CANADA'S POSITION IN EMPIRE IS DISCUSSED BY ACTING PREMIER

Hon. J. B. McNair, K.C., Referred to Transition of **International Affairs**

A KING CROWNED FOR CANADA

Matters of Social Legislation and the Relation of These to Provincial and Federal Affairs

Hon. J. B. McNair, K.C., Attorney- domestic aspects. General and acting Premier of New Brunswick, was the guest speaker ed a great and, to us, stirring event ous Communities within the British last evening at the annual meeting at Westminster. The coronation of of the St. Stephen Board of Trade.

Nair, the Dominions are full partners in the Empire with Great Brited for Canada in her own right.

ent authority on constitutional questrol might, to the general advantage, the same?' be administered from a common centre, and he also believed that in was in this form: some cases this might be necessary leadership and direction in the pro- respective laws and customs?" motion of social security schemes

worth while. Mr. McNair said: fects of which are felt not in one area alone; for the changes have which is historic. It is as follows: their international as well as their

A few days ago the world witness our King and Queen was celebrated Hon. Mr. McNair referred to the amid surroundings steeped in tradirecent coronation ceremony as an in- tion but alike charged with the spirit stance of the period of transition of change. The whole ceremony serv- allegiance to the Crown, and reely sue with these. The standing that through which international affairs ed to show again the value of history are going at the present time. He and its steadying influence to orderly dealt with the great changes in Em- progress. It was a typically British pire relationships since 1911. These event, carried through with a ritual he said, were due in no small part which has come down through the to the glorious part played by the centuries, adding here a phrase, there troops of the Dominions in the Great a form to reconcile it to the great historic process which has in its cul-Today, said acting Premier Mc mination produced the British Em-

The innovation on this occasion reain. The other day a King was crown- lated to the oath taken by His Maj- advice of his responsible advisers in But the more serious proposition esty. The oath directed to King Hon. Mr. McNair, who is an emin- George V. was in these words:

pire that we know

"Will you solemnly promise and tions traced the history of the Brit- swear to govern the people of this dian Government while treaties conish North America Act, and Canada's United Kingdom of Great Britain position in the federal system of gov- and Ireland, and the Dominions thereernment. He expressed the view that to belonging, according to the Statsome matters of social legislation utes in Parliament agreed upon, and which now fall under provincial con- the respective laws and customs of

The pledge administered to his son

"Will you solemnly promise and to success, but on the whole little, if swear to govern the peoples of Great ada. For my part I see no diffilulty, tion is one of our own free choice in anything, could be gained and for Britain, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Our federal system of government which the Provinces have equal, if some provinces at least much might New Zealand and the Union of South be lost by a wholesale transfer to a Africa, of your possessions and the central government. Ottawa has a other territories to any of them bevital service to perform in broaden- longing or pertaining, and of your ing field of social legislation through | Empire of India, according to their

Great changes have taken place in and in giving financial assistances to Empire relationships since 1911, due the province in efforts that are in no small measure to the glorious of a local character and in respect government, but unquestionably the part played by the troops of the Do-Those through whom your kind in- minions in the Great War. The Im- ered to have its own peculiar needs The time has come for some revision, vitation was extended thoughtfully perial Conference which followed was left to the local legislatures; not for the reasons to which I have suggested that I might direct your recognized the situation particularly attention tonight to those fields in in 1926 when the Conference of that in which it was considered the Prov- minion great changes have taken which I am particularly interested. year appointed a select Committee Unquestionably the study of the under the able chairmanship of Mr. respect of which uniform action was mental action has expanded far belegal trends of the present day are Balfour charged with the task of de judged advisable was assigned to the youd the contemplation of those who of intriguing interest; but the diffi- fining the position of the various central government. Between the lo- in 1867 launched our federal ship of culty is to determine where to begin units of the Empire in relation one cal legislatures on the one hand and state. The times call for new action discussion and where to end it. We to another. The result of their de the general parliament on the other, are in a period of transition the ef- liberations was submitted to the the whole area of self-government in was not dreamed of a few decades Conference for approval in a passage

other political organization which 1867 has remained inviolate. now exists or has ever vet been tried. reached its full development-we rereadily defined. They are autonom- the general structure. Empire, equal in status, in no way affairs, though united by a common at which we have arrived. I join is

