

*Foreign Policy*

mined in 1926, meaning that from 1926, on, we have had to abide by the foreign policy which is framed in Great Britain.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, no, not at all.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Then what does my right hon. friend mean?

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure the right hon. the Minister of Justice is far too astute to assume that I would even suggest anything of that sort. I have already indicated to him that Great Britain is not making our foreign policy. I have indicated to him that we are not making Great Britain's foreign policy. But I have endeavoured to point out that in 1926 we undertook to be freely associated with one another, and that free association means just what it says—consultation, understanding and cooperation. That is what it means. I am not going to redevelop that point, but I would point out that we have a declaration of what we received, and the conditions under which we accepted it, namely that we are united in our allegiance to the crown and freely associated together as members of this commonwealth of nations, which sometimes I have referred to as our family.

The method of giving effect to a foreign or external policy is one which varies with the government which gives effect to it.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): The foreign policy itself is a method. The foreign policy of the country is the aggregation of the measures and methods by which that country is dealing with another country.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. I think perhaps my right hon. friend misunderstood me. For instance, we are the Dominion of Canada; we have imposed upon us the obligation to maintain its status and its integrity. The methods to be devised to accomplish that end vary with governments. Some practise one method and others practise another.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): That is different from a foreign policy.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Oh, yes.

Mr. BENNETT: It just falls within the ambit of my statement, namely that we in 1926 and 1930 made a broad and comprehensive declaration. That declaration involves (1) common allegiance to the crown and (2) freedom of association of the members of that commonwealth. That is the broad declaration. How Canada may desire to effect that purpose is a question that we shall describe as the foreign policy of the government. But

[Mr. E. Lapointe.]

the foreign policy of the government can never be antecedently declared, and no one has learned that better than the Prime Minister with his wide experience; for he established this afternoon that the government had passed orders in council dealing with questions of foreign enlistment, with questions connected with neutrality, and with questions of exports.

All these are matters on which the executive, the advisers of the crown, take action. These policies are the policies of the crown. His majesty's government in Canada assumes the responsibility for making the proper recommendations, and the orders in council that are passed are the visible evidence of that policy. Then it is for parliament to declare whether or not that policy meets with its approval. The Prime Minister knows that not only have those policies to which I have referred met with the approval of a majority in this house, but in the main they have been commended unanimously, because they represent the considered opinion of both the larger parties, and many members of the other parties in the house.

For instance, no one has heard a complaint from any hon. member with respect to the order in council concerning foreign enlistment passed by this administration. Then, with respect to the type of goods which might be exported we know there have been some comments and some criticisms on details—concerning nickel, lead and copper, with which the Prime Minister dealt this afternoon—but on the principle involved there has been general unanimity. Questions of licences, questions of authority, questions of limitations and of prohibitions—all these are questions to which the executive—and, mark you, the executive are the advisers of the crown—have given effect by order in council. And they have risked the approval of this house by their action. They have never had reason to contemplate any possible difficulty on the score, because they have always secured it.

That is what I mean when I endeavour to make it clear that foreign policy cannot be anticipated. It is quite clear the Prime Minister was right this afternoon when he said that you cannot declare the details of your foreign policy in anticipation. I have heard some suggest that it could be done, but obviously that is impossible. Why? Because from day to day events occur which necessitate the cabinet meeting together and discussing and considering just what action shall be taken, whether or not this or that shall be done, or whether some other action should be taken. All these are questions which the executive, the advisers of the