

Prime Minister Not Like the
President of the U.S.

Here, again, the War has had a demoralizing effect upon customary and accepted procedure in matters of parliamentary government. Throughout the greater part of this Parliament, the Prime Minister, and at least two or three of his colleagues have been not only out of the House, but out of the country. I am not saying there are not reasons which can be urged with respect to their absences; I only wish to draw attention to the haphazard manner of conducting the business of this country to which they have given rise.

Let me hasten to repeat here what I have said many times. We all have nothing but the utmost sympathy for the Right Honourable the Prime Minister in the impairment which his health has undergone with the strain of public life and public service, to which the War added in such exceptional measure. I might add that the sympathy of the Opposition goes out to several of his colleagues as well, who under the strain of recent years have sacrificed not a little of their health and strength in the discharge of their public duties. A public man will be the first to realize what chances with health and fortune a man takes who enters the service of his country in any spirit of patriotism. But a man's health, in whatever position he may be, must always be considered in relation to his duties, and

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Volume D 3