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The Leader of the Opposition

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Subject.....

Trade Revival Basic

He argued that trade revival was fundamental to economic recovery. "The only way for people to improve their position under our economic system is by exchanging the commodities that each one has to offer. That is true whether it is between two people or two million people, or between two provinces or two countries.

"Is the home market a place, or is it not?" asked Mr. King bluntly. "It is not a place or an area but a centre where exchanges are made." He expounded the thought of trade between farmer and townsmen, community and community, and to that of trade between one province and another. All this, he said, brought a demand for employment.

"A country can't trade all one way," he warned. "You have got to have the possibility of exchange. But the minute trade is hampered, employment begins to fall off. Trade restrictions are most injurious to the growth of a country. Less trade means less shipping by water and rail and has a like effect upon allied industries.

"It is all nonsense to say these markets are closed because of the action of other countries. We have, since the last session of parliament, lost our trade with Japan. We have brought about a war in trade and we have lost our trade for lumber.

"Lost Chance in 1930"

"What is our position in regard to British trade? Prior to 1930 we were trying to reduce tariffs. I will say nothing about the result of the election. Mr. Bennett immediately put up a tariff against Britain and Mr. Bennett went there and told them they must put up their tariffs, too. He told them that if they wanted preference they must put up the tariffs to other countries instead of the preference we sought to give. The conference came to nothing. The first chance was lost in 1930.

"The representatives of the British government came over to see what they could achieve in the way of better trade relations with Canada. They had at the head of their delegation no less a man than Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, now prime minister of Great Britain. They had discussed the situation among themselves. They brought forward what they thought was best for the empire as a whole.

"Mr. Baldwin, speaking on July 21, 1932, in the House of Commons, said: 'What, then, should be the aim of this conference? It should be to clear our channels of trade among ourselves.' And I say to you that our aim here in Canada

should be to clear out the channels of trade among ourselves," said Mr. King, amid applause.

Quotes Baldwin Plan

The speaker went on to quote Mr. Baldwin as saying:

"We hope that as a result of this conference we may be able, not only to maintain existing preferences, but in addition to find ways of increasing them. There are two ways in which increased preference can be given—either by lowering barriers among ourselves or by raising them against others. The choice between these two must be governed largely by local considerations, but subject to that, it seems to us that we should endeavor to follow the first rather than the second course. For, however great our resources, we cannot isolate ourselves from the world.

"No nation or group of nations, however wealthy and populous, can maintain prosperity in a world where depression and impoverishment reign. Let us therefore aim at the lowering rather than the raising of barriers, even if we cannot fully achieve our purpose now, and let us remember that any action we take here is bound to have its reactions elsewhere.

"His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom therefore place before the conference as its general objective the expansion of empire trade, brought about as far as possible by lowering of trade barriers as between the several members of the empire."

"If that all-wise suggestion had been met by Canada, do you think we would have this depression to-day?" asked Mr. King. "Mr. Baldwin was thinking, not only of British empire trade, but of world trade."

Mackenzie King stated that if Mr. Baldwin's policy had been followed "there would be a very different world to-day."