

bly of the League of Nations to-day, I think it well to indicate to the house what transpired this morning. The assembly met this morning and voted unanimously—Siam abstaining—to adopt the report of the committee of nineteen. The Japanese delegate spoke and voted against the adoption of the report and, after the vote was taken, withdrew from the assembly. He made no statement regarding the withdrawal of Japan from the league.

It is understood that the assembly will meet again this afternoon. In order that the information may be available, some hon. members having asked me questions as to the constitution of the committee of nineteen, I think it well to place that information on Hansard. The committee of nineteen has been following developments of the Sino-Japanese dispute on behalf of the special assembly. The special assembly were selected from the following countries: United Kingdom; France; Germany; Italy; Spain; Poland; Czechoslovakia; Mexico; Norway; Irish Free State; Guatemala; and Panama. These countries are all as a matter of fact members of the council, and representatives from the following countries were selected to complete the committee of nineteen: Switzerland; Turkey; Portugal; Colombia; Hungary; Sweden and Belgium.

On Saturday evening last the Canadian advisory officer was instructed by cable to make the following statement at the meeting of the assembly, which was then expected to meet on the 21st but which as a matter of fact did not meet until to-day:

His Majesty's government in Canada have learned with regret that the efforts to effect a settlement of the Sino-Japanese dispute carried on under paragraph 3 of article 15 of the covenant have not been successful. They recognize that with the exhaustion of its efforts for conciliation the committee of nineteen was bound to proceed to the preparation of a report in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of article 15. The report, which is now before the assembly, represents the unanimous and considered judgment of an informed and impartial committee, jealous of preserving the peace of the world.

The Canadian government have, from the inception of the dispute, supported every effort to secure its solution by peaceful means; they have scrupulously refrained from word or deed that might have jeopardized the prospects of peaceful settlement, and they have withheld judgment on the facts and merits of the dispute, in the belief that premature or injudicious comment might have prejudiced the success of our collective efforts to restore that good understanding between China and Japan upon which peace in the Far East depends.

In accepting the report of the committee of nineteen, the Canadian government desire to express their appreciation of the loyal and patient perseverance with which the committee have pursued its anxious task. The public

opinion of the world, in which they believe lies the final and effective sanction for the maintenance of the integrity of international agreements, has watched the committee's exploration of every possibility of a peaceful settlement between the parties to the dispute, and it has recognized reluctantly that its efforts have been unrewarded.

The Canadian government believe that in the recommendations of the report will be found a solid basis for the peaceful development of the Far East and they earnestly hope that the parties to the dispute may eventually accept a regime embodying such recommendations and thereby reconcile their conflicting claims and interests in so far as reconciliation is humanly possible.

It is not necessary to emphasize the gravity of the decision which the states members of the league must take to-day. The faith of the world in the possibility of peaceful settlement has been shaken; if it is destroyed, the structure of security slowly built up on the foundation of scrupulous respect for international covenants will be undermined. As that structure shows signs of strain, the prospects of reducing the world's burden of armaments are endangered and the task of achieving international economic cooperation is magnified.

For these reasons we must vote for the adoption of the report.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, while the statement read by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) probably does not call for any expression of view at this stage, I deem it important to indicate at once to my right hon. friend that we on this side are in hearty accord with the tenor of the statement he has just read.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word for the members in this corner. While some of us may have regretted that certain action was not taken earlier, nevertheless we heartily endorse the statement which has just been read.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

UNEMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AT TRANSCONA, MAN.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. HOWDEN (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address an interrogation to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) concerning the town of Transcona. This is embodied in a brief telegram which, with your permission, I will read. It is as follows:

The unemployed of Transcona are desirous of bringing to your attention the deplorable conditions existing in Transcona for the unemployed scale of relief. Very inadequate clothing. No clothing for women, children and very little for men. Quality very poor for sub-zero weather. Medical attention practically nil.