

national life which tend to place the nations more upon an equal footing and to remove those differences which, in such large measure, are responsible for international friction and international unrest. We have gone wholeheartedly into the work of the International Labour Office as well as into all branches of the work of the league, and this, I submit, is a sign of the development which has taken place in recent years and which should be emphasized when we are discussing the position Canada is taking on these questions.

Let me now refer to some of the conferences that have been held: the International Economic Conference, the Naval Disarmament Conference, the Imperial Educational Conference, the Conference on Communications and Transit, the International Horticultural Congress, the International Conference on Weights and Measures, the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference, the International Radio-Telegraph Conference and the Congress of the International Statistical Institute. I confess that each time the government is asked to send some member or members of the public service or some other representatives to one or other of these conferences the question arises, are we justified in asking parliament to vote the amount required to meet the expense? And how do we justify our action in coming to parliament for the purpose? We justify it on the very ground on which my hon. friend this afternoon supported her resolution, namely, that it is important that this country, in common with other countries, should make its contribution, with respect to matters wherein it may be able to lend aid or provide information which is likely to be helpful. We have therefore, as opportunity has arisen, consciously and deliberately sought to further this means of creating an international spirit within our own country and of making our contributions to international problems as they have presented themselves.

I might mention another direction in which we have endeavoured to promote peace and international understanding. We have undertaken to establish legations in different countries. Last year, as hon. members know, we opened a legation at Washington. We were opposed to a considerable degree in our endeavour to do this; we were told that we were making a mistake; it seemed to be the impression in some quarters that we were pursuing an unwise course. That fortunately was not the view of the House of Commons as a whole. The legation has been opened and has now been in existence for over a year. The house will agree, I think,

that the decision to have a personal representative of this government and country at Washington, with a personal representative of the United States in Ottawa, has gone a long way towards furthering international good will between the two countries. In being about to take a similar step with regard to one of the countries of Europe and another country in the orient, we are but proceeding in an identical direction. We are endeavouring by personal contact to make more intelligible to the citizens of other countries on other continents the point of view of the Dominion of Canada respecting matters of concern to ourselves and to them. In this particular, I submit, the government is furthering the main objective of the resolution now under consideration.

I might go further. I might point to another instance—indeed, it was mentioned by my hon. friend this afternoon—in which this Dominion, in conjunction with the neighbouring republic, has set an example of the means by which peace and international understanding can best be promoted. We have between Canada and the United States an International Joint Commission to which, over a period of twenty years or more, have been referred as many questions any one of which was liable to create discord between the two countries. If we omit the first two questions which were referred to that commission and on which there was not a unanimous finding, it may be said, I think truly, that on every question referred for its consideration—and these questions have all presented considerable difficulties—there has been a unanimous agreement on the part of the commissioners, an agreement which has served to prevent anything in the nature of friction developing between this portion of the British Empire and the United States. The work of the International Joint Commission represents, on the part of this continent, a contribution to the civilization of the world of greater significance than the peoples of the world have yet begun to imagine. We, on this continent, have shown conclusively that the processes of investigation, of conciliation and of arbitration can be effective not only as a means of promoting peace, but also as a means of curtailing materially the expenses incidental to any preparation for possible war.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does the Prime Minister really think that the commission would have been as effective if there had been forts along the border or warships on the lakes?

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