

3.

itself. It was a dominant idea with Lord North and George III; but the British Empire having steadily for years developed along the lines of decentralization the conception of an "Economic Union" is now purely anachronistic.

No "Economic Union" would be possible now short of reconstructing the Empire's Constitution, and recentralizing its control in matters fiscal as well as financial. To talk of that is transcendentalism in an Empire of free Nations. Then why obscure-why distort- the truth of things by jingling phraseologies?

The Conference to be held in Ottawa in July 1932 is not a Conference of a Commonwealth of Nations, but an Inter-Imperial Conference of all parts of the Empire. Its work is not to form an "Economic Union" but to devise a new system of trade relationships between the various Entities of the Empire each of which is free from the domination or control of the rest.

It will be the first occasion in the history of the Empire since 1846 when Britain with her sister States can freely sit around a table and formulate schemes or plans for the flow of trade and commerce between and among them on principles of mutual and reciprocal advantage to each of them and incidentally to the aggregate Empire. With principles dominant and men responsive the Conference will surely eventuate *pro patria et pro imperio*.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA