

least some naval authorities in the Old Land. For these reasons I think we could very well defer this expenditure. But we have other reasons. The Main Estimates call for an expenditure of \$550,000,000. We have Supplementary Estimates in addition to the Main Estimates providing for an expenditure of \$60,000,000 which means that the Government is asking this country to vote over \$600,000,000. The Finance Minister (Sir Henry Drayton) in the Budget Speech which he delivered a short time ago estimated his revenue for this year at \$382,000,000. With such a large discrepancy between our expected revenue and the amount of money we are expending should we vote this \$1,700,000 until we get into a position where our accounts will more evenly balance. I think that is a pertinent question in this discussion.

Again, we have given our adherence to the League of Nations. The whole civilized world is looking with hope to the League for the maintenance of peace in the future. Have we any faith in it? Was there any soundness in the arguments that were advanced when we were asked to take our place among the nations of the world who put their names to that covenant? If there is, why not wait to see what the League of Nations is going to do? That is the real hope of the future and I would like to see the Government of this country give a lead to the Canadian people in support of the League of Nations. We find ministers of the Crown in Great Britain openly advocating the League, educating the people to the necessities of the League and the need for it and we should have some similar propaganda in Canada. I would suggest to the Government and to my hon. friend the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Rowell) who is not here tonight and who, I believe, largely directs the propaganda of the Government in these matters, that he might very well engage in propaganda to educate the Canadian people to the virtue of the League of Nations. Personally I look upon the League of Nations as the great hope of the future. It is true that events have not altogether justified that hope up to the present, but the future peace of the world lies with the League of Nations; and if it cannot be made to function as it was hoped and intended it would, it is perhaps not too much to say that it may not be many years until our whole civilization, at any rate as we know it, is trembling in the balance. These

[Mr. Crerar.]

are all pertinent questions in relation to the vote that we are asked to give here tonight and such being the case, I must say that I am going to support the amendment offered by the leader of the Opposition. If we are to have any naval policy it should be a Canadian naval policy. I commend the Government for the stand they have taken in that respect, but I think we should postpone the consideration of our future policy until after the Imperial Conference has sat and the whole matter has been fully considered.

Mr. FIELDING: I do not imagine the Government have any intention of protracting this debate into Sunday, and I beg to suggest that we should rise and that the matter be taken up in due course on Monday.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: In answer to my hon. friend I would say that of course I would not approve of the committee sitting on Sunday morning, but I thought I had an understanding with some hon. members opposite that if this Estimate was debated until close to midnight they would allow it to pass.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, no.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: If that is the feeling I will not press the question further.

Mr. FIELDING: As far as I am concerned I had not heard of any such understanding.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have heard of none. This is the first intimation of it that I have heard.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee ready for the question? We have two minutes more.

Mr. RINFRET: Mr. Chairman, at this late hour—

The CHAIRMAN: It is almost 12 o'clock. I would like to get an expression from the minister as to whether we ought to continue.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: In view of the opinion expressed, I beg to move that the committee rise and report progress.

Progress reported.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Ballantyne the House adjourned at 12 o'clock (midnight).