

PARTIES JOIN FORCES TO KILL RESOLUTION

Speaker Ends Debate On Resolution To Free Germany of Payments.

WAR IS RECALLED

James S. Woodworth Fails To Convince Commons of Benefits.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—After more warm speeches in the House of Commons today, the resolution proposed by James S. Woodworth, Labor, Centre Winnipeg, that Canada should withdraw her claims on Germany for reparations, was declared by the Speaker to be out of order, and the debate ended. Leaders of all three parties declared themselves opposed to the resolution. The prime minister did not doubt that Mr. Woodworth was sincere, but emphasized that the passing of the resolution could not fail to be read as a criticism of France at a time when relations between France and Germany were severely strained. Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the opposition, sharply declared that the time had not yet come when those who slaughtered children could be told to sin no more. To forgive Germany her debt, Mr. Meighen argued, would be to encourage similar aggression in the future.

"When stories of German atrocities were remembered," declared Robert Forke, Progressive leader, "we must realize that this is not a time to begin to say: 'We must forget everything.'"

Mr. Woodworth's fellow Labor member in the house—William Irvine, of East Calgary, pressed that the question was now one of results. "We don't wish to haggle for marks when the world's peace is in the balance," he exclaimed.

Robert Forke, the Progressive leader, briefly outlined his reasons for disassociating himself from the resolution. He believed Mr. Woodworth to have been actuated by the best of motives. Perhaps, however, the effect of carrying the resolution would be very different from what Mr. Woodworth anticipated.

The sacrifices made by the people of Canada and other countries in the defence of liberty were much too recent to be lightly passed over. Nevertheless, added Mr. Forke, nothing could be gained by keeping alive the smouldering fires of hatred. It was essential that one should look toward the future—towards a better and happier era than the world had yet seen.

Forke's Attitude.

At the same time, Mr. Forke was not entirely in sympathy with Hon. H. H. Stevens in many respects. It was Mr. Forke's opinion that Mr. Woodworth was often mistaken, that his point of view was often wrong. Yet though mistaken he still held him to be endeavoring to further the cause of the common people.

William Irvine, Labor, Calgary past, said the passionate speech of the minister of labor on Thursday night had harped back to savagery—"an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The tragedy of such an appeal was that this appeal was made in the name of the fallen heroes of Canada.

Mr. Irvine declared that his own brother had been one of the victims of the late war, and so, if necessary, to escape the imputations of the minister of labor and Mr. Stevens, he must shield himself behind the blood of his relative.

The Woodworth resolution, said Mr. Irvine, was, after all, entirely harmless and might lead to much that was desirable, not only for Canada but for the other nations of the earth. Personally he did not care who started the war. At the present time it was a question of results.

Would the cause of universal peace be furthered by withdrawing all claims upon Germany or by insisting that she pay the last farthing? "Taking the question to the highest ground," Mr. Irvine continued, "we don't wish to haggle for marks when the world's peace is in the balance."

H. C. Hocken, Conservative, Toronto West, asked why such a resolution should be introduced at the present time. Was it intended to give a lead to the mother country? If that was its purpose, he was confident that Great Britain did not require any advice on the reparations question from Canada.

Mr. Hocken added that Mr. Woodworth's mind had been allowed to run on until he had become a Bolshevik. "I am glad that there are not more of them in Canada," he said.

King Opposes Motion.

Premier King reviewed the various conferences on reparations, recalling that the British Empire had been allotted 22 per cent of the total paid by Germany, while Canada's share was 4.35 per cent of that 22 per cent.

He cited Germany's signature of the treaty with its statement of Germany's responsibility for causing the war as forever settling that issue.

"Could it be suggested," queried W. C. Good, Progressive, Brant, "that Germany's signature was secured without duress?"

"I think it is unnecessary for me to answer that question," replied Mr. King, at which there was Conservative, as well as Liberal applause.

Mr. King pointed out that the different dominions within the empire had been consulted as to the division of the reparations, and suggested that before a decision was reached to give up reparations there should be another conference. He would yield second place to none in the desire that Canada should manage her own affairs; but there were certain questions on which all parts of the empire should be consulted. Only a few days ago, the British prime minister had stated that before there was any change in British policy on reparations the dominions should be consulted, and it was well that Canada should adopt the same attitude to the British government that the British government adopted to Canada.

At this there was applause from Liberals, Conservatives and Progressives.

The prime minister did not doubt the sincerity of Mr. Woodworth in his desire to promote world peace, but he believed that the Woodworth resolution would have the opposite effect. It could not fail to be read as a criticism of France, and that at a time when relations between France and Germany were severely strained.

He hoped that Mr. Woodworth would withdraw the resolution, but, if not, he asked the house to defeat it.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, of the opposition, declared he would be opposed to the resolution, considered merely on its merits, but when it was introduced in a speech which reflected on the bona-fides of our country, it would take "pretty strong arguments to convince him of its merits."

He did not base his faith in Germany's responsibility on Germany's signature of the treaty, but on facts known to all the world, facts so clear that "none but a kinked and super-heated mind could have any doubt."

Resolution Out of Order.

Taking the case on its merits, Mr. Meighen said if it were true that Canada's abandonment of her claims would promote world peace, the same would apply to France and to Belgium. The time had not come when a man who came into the house to slaughter the children could safely be forgiven and told to go and sin no more. To forgive Germany, he

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He would not say that Canada was going to collect all the reparations to which she was entitled under the treaty, but he believed that Germany should be made to pay every cent that the German people could stand.

He agreed that there should be a conference of the different portions of the empire before a change was made in regard to reparations, but he was prepared to go further and say that there should be a steady effort to preserve a common policy on all common concerns for the British Empire.

A. R. McMaster, Liberal, Brant, expressed the belief that the remarks made by the prime minister would find a response throughout the house, and that the resolution would be withdrawn.

W. C. Good, Progressive, Brant, wished to associate himself with the suggestion that the resolution be withdrawn. He also protested against the spirit of hostility, against the sneers and jeers that had been levelled in the house during the debate.

Speaker Lemoine said that on an ordinary matter the speaker and house might acquiesce in permitting the debate to continue. The circumstances of this case were serious, however. The result would affect Canada internationally. Therefore, he felt that he was only doing his duty in following precedents. He declared that the point made by Mr. McMaster was well taken and that the resolution was out of order.

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The non-jury cases are: Laidlaw Belton Lumber Company, Sarnia, vs. J. B. Sutherland, Sarnia, action to recover \$1,203.58 for goods sold; A. A. McDonald, Sarnia, vs. M. S. Parsons, Sarnia, to recover \$2,612 on a promissory note.

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