

that is applying sanctions at this time? Does he suggest that Canada alone should apply sanctions, even though it might lead to war?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: An hon. member beside me suggests that according to the newspapers New Zealand, quite a small nation, has taken this action on her own.

I suggest that Canada has a big responsibility in this regard, as much of the war material which is being shipped to Japan comes from Canada. I do not think I can accept a code of morals that affirms that we shall not do anything until somebody else does it. I submit that we are guilty—I use the word advisedly—of assisting an aggressor nation to kill men, women and children in China. I do not see how Canada can escape the moral responsibility for that kind of thing.

The Department of National Defence is presenting estimates with which to build fortifications on the Pacific coast.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): And the hon. member is opposed to that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am not discussing that question just at the moment. What are these fortifications to be placed there for? In order to defend us from possible attack by Japan. If airplanes or warships come to the coast of British Columbia and attack this country with bombs and shells we know that those bombs and shells will have been made from materials supplied by this country. I urge that that is a crazy situation. Even though we have no sense of responsibility for the women and children of China, for our own sakes we should prevent one more ounce of war material going to Japan—and this whether or not any other nation takes similar action. I think I have the right to urge that the government give us some assurance that such action will be taken. The government should not refuse to take any action and then at the beginning of the session ask us to pass a bill, in itself good enough, which gives them power to deal with important questions of foreign policy.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, may I say to my hon. friend that the government is just as concerned as he is about the well-being and welfare of the women and children in the orient, in Spain or in any other part of the world. But what this government is particularly concerned about is the well-being and welfare of the Canadian people. If my hon. friend wishes to know in a word what the policy of this country is with respect to matters affecting war, let me tell him that it is to seek in every possible way to avoid taking any step which may be respon-

sible for this country either directly or indirectly being drawn into war or bringing itself or other countries into a world conflict. What it does or refrains from doing to-day with respect to world affairs is with a view to discharging its obligations in the light of the existing world situation and in the light of what other nations are doing or refraining from doing. To the best of its judgment the government is following a course which will serve to keep Canada strictly neutral and enable her, when opportunity presents itself, to cooperate with other nations in helping to bring to a conclusion, more speedily than might otherwise be possible, any existing international conflict.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Even if the Prime Minister takes the view that we should exercise no discrimination; that we should regard China and Japan as being on an equality, will he tell me why the government should not take the same action in the case of the Sino-Japanese affair as they took in the case of Spain?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I can answer my hon. friend by saying that much the same reasons that have actuated the United States, that have actuated Great Britain, that have actuated France and that have actuated other countries of the world in their attitude to the Sino-Japanese conflict have actuated Canada in its attitude. We are aware of the tremendous possibilities of danger involved in taking certain courses of action, and we are taking every possible care to avoid them.

Mr. FINN: The hon. leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation party spoke of ships, but there are ships other than those owned by the Canadian government going to the West Indies. There belong to the Canadian Pacific Railway two ships of Canadian registry and under private ownership. I well remember my hon. friend stating in the house that he saw no sound reason why Japanese, Chinese and Canadians should not go to school together and get married, or why they should not be allowed to grow up together in this country. I ask him now, if his policy had been carried out, what would be the influence of the Japanese upon a Canadian girl who married a Japanese living on the Pacific coast?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not know what that has to do with the matter. I have never advocated mixed marriages.

Mr. FINN: The hon. member's statement can be found in Hansard, that he saw no sound reason why Japanese, Chinese and Canadians should not all go to the same schools in the province of British Columbia.