

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my right hon. friend that the course above all others which serves to unite and which serves to keep united the British Commonwealth of Nations is that which is implied in the words "complete self-government on the part of each of the self-governing dominions" and self-government means control by the government of a country over its own military establishments.

Mr. BENNETT: Free association.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Free association but complete control of its own military establishments.

We have in Canada our Department of National Defence; we have our army and our air force and our naval service establishments as the British government have their army and navy and air force establishments under their own control and a responsible minister. You cannot have two military forces operating in individual countries responsible at one time or in part to the one government and at another time and in part to another government. We have to take complete responsibility ourselves with respect to everything we do and for everything that is done here.

Mr. BENNETT: This is not a military force but a training force.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I want the house and the country to understand clearly what is being discussed. My reference was with regard to the idea of having the imperial air force set up a flying school somewhere in Canada to train their flying pilots. In short, a military station to be put down in Canada, owned, maintained and operated by the imperial government for imperial purposes.

Mr. BENNETT: Not for imperial purposes.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is for imperial purposes. Is it for Canadian purposes?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, very much so.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say that we will look after our own defence in cooperation with other parts of the empire, just as they will look after their own defences in cooperation with other parts of the empire, but that cooperation will be most effectively maintained and carried out by each part managing its own affairs and being responsible to its own parliament for all its actions in respect thereto.

I have made this statement at this time this morning so that there can be no mistake about the attitude of the Canadian government on this question, and if at any time

my right hon. friend wants to go before the Canadian people and have this issue fought out, I am quite prepared at the appropriate time to go before them.

Mr. BENNETT: I am bound, Mr. Chairman, to say "So am I." I want to say, further, that his own Minister of National Defence is my authority that we are going to depend on the might of our partner, Britain, for our naval defence, and that means our life. That is not what I said, but what the Minister of National Defence said; that means, the defence of Canada by the taxpayer of England, who is denied the right to train his men in Canada for the purpose of protecting that navy.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I want to take issue at once with that statement.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what it means.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: They are two entirely different things. This government has never at any time said that it was not prepared to give in our own establishments the opportunity to British pilots to come over here and train, but they will do it in our own establishments, controlled by our own Minister of National Defence who is responsible to this parliament. That is an entirely different thing from having a branch of the British forces establish headquarters in this country, direct their own men here and be responsible, not to this parliament for what takes place in Canada as a consequence, but only to the British parliament and the British people.

Mr. BENNETT: And yet in Canada, sir, the road to the Yukon and Alaska—a military road—not for a partner of the empire but for an alien—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What?

Mr. BENNETT: An alien.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What about it?

Mr. BENNETT: Just that. I am asking is that consistent with this discussion?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Who has suggested that?

Mr. BENNETT: The premier of British Columbia, has he not? He cannot do it unless this government gives him permission, for the Yukon is under our control. And he goes to Washington and says that he does it with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, he did not; I beg your pardon.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what he said.