

I think the statement makes it quite clear that there is no invitation to Germans who have become naturalized British subjects to enlist in German military forces.

Yours sincerely,

L. Kempff.

I would draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that the consul general of Germany has made no reference to the recruiting of naturalized British subjects in Canada of German origin, and that he has issued no invitation to such persons to enlist voluntarily or otherwise in the German army.

A further aspect of the German consul general's statement was referred to by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre yesterday. My hon. friend said that in the statement of the German consul general already quoted there were to be found the following words:

... that failure to report is punishable.

Further, when interviewed by the press and asked whether men would be compelled to go, he is reported to have said:

Well, I think they will go anyway. Yes, I guess they will be compelled to go.

This morning at half past eleven the German consul general telephoned from Montreal to the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs and gave a statement with regard to this matter which I shall now read to the house:

It is quite clear that a consular officer cannot inflict any punishment.

I am quoting the words which Mr. Kempff used over the telephone from Montreal and which were taken down in my office this morning.

The said sentence has been inserted into the statement to make it complete, and to advise the German nationals in Canada of the consequences of failure to comply with the German law. They had to know that failure is punishable, otherwise those who have not complied with the German law and who are therefore prosecuted in a court in Germany could reproach me with not having properly informed them. The said sentence was inserted merely in the interest of the German nationals in Canada, and for their protection.

That is the end of the message that came in by telephone. I would simply add that from this statement it appears the consul general intended to refer to the provision usually included in European military service laws for penalties on nationals at home, or, if living abroad, on returning to their home country, for failure to report when called. It is unfortunate that the state-

ment was ambiguous in being open to the interpretation that penalties might be imposed in Canada by any foreign government. This of course could not be done.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask a supplementary question? I think I asked this on the first day on which I referred to this matter. Is a proclamation of this kind, given by a German consul in Canada, consonant with promoting good relations among the various people resident in Canada? I think that is a matter that will have to be considered by this government, and it is a question to which the Prime Minister has not replied. Further, I am not particularly interested in what European military instructions may customarily contain, but I am asking whether or not it is proper to have people who are resident in Canada threatened with punishment, whether it be here or in Germany. Then, I would go farther than that and ask whether or not a nation which has already broken a treaty and is in the midst of warlike preparations which might possibly involve that nation in conflict with the British empire is to be allowed to draw people now resident in Canada to the scene of action. These are questions with respect to which we have a right to receive an expression of opinion from the Prime Minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall be pleased to give the hon. member such further information as I have. I thought possibly the hon. member would make observations similar to those he has just made.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am glad the Prime Minister is beginning to anticipate my point of view.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I might say that the calling to the colours of nationals of a foreign state by its consular agents, and the actions of such consular agents in facilitating the transportation of such nationals, are in accordance with ordinary international usage. In the ordinary course, consuls notify nationals and facilitate their transportation to the home country for the purpose of performing military service. I might add that the whole question of the practices of foreign governments in recruiting, enlisting or calling to the colours their nationals is receiving consideration by the government.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): I have one question which I fancy the Prime Minister may not answer to-day. Listening to the corre-