

"WHAT ARE MARITIME RIGHTS?" "LET US KNOW WHAT THEY ARE
SO WE CAN FIGHT FOR THEM IF THEY ARE JUST."

(Mackenzie King.)

In the general election of 1925 the Halifax Herald, a leading Conservative newspaper in Nova Scotia, accused Mr. Mackenzie King of asking the "cynical and offensive" question - "What are Maritime rights?"

The question asked by Mr. Mackenzie King was neither cynical nor offensive, but an honest, straight-forward request for accurate information as to the grievances of the Maritime provinces. What he said was "What are the Maritime rights. Let us know what they are, so that we can fight for them if they are just."

Deliberate misrepresentation of this question "What are Maritime Rights?" was made the basis of the Conservative campaign against the Liberal Party in the elections of 1925 and 1926. If any lingering doubts remained of the honest and sincere desire of the Liberal government to meet the just needs of the Maritime provinces, those doubts have been completely removed as a result of the appointment of the Duncan Commission and the far reaching legislation which has been based upon its recommendations. Upon the question of Maritime claims the Liberal Party presents its record with the utmost confidence to the electorate of these provinces. Its policy may be summed up briefly in two sentences.

(1) To take the most effective means of investigating claims made on behalf of the Maritime provinces - viz, the appointment of an impartial fact-finding commission.

(2) To use its utmost efforts to secure the whole-hearted recognition of legitimate Maritime claims from the rest of Canada.