

head of the Liberal administration to find fault at the outset with the Conservative government for having certain Conservative policies with respect to taxation, tariffs, and the like. It would have been extremely resented by this parliament if, when my colleague the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and I were at the last conference, we had at the outset stated that we were not in sympathy with the policies of Mr. Baldwin and his government and that unless those policies were changed there was possible a dismemberment of the empire or something of the kind. I say it does not matter what the particular political complexion of the government of the day is, that government has a right to have its policies respected.

Moreover, the government in office represents the people of the country. It may in some instances be unfortunate that such is so—I think it is very unfortunate that such is the case as respects hon. gentlemen opposite—but they do represent the country. When my right hon. friend went to England to speak at the conference he expected that he would be regarded as speaking in the name of the country. Unfortunately, his party feeling got a little the better of him. He told the conference at the outset that he represented the Conservative party, rather an extraordinary statement to make to any conference of governments; but if we set that aside, the point that will be clear and self-evident is this, that each government must respect the governments of the day represented at the conference and have respect for their policies. The position, so far as the recent Imperial conference is concerned, was the more critical in that Great Britain was the hostess, so to speak, on this occasion. She had invited to the conference the governments of the different dominions and she was in a position where the whole procedure had to be shaped accordingly. In the same Canada will be the hostess at the conference that is to take place later in the year when the procedure no doubt will be arranged not to have Canada the first to speak and to lay down her proposals but to hear the others first. Great Britain's position was, as I say, that of the hostess of the conference and matters were so arranged as to give to the Prime Minister of Canada, as representing the oldest dominion, the first right to speak. Under those circumstances the Prime Minister owed it especially to the country he was representing to proceed in the proper way, in a courteous way, in a way that would have regard to the precedents that had

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been laid down and for the procedure that had been adopted at previous conferences. He was at fault many times, but one of the worst mistakes he made was in ignoring altogether the precedents and procedure of preceding conferences. In his rough-and-ready fashion he simply swept to one side the whole accepted method of procedure, went into the conference and laid down the law to everyone present before anyone else had had a chance to be heard. He made no reference to the governments which he was addressing, no reference to the British government, no reference to the governments of the other dominions, no reference to the Prime Minister or the other prime ministers present. The first and only reference was to himself as the Prime Minister of Canada and the policies which he stood for and was going to stand for at the conference.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hon. gentlemen opposite say "hear, hear" and applaud. I hope the country will notice their attitude—they are running true to form—an attitude of assurance and arrogance, the like of which has never been known in Canada before.

I am going to discuss the Prime Minister's attitude and actions from four points of view. First of all I intend to speak of his method of approach, to which I have already alluded. Then I intend to refer to the proposals he made to the conference, then a word or two about his petulant and childish outburst against the mild form of criticism of his proposal in the British House of Commons and lastly I should like to say something about the interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, the taking of sides with political parties in other countries, when one is supposed to be representing one's country as a whole, not any political party, and to have regard for all the amenities that pertain to public life and affairs in any land.

As to the method of approach, may I say that my right hon. friend in his very first remarks said that in the course of a day or two he would give to the conference his reasoned views. This shows that evidently, when he was here at the special session of parliament, he had in mind the line of procedure which he was going to take, the policy that he was going to lay down. Every step was calculated, was carefully worked out. He took the position that he did, presented his proposals as he did, in order to help to draw attention to them publicly, notwithstanding that, as he must have known, they were pro-