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Sept. 30/36

Ottawa Journal

#### MR. KING'S GENEVA SPEECH.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING's speech to the League of Nations at Geneva was admirable in form and matter.

His reference to Canada's good fortune both in her neighbors and her lack of neighbors was linked with an appreciation of the peculiar difficulties of European countries—"crowded populations, scores of dividing frontiers, bitter memories which the zealots of nationalism will not let die." Faced by these conditions the Prime Minister found it not surprising that Europe should be the scene of "violent propaganda and recriminations . . . the feverish race for rearmament, the hurrying to and fro of diplomats, the ceaseless weaving and unravelling of understandings and alliances, and the consequent fear of peoples."

For this situation Mr. KING offered no patent cure. He advanced the association of free nations in the structure of the British Empire as an ideal for the League, conceding that it was impossible to make a complete parallel. He was opposed to "automatic obligations, to the use of force in international disputes," and pointed out that it was for the Canadian Parliament and people to decide "to what extent, if at all, Canada will participate in conflicts wherein other members of the Commonwealth may be involved."

The Prime Minister, admitting the difficult problems facing the League at this point in its evolution, was not unduly pessimistic. The world needed such a "rallying point for the world's hopes of peace" as its Assembly afforded, and the League, despite all its mistakes and failures, had built up barriers against war. In other words it is fairly certain that the world would be worse off today than it is if the League had not existed since the Great War. And Mr. KING spoke, we think, for the vast majority of Canadians when he said emphasis in the League's policies should be placed "upon conciliation rather than coercion." There is, he said,

" . . . a general unwillingness in people to incur obligations which they realize they may not be able in time of crisis to fulfil, obligations to use force and to use it at any time, in circumstances unforeseen and in disputes over whose origin or whose development they have little or no control."

That being true, and the experience of the League in Italy's war of conquest in Ethiopia leaves no question on the subject—Mr. KING's conclusion is strong:

"We believe the only way to strengthen the League's shaken authority is to take heed of the lessons of experience, to make the policies of the League conform to realities, to conditions and attitudes of mind that exist in fact in the world of today."

Finally the Prime Minister emphasized the point that the League, in the conception of its founders, was not to be a group of countries set against another group, was not to be used to combat "particular theories of social philosophy or economic organization." It was primarily a League "to further the ideals of peace and good will among all nations and all classes."

Mr. KING, THE JOURNAL believes, spoke for Canada at large in this frank address. Canada, geographically blessed, does not take credit to herself for superior virtue, but there is a lesson for Europe in the international relationships of this continent, above all in the organization of the British Empire. And Canada does not propose to be dragged into a war in which she has no interest, and over the origin of which she has no responsibility or control, through any automatic obligation. This is simple doctrine, and sensible.