

violated. I think it is a clear question of fact of which this House can take cognizance, that violations of the most flagrant character have been perpetrated by Poland against citizens of that country whom it undertook to protect, and I submit to the plenipotentiaries who signed this Treaty on our behalf that it would be quite consistent with the dignity of this Parliament, and I think effective, for us to say, in view of the fact that the people whom we trusted to the extent of creating them into a nation have not fulfilled the obligations they took upon themselves but have fallen short in the very shocking manner of which we have learned: "True, our plenipotentiaries were pleased to be a party to the creation of this new republic and to the granting of freedom, long withheld, to the people of Poland, whether they be Jews or Gentiles. We recognize no such distinctions here at home, and we do not wish to recognize them abroad, and until we are satisfied that Poland is not merely shamming but is living up to the obligations she undertook, we refuse to give any further recognition to this document."

Hon. C. J. DOHERTY (Minister of Justice): I would point out that this document does not give Poland anything at all; this is the document that imposes obligations on Poland. The hon. gentleman's suggestion is that until Poland does fulfil those obligations we should, as a punishment of Poland, refuse to ratify the Treaty that imposes the obligations. So far as the establishment of Poland as an independent nation is concerned, that was done in the terms of the general Peace Treaty. This contract is merely to impose obligations on Poland. I think the hon. member for George Etienne Cartier (Mr. Jacobs) would hardly agree with the suggestion of his leader that Canada should now vote that those obligations shall not be imposed upon Poland—because that would be the only effect of refusing to ratify this Treaty. This Treaty is absolutely unilateral so far as obligations are concerned. This is a measure to hold down Poland, to make it quite clear that she is obliged to do these things, and to provide a method by which, if necessary, she may be compelled to do these things through the instrumentality of the League of Nations. Therefore, the more we are anxious that Poland should comply with these obligations the more ready we should be to ratify this Treaty, and the greater the evidence may be that she is not presently complying with those obligations the greater

[Mr. McKenzie.]

should be our haste to get the Treaty into such a shape that there may be an effective means of compelling her compliance.

As to the position in which we find ourselves as to the evidence of the facts, while, of course, there is much material available to the public, still I think it can hardly be suggested that this Government is in possession of such information as would justify it proposing to this House at the present moment that we should proceed to take active measures by physical force against Poland. As the hon. member for George Etienne Cartier (Mr. Jacobs) pointed out, the Governments of Great Britain and France have instituted inquiry into these facts. They are very grave. What we have before us seems to indicate that the affirmations made upon the subject are probably true. But it is the part of wisdom, I think, for us to await these official inquiries before we begin to consider what steps, if any, we can and ought to take with regard to the matter. So far as this Treaty is concerned, everything that has been said with regard to the evils referred to as existing in Poland is the strongest possible argument in support of our ratifying this Treaty so that it may come into effective operation at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE: I do not quite appreciate the legal argument of the Minister of Justice that we should hasten to confirm this Treaty. What is the everyday experience in matters of this kind? If we start dealings with a man whom we recognize as a gentleman of his word, and upon whose ability to carry out his contracts we rely, we are willing to go to the end of the road with him and finish the contract, but if in the middle of the negotiations we should find we are dealing with a fakir—

Mr. JACOBS: A murderer.

Mr. McKENZIE:—a murderer, a thief, a scoundrel, who is absolutely incapable of fulfilling the obligations he has undertaken, and who does not wish to fulfil those obligations, we stop dealings with him. We say that we thought we were dealing with an honest and reliable individual, but have discovered that he is not an individual of that sort.

We are told by the Minister of Justice that this Treaty with Poland is a mere supplement to the Treaty with which we dealt yesterday. If that is the case, if since the signing of the Peace Treaty we have discovered facts that should put us on our guard with respect to the status of