

show that the British Government have said they would not ratify this Treaty without the consent of this Parliament. He has made a statement to that effect, and I hope he will bring down the papers showing the foundation for it.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I did not say there were papers. The subject was discussed. There may be papers or there may not. I am stating to the hon. gentleman an absolute fact as to which I hope he will not doubt my word. I tell him that it is recognized by the ministers of the Crown of Great Britain that this Treaty must be submitted to the Canadian Parliament for its approval, and that we desire, we insist, upon the judgment of the Canadian Parliament in regard to it before we advise the King on behalf of Canada that the Treaty should be ratified.

Hon. Mr. FIELDING: Of course, I accept without any hesitation any statement my right hon. friend may make. While there may be no question as to the right and desirability of our approving of the Treaty, my question was, what would be the consequences to us, to the Empire, or to the world, if we did not approve, and my right hon. friend has shown us no more serious consequences than that we might have a change of Government.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I beg my hon. friend's pardon. He has forgotten what I said a moment ago. Failure to ratify the Treaty would involve very serious consequences indeed.

Hon. Mr. FIELDING: What are they?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The consequence would be that Canada would stand out of a Treaty of Peace accepted by the Empire.

Hon. Mr. FIELDING: Would we be at war?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I have already said what in our opinion our status would be in that case. If my hon. friend means that, notwithstanding the arrangements which have been made, the conventions which have become recognized, the status which has been accorded to the Dominions during recent years, we are still subject to have this Treaty ratified by His Majesty on behalf of Canada whether the Parliament of Canada is willing to ratify it or not, then I tell him he is dealing in ancient history and that his ideas should advance with the progress of recent years.

Hon. Mr. FIELDING: I was not making any statement, advancing any argu-

ment, or contending anything. I was asking for information, and I have got it.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend may have only asked a question, but the implication which he made was very plain to every hon. member, and will be readily understood by the people of this country. His suggestion was that ratification by the Parliament of Canada is merely a farce, that the Government of the United Kingdom possesses such constitutional right in respect of this Dominion that they can impose their will upon us without regard to this Parliament. I repeat that if such is the opinion of the hon. member he is thinking in terms of a hundred years ago and not of to-day.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I have no desire to enter into any little difference that may have arisen, but is it not a fact that by refusing to ratify the treaty, it would not be a case of Great Britain imposing her will upon us, but we would not be imposing our will upon Great Britain? Is it not essential that we should ratify the treaty in order to strengthen the hand of Great Britain?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes, if we are to stand for co-operation and in union with the rest of the Empire.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I do not wish to be understood as speaking to this resolution. I think it was understood that when the Prime Minister had made his statement an arrangement would be made as to when the discussion should be resumed. Copies of the treaty have been, or are about to be, distributed, and it has been suggested to me that we should have an opportunity of studying both the treaty and the right hon. gentleman's speech. The treaty is a voluminous document and it will take considerable time to digest it. I think it would be time well spent and would expedite the business of the House if the right hon. gentleman would allow us a fair amount of time to consider the terms of the treaty and his own address.

Mr. BUREAU: Adjourn for a week.

Mr. McKENZIE: If the House should continue sitting it would be difficult for members to give their attention to the consideration of the Treaty, and I suggest to the Prime Minister that there should be an adjournment of the House for a sufficient time to enable us to consider the Treaty and also his own observations upon it.