

Victoria (B.C.) Times  
Friday, 12 June 1908.

#### CANADA'S PAST AND FUTURE.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Canada's Deputy Commissioner of Labor, is known throughout the length and breadth of the land as the man who does things. The scope of the Deputy Commissioner's office has been enlarged year by year with the development of his talents until he has been entrusted with various delicate missions involving the relationship of Canada with sister colonies and foreign states. These duties Mr. King has discharged with such delicacy and finesse and invariable success, that to-day, although young in years, he is regarded as a veteran in diplomacy. As a citizen Mr. Mackenzie King is notable for the depth and intensity of his patriotism. He is a Canadian proud of Canada's history and enthusiastic about Canada's future. His theme yesterday in his speech before the Canadian Club was Canada's past—the giants of bygone times who laid the foundations upon which the Dominion rests to-day—the tercentenary of Quebec, the ancient city of Canada, whose anniversary will be celebrated during the coming summer by Canadians with suitable pageants and ceremonies. We of British Columbia, being in a physical sense the most remote province of the Dominion from the scene of so many stirring memories and historic associations, are possibly not quite so sympathetic as we ought to be with the objects of the tercentenary celebration. Mr. King's voluntary mission, discharged with admirable tact yesterday, was to touch the hearts of the people of Victoria and British Columbia and enlarge our sympathies in the hope of inducing an active interest in the objects of the Quebec centenary. When the speaker told of the sublime sacrifice, the heroic courage, the noble ambitions and the intensity of the patriotic devotion of such men as Champlain, Breboef, Cartier, Montcalm and Wolf, heroes of Old France and Old England, of their calm fortitude in the face of dangers we can little understand at the present day, of the decline of French power and the rise of the still greater power which shaped and fixed the final destinies of this great continent, there was an intensity in his tones which told of a restraint that in other circumstances might have found expression in burning eloquence. When he referred to the fact that the republic of France, the ancient enemy and the new ally of our Mother Country, now the representative of republican institutions in the old continent, with characteristic magnanimity was going to send a great fleet to co-operate with the fleet of Great Britain in the celebration; to the intention of the United States, the great republic of this continent and one of the greatest nations the world has ever known, also to send her vice-president and an imposing naval contingent to participate in the ceremonies; to the likelihood of the Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth, of General Botha, of the new British nation lately established on another continent, also being there—when Mr. King drew attention to these facts he gave us perhaps a new conception of what the world at large thinks of the significance of Canada's tercentenary celebration. It is well that Canadians should occasionally be reminded of the importance of the position their country occupies in the eyes of the world at large, of the significance of their history, and of the duty of the widely-separated provinces composing the Dominion, despite the diversity of their local interests, to keep in mind the necessity of unity of purpose if the ends to be gained in the future are to be kept in harmony with the magnificent accomplishments of the past.

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