

*National Defence—Mr. Douglas*

it very difficult to get a few millions for the relief of suffering in the distressed areas. For a very small proportion of that sum of money we could have had unbelievable empire development, but, no, the whole of the money is to go to the dogs of war.

That is the part of Mr. Lloyd George's statement which the Prime Minister did not see fit to read. May I point out that there are other people in Canada who feel as we do in the matter. The city council of Montreal could not by any stretch of the imagination be considered a socialist body. Yet I have before me, from the Montreal Gazette of Wednesday, February 3, a report of the following resolution:

Whereas our country, in the last few years, has gone through an unprecedented crisis and unemployment is still in the acute stage;

Whereas this council, on numerous occasions, has declared itself favourable to the carrying out of public works in preference to the granting of direct relief;

Whereas the precarious state of public treasuries has often been used as an argument against our requests in this connection;

Whereas it is now intended to increase considerably the appropriations for national defence;

Whereas there is no indication that Canada will soon be called upon to defend its territory;

Whereas this council is of the opinion that it would be more appropriate to apply the millions which it is proposed to spend for armaments to the carrying out of works which, while improving and beautifying the municipalities where they would be carried out, would give employment to a large number of persons and would reduce proportionately the list of assisted unemployed;

Moved by Alderman Bray, seconded by Alderman L'Archeveque,

That this council declare itself strongly opposed to the proposed increase in the appropriations for national defence purposes and request the federal authorities to consider the possibility of spending in public works the sums specified in the dominion budget now under consideration for the purpose of armaments.

May I refer to another public body which, I am sure, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler), were he here, would not describe as a socialist group. The city council of Kitchener, Ontario, with only one dissenting voice passed the following resolution:

Whereas our country, in the last few years, has gone through an unprecedented crisis and unemployment is still in the acute stage;

Whereas this council, on numerous occasions, has declared itself favourable to the carrying out of federally-directed public works in preference to the present granting of demoralizing direct relief;

Whereas the precarious state of public treasuries has often been used as an argument against our requests in this connection;

Whereas it is now intended to increase considerably the appropriations for national defence;

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Whereas this council is of the opinion that it would be more appropriate to apply the millions which it is proposed to spend for armaments to the carrying out of works, which, while improving and beautifying the municipalities where they would be carried out, would give employment and wages to a large number of persons and would reduce proportionately the list of assisted unemployed;

Whereas our federal representative was admittedly originally elected because of his anti-conscription and anti-war representations;

Whereas a large section of the people of our community have conscientious and religious objections to war, and the preparation thereof;

Be it therefore resolved to petition the federal government by forwarding the above preamble and the following motion to the federal authorities and leaders of the three political groups:—

"That this council declare itself opposed to the proposed increase in the appropriations for national defence purposes, and request the federal authorities to consider the advisability of spending in public works the sums specified in the dominion budget now under consideration for the purpose of armaments."

This resolution, in company with other resolutions from returned soldier bodies and church organizations, and letters which, as the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Factor) said the other evening, have been pouring into him and no doubt to many other hon. members in this chamber, points conclusively to the fact that this point of view is not confined to any political party or to any political philosophy, that it is a point of view held by many thousands of people across the dominion.

I should like to turn now to a statement made by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) in his speech the other evening. As an exponent of international affairs, the hon. gentleman is a splendid Minister of Agriculture. The picture he drew of our navy giving protection to our shipping out to the three mile limit seemed almost ironical. The minister did not say whether he was going to build piers there in order to enable these ships to transfer their cargoes. However, he did say that the root causes of war were twofold, namely, the restriction of trade and the congestion of population. I think many hon. members will agree with me when I say there are other factors, such as the race for markets and raw materials and the struggle for economic control. The minister's suggested solution was unique. He said that we must be prepared either to distribute our foodstuffs or to bring people to this country to enjoy them. I should like to suggest to him that right at this moment we have over a million people in Canada who would like to enjoy some of our foodstuffs but who have not the purchasing power to buy them.

He said that the group in this corner of the chamber had refused to have anything to do with immigration, the one thing that