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### KING SPEAKS FOR CANADA

Premier King took the opportunity, for which his countrymen pretty generally will thank him, to talk democracy and plain sense to the Assembly of the League of Nations. The parliament of Canada, he told the delegates, will make the decision as to whether Canada is to participate in any war.

It is symptomatic of the wreckage that has been made of self-government in Europe that even some London papers are scandalized at this proclamation of Canada's "isolation." Apparently they thought or hoped our Premier crossed the ocean to second any motion Mr. Anthony Eden might make in the direction of arbitrary regulation of the world in general and Europe in particular, by force if and as required. The information that Mr. King does not carry the prerogatives of peace and war in his pocket should not be strange to British ears, but seemingly it is. Nor should it be unknown in that quarter that every Canadian Government has consistently refused to pledge the country to an automatic and unconsidered plunge into a maelstrom of blood every time Europe chooses to indulge in a carnival of slaughter.

For the rest, Mr. King told the delegates "Automatic commitments to the application of force are not practical policy." If they have any doubts on the point all they have to do is recall the exhibition of pussy-footing and side-stepping that member-nations of the League put on when they were invited to back Great Britain and France in checking the outlawry in Abyssinia. Would they have acted differently if they had been pledged to put armies in the field against Italy at the bidding of the League? Not a bit of it. What clause of the Covenant or pact of security have the continental League members ever kept when there was danger involved or sacrifice to be made?

Canada at least has kept itself free from signing agreements it had no intention to keep. When continental countries start to make good the treaties and pacts they have signed, it may be possible to believe they would live up to an undertaking to bring their combined force to bear against a violator of the peace. Until they show that evidence of sincerity, an agreement for the automatic application of force would not be worth the paper on which it was written.