

*Foreign Policy*

and we are all living more or less in that community. No nation, Canada or any other, can for long successfully adopt an isolationist policy.

Another point I should like to place before the house. I am sorry I have not time to develop these points further. I would give the warning that if another war does come, that war must mean not merely conscription of men but conscription of wealth. Let us give warning to people who to-day are profiteering out of war. Life is worth more than property. To-day we have returned men begging on the streets, while the profiteers from the last war go still unpunished.

Mr. MARTIN: Who suggested the conscription of man power?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That would come, inevitably, in another war. With that conscription there will come conscription of wealth; I mean by that not merely money, but mines, factories, stocks of goods—all titles to wealth. Gradually there is growing among our young people the realization of the truth that, after all, life ought to be worth more than property. If they are to sacrifice, others will sacrifice with them!

In one of his speeches the Minister of National Defence said:

The purpose of the armed forces of any country, I think, may be threefold. In the first place to support peace time diplomacy.

Here we seem to be back again to the old power politics. I was told in my childhood days that the custom of shaking hands gradually developed because, if a man stretched out his open hand, he could not keep his hand at his dagger or sword. I do not know whether or not that is correct, but for the purposes of the illustration it is sufficient. We cannot genuinely outstretch our hand in the direction of peace if we keep it firmly on our dagger or within reach of our dagger. We shall have to recognize that, if we are going to bring about peace, we must go a long way in the direction in getting rid of armaments.

The hon. member for Vancouver North put it very well on one occasion:

I consider that our first line of defence is our external relations, the foreign policy which keeps us out of war and enables us to settle international conflicts and live on terms of peace with other nations.

An hon. member asked me a little while ago as to what our policy would be. In answer I should like to read the policy of the organization with which I am connected, as adopted by resolution of the national convention of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation last year in Winnipeg:

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

## Foreign Policy and World Peace

The imperialist powers have betrayed the principles of the League of Nations and are feverishly preparing for another war. The situation is so serious that it is no longer possible to content ourselves with vague declarations about our devotion to peace. A clear and conscious foreign policy has become of paramount importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken forty minutes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the consent of the house the hon. member may proceed.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It continues:

Government policy and the people: The C.C.F. strongly condemns the secrecy with which foreign policy has been conducted by Liberals and Conservatives alike. Under Mr. King as under Mr. Bennett, it has been the practice to delay and avoid discussion of what our Department of External Affairs has been doing and of what commitments it may have undertaken. Yet upon these secret decisions may depend the lives of ten of thousands of young Canadians. Such conduct is a denial of all the democratic principles of responsible government. A C.C.F. government will take the Canadian people into its confidence on this as on other matters.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, oh.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes; someone says, "Oh, oh;" I feel like saying it myself. However, I shall continue reading the resolution:

Canada and the empire: At present Canada has not legally achieved complete control over her foreign policy because she is technically at war when Great Britain is at war. The C.C.F. therefore favours legislation similar to that recently passed in South Africa, which will remove the legal and constitutional obstacles to independent action by the Canadian parliament and will make it clear to the world that Canada is free to be neutral in any war, even in one in which the other members of the British commonwealth are engaged.

Mr. MARTIN: That represents a change of attitude.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: This was drawn up two years ago.

Mr. MARTIN: And it represents the change of attitude.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, none at all. This resolution was passed, with only one word different, two years ago, and reaffirmed last year. I continue:

Canada and the League of Nations: The C.C.F. reaffirms its belief that the principal causes of war in the modern world are economic competition, the struggle for raw materials and markets, and the class conflicts, which are an essential part of the capitalist system. It is evident that the most socialist countries to-day are the strongest influence for peace, while militarism, aggressive nationalism and war