

*Supply—League of Nations*

which was set up last year on industrial and international relations might very well be given the opportunity of reviewing the policy of this Dominion with regard to foreign affairs. I would urge that as at present constituted the League of Nations can be given only a very qualified support; and without developing the argument, I should like to enumerate one or two of the points which seem to me to justify such a statement.

First of all, as at present constituted, the league affords no guarantee of peace. We are told by its advocates that we ought to support the league; but, I repeat, there is no guarantee that we shall have peace. In fact, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald, Pictou) told us a day or so ago that his visit to Europe convinced him that we were in very imminent danger of a new war. Sir Arthur Salter, director of the economic and financial section of the League of Nations, in a lecture last summer at Williamson Institute of Politics said of the league:

It is essentially an organized system of conferences designed to facilitate agreement.

That is all it is. In holding conferences the league undoubtedly is performing a very important function. But the fact that we have a mechanism for the holding of conferences with the existing state of affairs gives us no guarantee whatever that we may look forward to any lengthened period of peace. It would seem to me that the league, if it is to become at all effective, must be dissociated from the iniquitous treaty of Versailles. I do not propose to examine that treaty at any length, but I should like to quote one clause of it which in my opinion obligates us very definitely. In the covenant of the league in clause 10 we find:

The members of the league undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the league. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression the council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled.

Anyone who has studied the map of Europe as it exists to-day must surely be convinced that the present situation cannot very long endure. I had hoped that the member for West Calgary (Mr. Shaw) might have carried out his purpose and exhibited that map to this House and shown something of the difficulties which face European statesmen at the present time. The point I want to emphasize to-night is that under clause 10 of the covenant of the league, we in Canada are intimately interested in this question. We cannot escape our responsibilities and we are obliged to maintain what can only be termed

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

an absolutely impossible position. Farther, I would urge that if it is to be effective, the league must be enlarged to take in all nations. I was very much interested the other day in noting that the so-called "Fidae", the Inter-Allied Veterans' Society, were urging that the veterans of Germany and Austria should be given the privileges of membership within a year. One of their planks, No. 5, was to re-order the League of Nations, eliminating America's objections to membership, so that the United States may become a member. In view of the very prominent position which the United States occupies to-day because of her financial and industrial importance in the world, it would seem as if no organization such as the league could ever carry out the work for which it was originally designed without the inclusion of the United States. The United States has certain definite objections and I do not think that this country is justified in contributing its support to the league without protesting steadily against the things that would in any way bar the entrance of other nations. From the information that we have been given it would appear that Germany is shortly to be admitted. I believe that, according to the newspapers, that is a part of the arrangement that is now being made. I submit that we should have some statement from the Prime Minister as to what attitude Canada is taking with regard to the proposed security pact. It seems to me it is only right that the members of this House and the people of Canada should be informed as to the position of the government in regard to this situation. I would urge further that not only Germany be included in the league, but also Russia. It still seems to be almost a dangerous thing to mention Russia, and yet any student of world affairs must recognize that Russia occupies a strategic position at the present time. We go no further than to call the attention of the House to a treaty which has been made recently between Russia and Japan, which is of very far reaching consequence. Decidedly we cannot hope to re-establish peace conditions on a permanent basis in Europe unless the great country of Russia is included. Now may I quote two or three very brief statements in regard to the condition of that country given us recently in an official report of the British Trades Union delegation to Russia in November and December, 1924? I do so because in this country there has been so much adverse propaganda that the great majority of the people are still under the impression that conditions over in Russia