

C 54639

Section VIII (File 5)

CUSTOMS INQUIRY

CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW 1926-27

Chapter "THE DOMINION GENERAL ELECTION OF 1926" (The Customs Scandal  
and Related Issues)

Pp. 36-38

This sub-section discusses the reasons why the Customs scandals played so small a part in the 1926 Election - overemphasis by Conservative speakers, plus failure of other scandal charges made by them early in the campaign.

Certain Liberal speakers made allegations against Honourable H.H. Stevens, which in turn reacted against the Liberals.

"The effect of all these instances upon public opinion was well described by an editorial in The Vancouver Daily Province published on Aug. 14. In this editorial the newspaper criticized Mr. Stevens for imputing unworthy motives to the Liberal leader and Mr. King for overworking the constitutional issue, and asked whether there were not any real problems to discuss in Canada any more. 'Mr. Mackenzie King and his constitutional intricacies.' The Province summed up the matter, 'Mr. Stevens and the ex-Premier's ancestry, Mr. McGeer and the freight rates, Mr. Fraser of Nova Scotia and secession, Mr. Meighen and his too great insistence on the Customs scandal; they are all taking about things that either are not real issues at all or are not national issues or are not issues of the first importance, and they are allowing these lesser things to lead them into personalities and absurdities that are having the effect of disgusting people with politics.'

"Undoubtedly the temper reflected in this editorial was prevalent among the electorate and was one of the reasons why the Customs maladministration was overshadowed as an issue in the Election."

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers  
Memoranda & Notes

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