Commonwealth of Nations." King of Canada ain. In all aspects of their foreign our Sovereign rules over us on the and in part by nine others. they affect us, negotiated by plenilar advice

Full Nationhood To some the status of full nationnood which we have won would seem was agreed upon by the four original not greater, rights than the Dominprovinces which created the Confed- ion eration and was established by them control over matters assumed to be

Canada was divided. For 70 years this dual system of

that nothing would be gained by at- There have been some amendments bears no real resemblance to any tion agreed upon by the Provinces in

The statesmen of 70 years ago who There is, however, one most import- occupy a hallowed place in our hisant element in it which, from a strict tory as the fathers of Confederation ly constitutional point of view, has performed a splendid work. The great now, as regards all vital matters, nation which they envisaged has come to pass. It is no reflection upfer to the group of self-governing on them to suggest that the scheme communities composed of Great Brit- they established needs today some ain and the Dominions. Their posi- revision. But the changes required tion and mutual relation may be are in matters of detail and not in

There are some who maintain that he federal system of government essubordinate one to another in any tablished in 1867 is faulty because respect of their domestic or external inconsistent with the national status associated as members of the British this Dominion has won in the eyes of the outside world is one thing; the manner in which we regulate our Today the Dominions are full part- internal affairs is another. Internaners in the Empire with Great Brit- tionally our Dominion is accepted as a full fledged nation; her standing and domestic affairs there is no sub- among nations is not affected one ordination. The other day a King jota by reason of the fact that within was crowned for Canada in her own Canada her public affairs are reguright. In accordance with his pledge lated in part by one governing body

the Dominions. Even his represen- is advanced that the housing of our tative, the Governor General, is now constitution is an Imperial Act is inselected on the advice of the Cana- consistent with our standing as a nation, in that it implies subordinapotentiaries chosen by him on sim- this contention is that if for the sake the Provinces we agree that the should remain at Westminster to be incompatible with the dual system exercised only at our request there on foot. of government which prevails in Can- is no taint of inferiority. The situa-

I suggested a moment ago that under the authority of the British changes are now due in the constitu-North America Act passed by the tional arrangements that exist in the Imperial Parliament in 1867. By the Dominion. They will affect not only treaty so agreed upon and so ratified the division of legislative powers between the Provinces and the central of which each Province was consid- financial or revenue field as well. while jurisdiction over those matters referred, but because within the Doinces had a common interest and in place while the sphere of governin the sphere of government which

All present tonight believe, of "The Committee are of opinion government has been in operation course, in the democratic system of

ago.

tempting to lay down a Constitution to the B.N.A. Act, but not in respect entertain with confidence as well as for the British Empire. Its widely of those provisions which fix the dis- pride the view that in conjunction scattered parts have very different tribution of legislative powers. So with our good neighbor the British characteristics, very different histor- far as the respective authority of the Empire will prove the bulwark and ies, and are at very different stages Dominion Parliament on the one hand guardian of that type of government. of evolution; while, considered as a and the Provincial Legislatures on The essential characteristics of demwhole, it defies classification and the other is concerned the distributorracy are personal freedom coupled with political institutions in which all have a voice. But liberty does not mean individual license, nor does t imply lassez-faire.

In Great Britain today democratic institutions appear more soundly rooted than ever before. We had trong evidence of that in the events of last December; we had striking proof in the general acclaim which attended the events of the present month.

What is the reason for the public confidence and stability that there prevails? Does it not rest on the new conception of government that ies at the root of the great social eforms which have been quietly worked out in Great Britain during he last 40 or 50 years, particularly n the period since the War.

