

C O P Y.

*A Definition of
The Conservative Party*

Sir Joseph Flavelle

January 18th, 1927.

How shall I reply to your letter of the 9th. You will remember I have not been in public life. I have been in business since I was a boy twelve years old. The one break occurred in 1915 to 1921; three and a half years of that period at Ottawa, and the balance of the time here exclusively devoted to the work of the Imperial Munitions Board.

In business, we are in the habit of counselling together undisturbed by considerations other than those which may command our best judgment. If we fall into error, we account to one another, or if it is a serious matter, to our partners or shareholders. There is no eager opponent trying to misconstrue our acts or our words, or to magnify our natural mistakes; even our serious blunders are overlooked, and may be known to but a narrow circle. We conduct our affairs for the most part in the spirit of an autocracy. We say to this man "Go" and he goes, and to this man "Come" and he comes, and out of it we secure profit or loss, make our mark or miss it, and what we do or fail to do covers but a comparatively narrow circle of persons, unless we happen to be very prominent, when through our maladministration we may bring suffering to many people. For men in public life there is a different set of standards, a different set of influences. They can only succeed in having the opportunity to serve by commanding the support of a majority of the electors who