

and they say that labour has been represented at Geneva. They have travelled expensively both ways. That's all. I do not see the good in it. If Mr. Moore is such a valuable person we should keep him in Canada, and not allow him to go outside the country at all. There is a real race among the officers in the railway brotherhoods when it comes to a decision as to which one will go to Geneva. "We must all go, together"—and then they go to Geneva and they come back. While there they stay at a fine place, and they tell us they were well received. Certainly they were greatly impressed—so much impressed, in fact, that they said nothing. Therefore I do not see why this item should stand—unless it be for commercial purposes.

Item agreed to.

47. Amount required to meet loss of exchange, \$115,000.

Mr. ADAMSON: Would the Prime Minister explain this loss?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This relates to payments which have to be made in foreign countries. For example, in connection with the league of nations payments are all on the gold basis. When we vote our appropriations in dollars, as we do, we have to make good the difference in exchange. The amount in the estimate is that which has been necessitated to meet the differences in exchange in connection with the league and representation generally in different countries, where exchange is a factor.

Mr. JACKMAN: This item of \$115,000 should be added to the next one of \$150,410?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: About \$100,000 of it, yes.

Item agreed to.

Canada's contributions to maintenance of external organizations.

48. The expenses of the league of nations for 1940, including secretariat, international labour organization and permanent court of international justice, \$150,410.

Mr. POULIOT: I would remind the committee that earlier in the session I suggested that this item should be employed to buy radium to treat cancer. Would the Prime Minister agree to my suggestion?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. member's suggestion would be more appropriate under the estimates for the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Mr. POULIOT: I made my representations then, too, may I tell my respected leader. But I got no answer. The Minister of

Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie) told me to wait until the estimates for the Department of External Affairs were before the committee. Now I see the two ministers are sitting very close together, and I would ask them to talk the matter over so that they might give me a definite answer.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should be pleased to do that and to give my hon. friend an answer, perhaps at the next session.

Mr. POULIOT: Meantime the league of nations is dead. Mr. Chamberlain said it was dead. Mr. Baldwin said it was dead, and it has been dead for some time. I wonder if it would not be better to drop this item.

Mr. ADAMSON: I am pleased to see that we are still maintaining our connection with the league of nations. If the world is ever going to live in peace we must have some form of collective security. The league of nations failed and failed miserably because it did not have sufficient force, sufficient strength or sufficient arms. We can never go back to the pre-war system of economic self-sufficiency which caused the present war. I am pleased to see this item, and my only hope is that in future we will stand behind a form of collective security, and never again be placed in a position of backing down on oil sanctions against Italy, as we did in connection with the Abyssinian crisis. I hope the government's future policy with respect to collective security will be realistic.

Mr. EDWARDS: Is this sum of \$150,410 an assessment by the league? How is the amount arrived at? If it is true, as it would appear from what we have heard this morning, that the activities of the league are very much circumscribed, why are the large contributions maintained? Is Canada making a larger contribution in proportion to those made by other members of the league?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In large part the figure has been kept where it was previously for the sake of convenience. There is no doubt that the entire amount will not be used. In fact I imagine only a small part of it will be used this year. It is impossible to say just how much of it will be used, and on the whole it was thought advisable to renew the vote and to use such portions of it as might be necessary.

Item agreed to.

Canada's contributions to maintenance of external organizations.

51. Expenses of wheat advisory committee for 1940, Canada's assessment, \$1,955.

Mr. NICHOLSON: What is this vote used for?