

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am inclined to think that what has made the whole organization effective is the fundamental idea underlying it, just as is the case with respect to the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. There remains, through strikes and lockouts, in industrial disputes the possible use of force and coercion but the superiority of the principle of conciliation and investigation has clearly demonstrated itself. As a saying of Cicero has it: Oh, great is the power of truth which of itself so easily defends itself. I believe it is the recognition of this principle which has led to the success of the International Joint Commission: the process of investigation has been instrumental in bringing to light the essential facts and information in every case, and the justice of every finding has thereby demonstrated itself.

A great deal more should be made of the work of the International Joint Commission. As the hon. member for Southeast Grey observed this afternoon, greater note should be taken of the significance of the Rush-Bagot agreement. I agree entirely that the men who were wise enough to limit armaments on the great lakes and to prevent competitive arming on the part of this country and the United States have saved this continent vast sums of money and possibly obviated a war as a consequence of such competition. I believe that as time goes on, as the example of this continent becomes better known in other parts of the world, forts will be dismantled elsewhere and their places taken by tribunals of arbitration such as we have found so effective here.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The Prime Minister realizes, of course, that in our case it was not a matter of dismantling forts and abandoning ships. In order to be perfectly fair, should he not take that fact into account? My question if I may repeat it, was this: Would these two countries have been so successful in arbitration if we had had armaments to fall back upon in the event of arbitration failing?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not wish to evade the question, the importance of which I fully realize. But it is an extremely difficult question to answer. As to what might have occurred had armaments been maintained, no one can say. What I said a moment ago was that, had there been international competition on this continent in arms and armaments, we might have had a war. On the other hand, I am not prepared to say that notwithstanding the armaments, if the idea of international arbitration had presented itself, its superiority to armaments as a means of settling international difficulties would not

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

have presented itself. At all events, we on this continent have an object lesson as to the importance of that method of dealing with international difference.

Here again I might say how heartily I agree with the hon. member for Southeast Grey in stressing the importance of attention being drawn to all these matters through every possible agency. Her remarks might well be addressed to every educational department of every province in the Dominion. The hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Bird) asked if a department of the kind she had suggested could not co-operate with the provincial governments to have presented in the text books a different view from that which exists to-day. I doubt very much whether the provincial governments would be prepared, in matters pertaining particularly to their educational departments, to listen to suggestions from the federal government. They desire to keep these matters within their own province, but I would say that every influence that can be exerted and every force that can be brought to bear upon these departments of education should be exerted to see that ideals of peace and international goodwill such as we cherish are set forth as much as possible in the text books used in our schools.

I have pointed out that the resolution of my hon. friend suggests something altogether too limited to gain the great objective she has in view. As I have already said, I think every department of the government should have as a supreme aim in all its activities the furtherance of peace and international goodwill. May I now say to her that assuming the administration were to establish a new department to-morrow with the object she has in mind, there would remain back of that department what is back of the work of every other department of government, namely the purpose of the administration itself. It is not by the name or the organization of a department that anything can be effected with respect to international goodwill or the furtherance of peace; the vital point is the spirit and attitude on the part of the government in administering the affairs of the country generally. As I proceed I intend to say a few words which I hope will be sufficient to illustrate what I mean, but just now I want to make, if I can, that one idea clear, namely that back of all the affairs of administration lies the general point of view of those who are handling the affairs of the country. If that point of view is a militarist or jingoist point of view, you may have all the departments in creation and call them by whatever names you wish without so far as the promotion of peace is

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