William Lyon Mackenzie King was born in Berlin (later renamed Kitchener, Ontario) in 1874. His father was a lawyer and his maternal grandfather was a justice of the provincial court who himself had been the premier of Ontario in 1874. From the age of 14, King studied economics and law at the University of Toronto and the University of Chicago. He graduated with a B.A. in 1895, and later attended Harvard University, where he completed the requirements for his M.A. in Political Economy in 1898, and subsequently attended the University of Chicago from 1896 to 1897.

King was drawn to politics and he championed no radical platform. He is remembered for his political acuity, decisiveness and faultless judgement. He played an active part in the Imperial Conference of 1926. The Conference allowed the Dominions to be considered equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another….” This declaration on the part of the government of the United States is an utter disgrace. We shall never be satisfied with anything less than Dominion status for Canada.”

In 1939, the Second World War broke out, and King led Canada through the rest of the war. Canada contributed food supplies, financial aid, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, ships, aircraft, tanks and over a million Canadian troops to the Allied cause. The close friendship of King with President Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of the cornerstones of the Allied effort. One of the reasons for King’s success was a leader who had the ability to recognize the talents of his party members. He filled his Cabinet with extremely capable men, and he gave them the authority to govern. The Conservatives lost the vote and an election was called. However, this lasted only four years. Politics had been King’s life and an exhausting one at that; when he died in 1950, less than two years after retiring.

As part of his ideals on social reform, King introduced unemployment insurance, national health insurance, and an old-age pension scheme. Although the Liberals lost the 1930 election, it was to their benefit in the long run. The worst years of the depression were from 1929 to 1933, but the Liberals returned to power in 1935. The New Deal, implemented by President Roosevelt, was one of the cornerstones of the Allied effort. One of the reasons for King’s success was a leader who had the ability to recognize the talents of his party members. He filled his Cabinet with extremely capable men, and he gave them the authority to govern. The Conservatives lost the vote and an election was called. However, this lasted only four years. Politics had been King’s life and an exhausting one at that; when he died in 1950, less than two years after retiring.

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