While other nations have held the potlight, experimenting with strange olitical doctrines and forms of govrnment, Great Britain has, while voiding regimentation, worked out n a quiet way a new social order, under which the benefits that science and invention have brought about and all that civilization has made possible are in large measure brought into the common pool for the general benefit. If there are any who doubt let them but look at the health, aceident and sickness schemes, public tracted in the King's name are, when tion to the British Parliament. It assistance measures, unemployment seems to me that the fair answer to insurance, widows, orphans and old age pension plans-to mention some of stability and the independence of of the more important-which have been devised and carried through by power to amend the constitution the State, not forgetting the broad programme of physical education now

Social Security

The success achieved in the Mother Country in the field of social securty should give to that great nation nearer at home courage and confidence in its efforts to work out a full measure of social advancement under democratic principles and by democratic methods.

The dominating impulse of such programmes is the belief that a nation's capacity for peace as well as war depends upon the quality of her manhood and womanhood, that these can flower best where national liberty prevails and that the old methods of laissez-faire which forgets the rank and file or treats them as pawns in the struggle for advancement are outworn and outmoded.

In this country we live under different conditions from those prevailing in the older democracies. Our Dominion extends from sea to sea, 3,000 miles in extent, on the whole sparsely settled. Our natural resources justify tenfold our present population. Yet the extent of our heritage places upon us, regardless of our numbers, the common responsibility of ensuring the conservation and development of our one real asset, the manhood and womanhood of our Dominion.

To that end we must. I believe. times I envy those who a few decades ago shared the responsibility of public life in times when the ambit circumscribed. But my regret is that the exigencies of the system of political patronage which has been nurtured in this country makes such exactions on one's time and energy that too little leisure is allowed for devotion to important matters which gravely call for study and attention.

Health and unemployment insurance, working hours, wage control, foundations those virtues which were mothers' allowances, old age pensions-these no longer call for the pioneer. The real question which confronts us is through what medium cial legislation is to be promoted or administered.

In my view some matters of this class which now fall under provincial tage be administered from a common centre; in fact I would go further and, without specifying instances, say that in some cases there is grave doubt if success can be achieved broader allegiance we owe, to our without a common direction. When the B.N.A. Act comes to be re-written there is likely to be some new balancing of legislative powers in favor of the general government.

But on the whole little, if anything, Provinces at least, much might be lost by a wholesale transfer of the social security field to the central essary for their administration must of necessity have ramifications in every Province. Unless provincial us would suggest, no economy in adby the establishment of a new organ-good-will and co-operation. zation in the Provinces to render services which the local authorities cess believing that the general welare competent to perform. May I sug-

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ial advantage in that those charged y the Provinces with the responsiblity of government have a close and intimate knowledge of, and sympathy with, local needs.

No, I do not believe that on the whole the solution lies in a greater centralization of power. Yet in my view Ottawa has a vital service to perform in the broadening field of social legislation through leadership and direction in the promotion of social security schemes and in parto the Provinces in efforts that are worthwhile

Financial Commission

Shortly a Royal Commission is to domain of the Provinces. I refer to the adoption by Ottawa as a war measure of the income tax back in 1917. While it may be difficult to induce the Dominion to surrender his lucrative source of revenue, it s not too much to hope that the recommendations of the proposed Commission will embrace a suggestion that with its wide powers for raising revenue the federal authorties should deal more liberally with the Provinces and make it possible for them to promote to a greater degree measures which are essential, and even if the young Canadian is for stability, happiness and the security of our people.

