on this continent by the appeal of its upholders to the principle of the past. Though the struggle was one of life and death, the institution of slavery fell before the principle of the future, which was bound to compel a recognition of the sacredness of human personality. It is an interesting fact that no less than eight days ago the House of Commons of Canada approved a convention relative to slavery which was drawn up by the League of Nations and which has as its purpose the uniting of all nations in an effort permanently to extinguish a relationship in human society in the nature of ownership of individuals by individuals, whether in forms pre-existing or in their modern economic equivalents.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers  
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