

object, whether a wise one or not, Canadian lives are imperilled, the fact that it was initially Canadian makes it more our concern than if it was originally Argentine or United States. If it was Canadian, I think the government should have taken a great deal more care in 1922 to see that the expedition was so fitted up as likely to reach its goal and to serve its purpose. In a case of that kind, the government of Canada, just as the government of any other country, would do under similar circumstances, even if it was only a Canadian life at stake, a Canadian life that could not possibly take care of itself, would naturally take pains to see to it that that life was rescued if possible. Take for example what is going on to-day, the Amundsen flight to the north. That is an American expedition. As far as I know, there is not a Canadian on board. It is American in initiation and personnel, and the American government takes an interest, not that it authorized the expedition, not that it is responsible for what that expedition does, but that it seeks to the best of its ability to see that American lives are not lost unnecessarily in any enterprise of that sort. The same would apply in this case. I am free to admit that it would not apply to the same degree if it was of American initiation and launched by an American to begin with. There would still be some responsibility from the fact that there was a Canadian on board. The government, in fact, recognized that by the \$3,000 grant. If it had been purely American and nobody interested in this country, the government would not have made a grant.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Might that not have been done from a purely humanitarian standpoint?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The American nation, in case of a great calamity, might welcome a little help from us, but they can still afford to come to the assistance of two or three men without the help of Canada.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): But was it not a Canadian expedition that was going up to try to relieve them?

Mr. MEIGHEN: A Canadian expedition might go, but the government would not be justified in assisting if there were only Americans concerned.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Why not?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Because they are quite capable of looking after themselves.

Mr. HOEY: They are almost as rich as we are.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. I am glad the hon. member for Springfield recognizes that and something of the reasons why. Let us not get away from the point. The government recognized its responsibility in its grant and rightly so. The grant was perfectly proper. But surely the minister should, through some of his officers, have seen to it that the grant was not spent simply in an utterly inefficient manner upon an inefficient vessel, inefficiently equipped. I do not presume it was wholly inefficient. It turned out to be ineffective for its purpose, and when it failed, the minister would be all the more impressed with the fact that the lives that were sought to be relieved a few months before, would be in still greater danger. It seems to be difficult to realize that the government would sit idly by if even one Canadian were at stake up there on an American expedition.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In view of the right hon. gentleman's last remark that the government sat idly by when one Canadian life was at stake—

Mr. MEIGHEN: After 1922.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —I have not very clearly in mind at the moment all the facts surrounding the incident of the relief expedition, but I recall that when it came to the attention of the government that there was a young Canadian at Wrangel island, who had gone on this venture through the highest of patriotic motives and whose life was in danger, the government did not lose a moment in granting relief, in offering to assist the expedition to proceed north. My impression is that the request for help came from the boy's father and mother; that it came, if I recollect aright, through the editor of one of the Toronto papers in a communication stating that the boy's parents had brought the matter to his attention and asked that the government should give some assistance. I recall that part of it in a personal way, because I remember being very much impressed with the circumstance as placed before me at the time. My recollection is that the government immediately took steps to find out the quickest method of lending assistance and forwarded this sum of money towards starting off the expedition at once to the north. When we made inquiries, it was discovered that the ship was ready or could be got ready to sail immediately if financial assistance could be given, and it was because this one life was at stake a life which we regarded as precious so far as our country was concerned, the life of a young man of the highest character who had started on a mission