

Subject.....

Date.....Publication.....

Government is entitled to some credit and to some confidence on the part of the people of Canada on the way it was able to re-arrange the seats in the Parliament of Canada, so as to give a fair representation."

Proceeding, Mr. King spoke of the large amount of work which fell upon a Canadian Minister in contrast with that which was the burden of the men who formed the Cabinet of the United States.

"In the United States the members of the Cabinet are not members of the House of Representatives. They do not run for office, and after they are appointed their whole time is given to the work of the party to which they belong. Our men must not only carry on the departments over which they preside; they have to take care of their constituencies; they have to speak on debates in the House, and to attend the Cabinet meetings to shape the policy of their party. They have just double the work of those across the line." Mr. King gave the audience an idea of the onerous duties which attend the Premiership; his mail alone, he said, reached up to 600 letters a day, and, incidentally, that was why a letter from one of

his constituents was not answered sometimes for several days, and then, by a secretary. Beside all his other work, he stated, he had to keep up with every phase of the Administration—trade, finance, immigration, transportation, everything—and had to be always ready to speak on any of them. He was on occasions under strain in the House, he continued. "You know," he confided to the audience, amid laughter, "we have a majority of only one. We lost that for a while, but we have it back now."

He took opportunity then to refute some of the pessimistic statements which were being circulated as to Canada's future. He stated that in the year before the present Government had come in-

to power the country had been importing more than the country was exporting.

"But," Mr. King continued, "in our first year we exported \$6,000,000 worth of goods more than we imported. The excess of exports over imports in 1923 was \$165,000,000. At the present time the excess is still greater. You can see that people who talk about Canada not being a progressive country simply have not a knowledge of what is going on."

The Premier told of the great wealth with which the country was endowed, but he stated also that Canada had an annual irreducible expenditure of almost \$300,000,000, leading from this subject to his defence of his Government's tariff programme. Anything that would keep down the cost of production, he declared, would help the country, and for that reason the Government had taken some of the duty off instruments of production. These reductions in the tariff, however, had not been made without first consulting men in the industries affected, which, he stated, were given in return certain concessions. These changes would be all that would be made for the present, he said.

Mr. King concluded his address by saying that in its next appeal to the country the Government would be able to show that Canada had prospered as it never had before—and for that reason it would have the people's support. "For," he concluded, "the true government of the people is public opinion—the government of the country rests with the people."

Just as the Premier stood amidst the applause at the conclusion of his speech. Benjamin Eves, a 93-year-old Liberal stalwart, who had a seat on the platform, advanced toward him, his cane in his hand, and in a voice which the cheering kept many from hearing, exclaimed: "Mr.

Export Trade.

Prosperity.

*Canadian
Cabinet Ministers -
Comparison with
those of United States.*

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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