

The Prime Minister to see

130354

26945--Le Devoir, Montreal, April 11, 1939.

(Translation)

Mr. Mackenzie King
Memorandum

Would Mr. King retire?

A serious newspaper, the New York Times, published in the edition of last Sunday this information under a Montreal date line: "It is stated that Mr. Mackenzie King has confided to his intimate friends that should war break out he would resign, leaving to others who entertain less intensely peaceful ideas than he does the task of leading Canada during the conflict...In the view of experts, it is certain that if Great Britain wages war, Canada will wage war, and that, sooner or later, volunteers will be enrolled to form an expeditionary force. But the same experts agree with French-Canadian members of Parliament,--two of whom are veterans of the World War--that they have warned Parliament that if it were to resort to compulsory service as a complementary measure to voluntary enlistment, that would mark the end of Canadian unity". The eventual retirement of Mr. King in that case, would cause no surprise, no more than would the retirement of Mr. Lapointe; the latter has already stated that he would oppose any form of compulsory service, even though this entailed his withdrawal from the cabinet. But, with both of them leaving, that would imply at once the establishment of a union ministry. One of the first actions of the latter would be to bring about civil war in Canada, on the pretext of helping London. A fine helping hand... Canada would be the first victim of her support of the cause of European "democracy" which already retains little semblance of true democracy.

G.P.

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