

sooner than they should have been, and in that way the war with Germany was prolonged.

I believe that the Prime Minister deserves a great deal of credit for some of the work that has been done, and I think at the present time all parties in the house and out of it cannot stress too much the necessity of team work both with respect to this resolution and until the war is won.

As I study the invitation to this conference, I cannot understand how it came about that four neutral countries in Europe were invited while Poland was not. Poland was the country which Britain went to help at the very start of the war to redeem her pledge, and I believe that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt did the best they could for that unhappy country at their conference last month, but still I think Poland should have been invited to the San Francisco conference when four neutral countries got invitations.

I have read a booklet that has been got out by the Department of External Affairs. I may say that this world organization is to promote peace and that there has to be political and economic planning, that San Francisco is to take up the work where Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods left off and write a new charter for world security. I may say myself that the San Francisco conference is to be exploratory and is not related to the settlement of the war itself. This session will close within two or three weeks and the issue will then be up to San Francisco and the forty countries. more or less, that will meet in conference there. I hope that the conference will be a success.

We have had two great wars, with a long depression intervening between them, and there have been many of these pacts and agreements and notes and Locarnos and Kelloggs in consequence, but they have all ended in failure. This includes the second league of nations, and I believe that the coming conference will contribute little or nothing to the collective security of the future or to world peace. Mr. Morgenthau, in the United States, made the statement, on February 5 that he hoped the world organization which had been outlined at Dumbarton Oaks would be a success. He said that the San Francisco conference would complete it and the Bretton Woods agreement, but he let the cat out of the bag when he added "that, while the United States would join with the other communities within the united nations in an organization to maintain peace, the United States did not guarantee to join in with them," and he would not help to remove one of the most dangerous causes of war—that, at any rate, is my opinion—namely,

[Mr. Church.]

"economic dislocation." But, I submit, the study of economic problems should precede any proposed agreement that might be submitted looking to security in the future.

As regards the questions of currency stabilization fund, the international bank, and so on, which the United States congress referred to the banking and currency committee of that legislative body, I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if adopted they would so affect world trade and world employment that the result would mean the end of the British empire. It is no wonder therefore that these proposals have been rejected both by public men and by the press in the United Kingdom. If these proposals were carried out the empire, in my opinion, would pass into liquidation. But the great President of the United States, on February 12, sent a message to congress intimating his approval of both the monetary and bank proposals that have been submitted.

I say that we should know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth before this country is committed to anything in connection with the coming conference. I do not think we should be committed irrevocably in this last brief session coming at the end of the five-year term of this parliament. After all the great wars in the past hundred years and more, proposals of the same kind have been brought forward, and the lessons of history as to them ignored. As I say, the United States treasurer, on February 12, approved both parts of the proposals, the fund and the international bank, and we were told that the American Bankers' Association were in favour of one but not of the other.

Let us retrace our steps so far as these proposals are concerned, linked as they are with the great problem of collective security and perpetual pacts during the last hundred years and more among the nations of the world. Let us be sane and honest with one another in our attitude to these questions. In my opinion, the San Francisco conference cannot succeed where similar conferences over the past two hundred years have failed.

After the last war I was a member of this house, and was a member for a considerable period in the time between the two wars, and I can remember votes being brought forward every session for the purposes of the league of nations. But it all collapsed. The trip to the league of nations was regarded as a wonderful thing. I remember one Quebec member calling it a joy ride. I would not go as far as that, but it always struck me nevertheless as a sort of consolation prize for anyone who had voted right in the house. If he had done as he had been expected to do he