

Account published in Edmonton "Journal" and "Bulletin",  
November 13.

-----

Referring to a Canadian press dispatch which attributes to General Sir Arthur Currie a criticism of the League as "powerless" and "weak" and "spineless" in its treatment of the Sino-Japanese affair and of the League's invitation to the United States to consult with it in the matter, Professor Eastman said, "I hold General Currie in the highest affection and esteem. I had the honour of serving under him in the ranks of the Canadian infantry. It is therefore in the friendliest tones that I draw your attention today to the other side of the situation which he is said to have criticised. I like General Currie's implied idea that the League ought to be strong, but unfortunately no Canadian can logically blame the League for being powerless or weak. From its very inception in 1919 Canadian influence and argument have always been in favour of refusing the League authority and power and according it merely such functions as investigation, conciliation and arbitration without real powers of enforcement. We have steadily sought to diminish the rights of the Council over States-Members and to subordinate all important action on our part to previous parliamentary palavers. Our best excuse would have been the impossibility of our ever constraining our mighty neighbours to the south; but our spokesmen have appeared almost always to deprecate the very principle of a strong League. We and the other safe nations have kept the Council weak; and apparently an army clique in Japan has gambled on that weakness.

Again, the newspapers make General Currie object to the League's invitation to the United States. I would observe, firstly, that those who want the League strong, must want the United States in; and secondly, that the United States