

essential war materials. Mackenzie King also contributed to the foundation of joint boards of employers and employees and to the acceptance of policies helpful in the avoidance of lockouts and strikes in industries embracing coal, ship-building, steel, oil and electrical appliances. To give one instance of the result of a plan drafted by him, each man's output for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company was greater during the time the United States was at war than that of any other coal company in America. His plan served as the solution of a condition that had resulted in a tie-up of this important industry and also in a sort of civil war for almost two years.

During all these activities Mr. King passed a considerable portion of his time in Canada, for there were unusual demands of a private nature upon him. His father, who lived in Toronto, had become blind; and therefore the care of him as well as of the mother and sister fell in no small measure upon the son. The sister died a year after the war began, and that increased the immediate and personal responsibility of Mr. Mackenzie, as the father had no person but the mother to assist him in his blindness. A year later the father died, leaving the mother all alone and broken with the strain. The home in Toronto was closed, and then the son, a single man, living in apartments in Ottawa, took his mother there to live with him. For one year she was ill in bed, with a trained nurse in attendance, and at the end of that time she too died. These distressing events, coming one after the other, removed forever any

doubt there may have been in Mackenzie King's determination to consecrate his life to suffering humanity. All the time he was preparing himself, perhaps unconsciously, as he had been preparing ever since he first entered a university, for the opportunity that the leadership of the Liberal party offered. During the years 1900-07 he acted successfully as conciliator and mediator, representing the Government of Canada, in thirty-six different strikes in the Dominion. His record during the four years that he was Minister of Labour surely is unsurpassed either in variety of interest or extent of achievement.

This is, at least, in some measure, the record of the man who took the Liberal convention at Ottawa by storm in a speech that convinced the majority of the delegates from all parts of the Dominion that he was the man best equipped to lead them. Now that he has been returned to Parliament, to represent a constituency in Prince Edward Island, he will be not only leader of the Liberal party, but as well officially Leader of his Majesty's Loyal Opposition, a position to which a considerable salary is paid by Act of Parliament apart from the regular indemnity paid to members.

Hon. Mackenzie King possesses an engaging personality, a keen sense of justice and uprightness, a clean record, an abhorrence of sham and crookedness, a sympathetic outlook on mankind, an excellent platform style, a forceful attitude in debate, a logical mind, and indeed, all the finer qualities that fit him for the place rendered vacant by the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