I like to think of the inscription reaching the early twenties. Such an carved upon the building in Char examination, as we now know, must gree of supervision and direction lottetown in recognition of the vision always include an X-ray film of the through governmental action. Some- and courage of the delegates who chest. It is the only way to be sure there assembled in the initial meet. that the insidious enemy, tuberculosing which led up to the Confedera- is, is not harbored there. tion: "With Providence as their of public affairs was comparatively Guide they builded better than they

Time has not affected the structure they erected. In every essential respect it is capable of embracing all that is necessary for the development of another great nation on this continent. For the full development of our young democracy this only is essential that we maintain as our the guide of our enlightened statesmen of 70 years ago, tolerance and the spirit of co-operation.

Organizations such as yours can, and by what expedients essential so- and do, perform a great service in promoting those vital qualities. Your immediate problem may be to further the interests of your community but you recognize to the full that control could to the general advan- St. Stephen prospers best when all around are prosperous. Pride in one's community and allegiance to her cause is not incompatible with the common pride we have, and the Province and our Dominion.

To make of Canada a great corner stone of the British Empire requires sound architects working along sound lines. We are the architects who must build the national structure on would be gained and, for some of the true foundations. Our edifice cannot be virile and healthy if the parts are weak. The plan calls for strong communities in strong Provinces. Compegovernment. Over a domain as great tition will further the end envisaged as this Dominion it is utterly imposs- if the spirit of fair play abounds. Let ible to administer such schemes by a us not worry as we seek to promote single agency. The machinery nec- our local purposes and the interests of our Province lest the charge of sectionalism be raised. This will avail little if in all we do we seek to governments are to go out of rosus build upon those foundations which entirely, which I assume none among are essential to stability in the great and diversified country which is our ministrative costs would be effected heritage-tolerance, the spirit of

In your work I wish you every sucgest in this connection that decen- by the endeavors of organizations tralization of control has a substan- such as yours.



TAKE CARE OF THE TWENTIES

In the Dominion of Canada in 1934. more deaths from tuberculosis oc curred from 20-24 years of age than at any other time of life. There was 857 such deaths. Of these 333 were young men and 524 were young wom-That was the peak-20-24 years of age-857 deaths. Why are there more in young women? We do not know. Do they not take as much fresh air, as much good food, as much rest, as their brothers?

From 15 to 19 years there were 606 deaths. From 25 to 29 years there were 762 deaths. The number increased up to 25 years of age and decreased after 25 years of age.

Why are there most deaths from tuberculosis in the early twenties? We do not know. Perhaps the enormous demands that growth makes on the strength and vitality of the individual have been too much for these young Canadians. They needed ticular by giving financial assistance better care and better food. Did they get plenty of fresh air? Are they up too late at night? Are they having too much excitement?

Certainly nutrition has a great deal e appointed by the Dominion Gov- to do with this question. We are only ernment to study the financial rela- now beginning to understand the imtionships of the Dominions and the portance of nutrition and the real Provinces in the light of the exten- proection which good food gives to sion of the services which under de- health. Twenty is too young to give velopments which have taken place up taking milk. Take at least a pint are now considered essential. This of milk a day in different forms, is a vital matter particularly in view soups, sauces, milk puddings, a glass of the entry of the Dominion Govern- of milk at meal-times, and coffee ment into the direct taxation field made with hot milk, and top milk which in the arrangement reached in with a cereal at breakfast. Milk pro-1867 was considered the exclusive ducts, cheese, butter, eggs are needed and meat or fish once a day and fresh vegetables, especially green vegetables, as well as fresh fruit.

As a rule, we should always partake of all the foods on the family table so that we get a balanced meal. And eating regularly as well as slowly, and chewing food well are of prime importance. Swallowing food in large pieces deprives us of part of its power to nourish us. Take your weight every month and keep a record of it.

The periodical health examination by a physician is a great safeguard perfectly well, he or she should have this medical examination before

Deaths in the Canadian provinces from tuberculosis are not more than half what they were about 1910. In some provinces they are not more than one-fifth of what they were in 1910. But take care of the Twenties. Keep up good general health, and tuberculosis will some day be as rate in Canada as it ought to be.





