

# KING'S REACTION TO TROOPS' BOOS IS A BROAD GRIN

Both Sides Are Free to  
Express Views, Says  
Prime Minister

## TOLERANT OUTLOOK

London, Aug. 25.—(CP Cable)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King smiled broadly to-day when Canadian newspapermen surrounded him and inquired how he had enjoyed his visit Saturday to a Canadian military sports meet where he was given a mixed greeting of cheers and boos.

"Enjoyed my visit very much," he said, still smiling. Of the boosing he said: "It was a usual sports event where both sides were free to express their views."

The Prime Minister said he had had long talks with Lieut.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, commander of the Canadian Corps, and Major-Gen. P. J. Montagu, chief at Canadian military headquarters in Britain, regarding arrangements for Canadian soldiers, and during these conversations had discovered nothing in the nature of grievances.

Mr. King said no doubt the troops were anxious for more warlike action, but disclosed that Prime Minister Churchill had expressed himself as being "most thankful" the Canadians are defending a key position and had stressed the importance of the Canadians being available in Britain for this work.

In the nature of a reply to those soldiers who held the Prime Minister personally responsible for the Canadian Corps being confined to the United Kingdom, was this comment by Mr. King:

"The British government knows, and the war office knows, that the Canadian Corps could be sent to any part of the world where it could most assist the war effort. Our whole aim is to strengthen the war effort."

The Prime Minister said he would make further visits to Canadian troops and also visit Canadian naval personnel in Britain as soon as possible. He also will attend his second war cabinet meeting and later will sit in at a meeting of the committee of the main cabinet.

"After my four days here and my many conferences with Mr. Churchill and others, who have spared no pains to give me all the information about everything we discussed, I am deeply impressed with how fully and accurately my colleagues and myself in Ottawa have been advised on all these matters," he said.

## Week-End With Churchill

Mr. King spent the week-end with Mr. Churchill and listened in an adjoining room while the British prime minister broadcast to the world yesterday.

"I thought it was the best broadcast the prime minister ever made," Mr. King remarked. "It was most significant and most important."

Mr. Churchill's other week-end guests included Lord Beaverbrook, whose return to Britain from Canada and the United States was announced Sunday, and Capt. Elliott Roosevelt, son of the president. Mr. King said he had several long conversations with Mr. Churchill dealing with all phases of the war effort.

Mr. King said he enjoyed a brisk walk in the country Sunday and, replying to a question whether there were any dogs at the home he was visiting, he told reporters who knew his fondness for dogs that one of Mr. Churchill's daughters had a French poodle.

"It was a delightful little fellow," he added. "While he didn't go walking with me, I talked to him a lot."

## Churchill Likes Comfort

A member of the Prime Minister's party said Mr. Churchill wore an ingenious blue suit for country loafing. Made of light woollen material, it had zipper jacket which fastens right up to the neck obviating the need for collar and tie.

"Really, it gave him the appearance of complete relaxation and I hope we can locate a similar suit for Mr. King," the informant said.

"Mr. King returned to London wearing a blue suit. He and his party were fitted to-day with gas masks and tin hats, which the Prime minister said he intended carrying with him.

The sporadic boosing, which at times was more voluminous than handclapping and cheering during Mr. King's appearance Saturday at the sports meeting, was generally written off to-day as a soldierlike lark.

## Mostly Mischievous

Somewhere in England, Aug. 25.—(CP Cable)—The mixed vocal reception of cheering and boosing accorded Prime Minister Mackenzie King at a sports meet of representative units of the Canadian forces overseas Saturday provided the chief topic of discussion at officers' messes and on parade grounds Sunday.

Long after Mr. King had left the scene to spend the week-end in the country with Prime Minister Churchill, the soldiers were laughing mischievously about the incident, though none was anxious to admit he was among the ones who boosed. Of those who claimed to have been in the stands and to have understood the reason for the mixed reception, the majority said: "The gang all want more action."

## Soldier-Like Lark

Neither officers nor men who were asked what it was about,

would permit use of their names. Most officers summed it up as a "soldier-like lark" and of many commenting, only one was heard to accuse them of staging a "poor show of discipline."

What appeared to be a general view on this matter of discipline, was expressed in the words of one captain, who said: "You can tell officers to forget politics in the army but you can't tell that to a soldier. . . . These chaps are over here fighting for democracy and the right to boo is a democratic principle. . . . There's nothing in the army regulations to prevent soldiers from boosing a civilian. . . ."

As an indication the boosing was not considered "malicious" one officer stressed the fact the men

mixed their boosing with "good-natured laughter."

Another officer, asked if he had discovered from the men any reason for the boosing, merely replied: "Boosing is contagious."

Days before Mr. King's visit some soldiers had spoken of giving him a "warm reception." These argued that the Canadian army should have been given a place beside the Australians in the eastern campaign, and that conscription for overseas service should be introduced.

Anxiety for activity on the part of the men was reflected in the enthusiastic reception given the Prime Minister when he shouted into the microphone: "I gather from the applause that many of you are impatient and would rather be engaged in more active operations than you are to-day."

## Cheers Retort to Boos

The cheering, clapping and whistling which greeted these words—a retort to previous boos—made the greatest sound volume of the day.

The boosing was comparatively mild when Mr. King first stepped into the view of the crowd to inspect the guard of honour, but became more audible even though handclapping increased among the officers in the forward part of the grandstand.

Later, when during an interval in the sports he crossed the field with Lieut.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, commander of the Canadian Corps, to make his brief address, the reception was again mixed. As the corps commander finished his words of introduction the boosing outdid the applause. During the outburst, which lasted several seconds, Gen. McNaughton never changed his stern expression, staring straight into the stands. Handclapping accompanied the Prime Minister's return to the stand, where he resumed his seat to watch the remainder of the meet.

The Sunday papers made no mention of the incident, and during Saturday night's regular news broadcast the B.B.C. used a record for a few seconds of the address. During that time Mr. King was heard to utter only a few sentences. The papers used about the same amount.

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