

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would draw the attention of my honourable friend to this situation. War may occur between Japan and the United States, and we may be obliged to see to the defences on our coast. In such a case the United States would be our ally, because she would have to defend and help us, and Great Britain would not, perhaps, come to the rescue of the United States. We should be on the firing line.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the honourable gentleman seriously keep in mind what he is saying: that if war breaks out between the United States and Japan, Canada might become involved without Britain? We might have to defend our neutrality. I am not certain that from that particular date forward we should not be faced with war. The moment we are at war we know who our ally is. We know that our friend, progenitor and protector through history, not our ally, will be at our side from that very moment and will share in the conflict. The honourable gentleman has no more doubt about that than that he is sitting in his seat. That is why I say we should prepare our defence in co-operation, so that the defence of one will be a part of the defence of all. That is the only hope of safety for this Dominion.

The honourable gentleman wishes to leave the impression that I have not always been consistent. I think I have, and I shall endeavour in a very few moments to review the facts. The honourable gentleman states that in the city of Toronto—I think the year mentioned was 1922—I was guilty of uttering a phrase, "Ready, aye ready," the implication being that Canada was to be ready at all times, as he puts it, "to dance to the tune of a British Government." Such were not the circumstances at all. The circumstances were these. Great Britain and the other allies had made a treaty with Turkey. Canada had become a separate party to the same treaty. That treaty contained certain prohibitions and stipulations. Canada signed it from the standpoint of her own obligations. It was submitted to the Parliament of Canada. The gentleman who submitted for approval that treaty, with its mutual obligations, was none other than the present Prime Minister of Canada. In the innocence of my heart I felt that we had some interest in the treaty. I did not think we had signed it simply that we might thereafter boast of entering international affairs and of having set the seal of Canada to the treaty, and pride ourselves on all the glare emanating from such action. I thought we signed it seriously because we had something to gain as a unit of the world community. I thought we had some interest. Was I wrong?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think the right honourable gentleman was. If he could show me the obligation we assumed under any treaty with Turkey I should like to see it. When the Greeks were assailing the Turks, was it not the duty of the Turks to protect themselves?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The honourable gentleman is off the track altogether. If he will keep on the track his mind is all right. I did not say we bound ourselves to go to the defence of Turkey, or of Greece, or of any power. I said we had some obligations under the treaty. I do not know now what they were, but I know I am not wrong. I can hardly imagine our signing a treaty that represents nothing to us. I should hardly think the honourable gentleman would be a member of a Government which would ask us to ratify such a treaty. But the Government, of which he was a member, commended the treaty to Parliament; therefore we had an interest in it. We had an interest in seeing its obligations performed. Now, there came a time when in the judgment of the British Government—and I think their judgment was right, though I could not argue the matter at this late date—that treaty was violated by Turkey.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Was it by Turkey? Was it not by Greece?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I could not argue that matter, but in the judgment of the Government, in which I do not think they were likely to be wrong, as we know how carefully they deliberate in all these matters—at all events, in their judgment—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Why doubt that?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Doubt what?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That the difficulty or the conflict was between Greece and Turkey, and that Great Britain never claimed the right to intervene.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Certainly Greece had been one of the allies and had signed the same treaty, and the treaty was mutually executed. All I said was that in the judgment of the British Government the treaty was violated by Turkey, and that we were asked by message whether we had an interest to the extent of desiring to participate in maintaining the terms of the treaty. I felt that a reply should have been sent to indicate at least mutuality of interest—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: There was none.