

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE
TO CONCLUDE JUNE 15 - 16

Premier Chamberlain Indicates Choice of Dates as Delegates Meet --- Mackenzie King Joins in Greeting New Prime Minister of United Kingdom.

LONDON, June 2—The Imperial Conference approaches its end. When the principal delegates met in the Cabinet room at 10 Downing St. this morning Premier Neville Chamberlain suggested June 15 or 16 as a suitable date for the closing plenary session.

The remainder of the present week therefore, will be mainly devoted to preparation of committee reports, leaving next week for their consideration and the preparation of closing resolutions. It is not expected these will go beyond the stage of expressing generalities.

It was Chamberlain's first appearance as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Mackenzie King, Joseph Lyons and other leaders of the Dominion delegations paid tribute, on the words of the official communiqué, to the qualities of statesmanship which Mr. Chamberlain has brought to his new office, to his broad outlook, and to his constant interest in the problems of the British Commonwealth.

ATTACK ON PREMIER KING
PECULIARLY UNFORTUNATE

Rumor of Pressure Exerted Against League Sanctions at Imperial Conference Officially Denied; Incident Has Repercussions in Canada.

LONDON, June 2—Very considerable regret has been expressed by those in close touch with the Canadian delegation to the Imperial Conference over the attack made on Premier Mackenzie King in the Winnipeg Free Press. The attack was made on the foundation of a rumor to the effect that the anti-League members of the British Cabinet had been exerting pressure on the Canadian Premier regarding the question of League sanctions. The story of "the pressure" arose apparently from ill-founded speculation in certain London newspapers, notably The Times.

The matter is all the more unfortunate because the attack has been seized upon by interested persons here as a method of exerting pressure at the Imperial Conference not only on League matters but possibly on matters purely Imperial.

As a matter of fact, it appears that the general opinion of the members of the Imperial Conference is to the effect that Article XVI of the League of Nations Covenant, which deals with the imposition of sanctions, should be reformed. This is the article under which sanctions were imposed, rather ineffectually, on Italy when she started on the conquest of Ethiopia, in disregard of her engagements.

Premier Issues Statement

The idea of any extraneous influence having been brought to bear on Mr. Mackenzie King seems to be quite out of place and today the Premier himself dispelled all such ideas in a formal statement, which follows:

"I have read with amazement the references to myself in a despatch appearing in today's Times from its Ottawa correspondent. It asserts that I have been pressed by anti-League elements in the British Cabinet to take the lead in a movement for the Imperial Conference to support the elimination of sanctions from the League of Nations Covenant."

"There is no justification whatever for that statement. No member of the British Cabinet either directly or indirectly has so much as suggested anything of the kind."

"Equally without foundation or justification are the inferences in the Winnipeg Free Press editorial quoted in the same despatch from Ottawa and said to have been based on information sent to Canada from here."

"My views on the League have changed in no particular from what they were when I stated them publicly in the Assembly of the League last September, and in the Canadian House of Commons in the recent and the preceding sessions."

Reform of Article Urged

LONDON, June 2—Among the delegations to the Imperial Conference opinion generally, it is learned, tends towards reform of Article XVI of the League of Nations Covenant. This is the article under which sanctions were imposed on Italy for resorting to war in disregard of her engagements.

The point taken is that as sanctions failed to prevent the Italian conquest of Ethiopia it is extremely improbable that a sufficient number of nations could ever again be induced to take the risk of imposing sanctions on a powerful aggressor nation.

Without unanimity sanctions would be useless and dangerous. The best course, therefore—it is argued—is

frankly to recognize the situation by strengthening the League as a body for the settlement of disputes by arbitration and conciliation, but limiting the possible application of sanctions. While Article XVI remains in its present form, it is further argued, there is no chance of securing neither the adherence of the United States or the return of Germany.

Opinion is Divided

Opinion in the Imperial Conference, however, is by no means unanimous, and so far as can at present be seen there is little likelihood that the Conference as a whole will take a definite stand. New Zealand, with South Africa to a lesser degree, wants a League with teeth.

Peace Banked League Urged by King

OTTAWA, June 1—A League of Nations which would function through methods of peace rather than methods of war was envisioned by Premier Mackenzie King when in the House of Commons here he dealt with this country's attitude to the League, references to which were made in today's despatch from London. The speech was delivered on January 25 when he opposed a resolution presented to the House by J. S. Woods-worth, leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation which asked the Commons to declare for neutrality in any future war. The resolution was later defeated.

"The League has failed," Mr. King said, "in part because emphasis was placed upon the prevention of war by warlike means rather than upon a constructive peace policy based upon the investigation and disclosure of the causes of grievances between nations and their removal through the operation of an informed and an enlightened world opinion."

He believed the League had a great part to play, but could not function effectively when it came to have universality of membership. Mr. King added: "I believe that with a revision of the Covenant which will enable the League to proceed along lines which with further consultation, conciliation and mediation, we shall see develop a great institution that will serve the world well. I had that feeling very strongly at the League of Nations last year . . . the one thing the statesmen of Europe were seeking above all else at that time might have been found at the League had it been formed originally on a peace basis rather than on a war basis."

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CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY
RESULTED FROM HEAVY WIND STORM

Roof is Blown From House in Up-river Area

Yesterday afternoon's wind and rain storm resulted in considerable property damage throughout the district, according to reports received this morning. Several orchardists in this locality reported damage to trees, while farm buildings also felt the brunt of the terrific gale. Trees were uprooted and outbuildings were blown over by the wind which struck with the fury of a tornado. No one was injured but the property damage was believed to have been extensive.

A huge tree crashed through the veranda roof of the residence of Richard Malloy, Devon, practically wrecking the porch. A resident a few miles up-river, whose name could not be learned this morning, reported that the roof was literally blown from the house. Another resident in the same district reported that a small outbuilding was lifted from its foundations and was carried about 50 yards in the wind.

Damage in the city was confined

chiefly to trees. Several citizens reported that trees on their properties were broken and shaken by the fury of the storm. No other damage to property was reported.

An unconfirmed report was heard this morning that a barn in the Devon district was struck by lightning and burned. No details of the incident were available but it is understood that a quantity of hay and several farm implements were destroyed by the fire.

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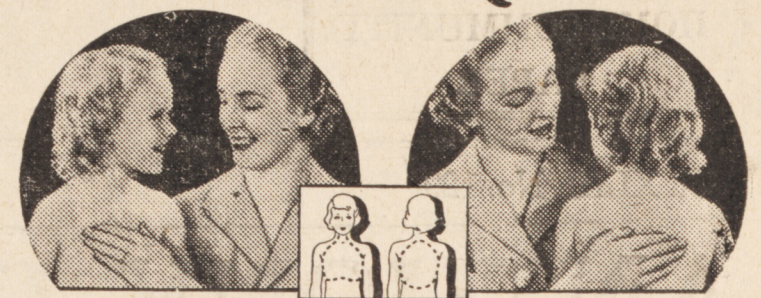
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