

German Reparations

suffer so that the little boys and girls in Germany might be relieved of the pressure of debt which they would have to pay in the future. According to all the despatches that we read at the present time, while the conditions in Germany are very bad just at the moment because of the Ruhr invasion, yet up to recently they had been very good probably better than the conditions in any country in Europe at least, and perhaps even better than conditions in Canada. According to persons whom I have met, who have visited Germany within the last year or year and a half, there was practically no unemployment in Germany, and yet we have a large unemployment problem in this country. And certainly, so far as Great Britain and France are concerned, and particularly Great Britain, the unemployment situation is critical. Indeed, so severe is it in Great Britain that the British parliament, according to a despatch in the press to-night, was this very day debating the question whether they might solve the unemployment problem by getting the unemployed to emigrate. Now, when a condition is so critical in a country that the unemployed are asked to emigrate as the only solution of the difficulty, it is obvious that conditions generally must be very bad indeed. I have certainly never read any suggestion coming from Germany or any of its people that there are in that country such conditions of unemployment as would necessitate anyone emigrating from Germany.

I do not intend to waste the time of the House going into all arguments put forth, because many of them have been dealt with very ably by my hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. Stevens). But with reference to Mr. Keynes, I have never read any statement of his suggesting that there should be an entire abandonment of all reparation claims. He did suggest that the reparation claims originally imposed against Germany by the Allies at the Versailles conference were too severe and he said that they should be cut down. But so far as I can learn Mr. Keynes suggested something like thirty billion dollars as possibly an amount which Germany could pay. He may have proposed a lower sum, but there has not been anywhere in his writings any suggestion that the reparation claims should be wholly wiped out. It is true that some of the men quoted by the hon. member who introduced the resolution have probably taken that attitude.

In considering the stand which some men even in the British Isles have taken in contradistinction to the position held by the people of France, we must bear in mind that the conditions are altogether different in the

[Mr. Manion.]

two countries. In England we find a country that was dependent to a great extent on its trade in the days before the war, and much of that trade was with Germany. So that, looking at the matter absolutely from the materialistic standpoint, the British people would probably be glad, as most of us no doubt would be glad in the interests of the world at large, but the English people particularly would be glad, to see Germany rehabilitated in order that there might be a resumption of British trade with Germany and British industries be once again put on their feet. France, on the other hand, was not so great a trading nation as Great Britain. She is looking at the danger that threatens her northern and eastern border from a country which invaded her and Belgium in cold blood. France is looking to the future, and I certainly do not blame her for so doing.

I shall vote against this resolution and I shall certainly be disappointed if it receives any great support in this House. If you support it you are practically exonerating Germany from all blame for bringing on the war. And while I cannot work myself up into a passion of hatred against Germany, I for one shall not vote to exonerate her from responsibility for the war through which we passed. But not only would a vote for this resolution be exonerating Germany, it would appear to me to be a condemnation of the actions of this country, of France, of England, and of the United States, which quietly for a period of three years discussed the question before going into the war. It would be a condemnation of all our Allies; it would be a condemnation of our boys who went overseas and of those who died there. I do not think, therefore, that we should vote for any such resolution as this, and it would be a great disappointment to the people of this country if this House at the present time, in the present condition of our finances, in the present situation in Europe, should pass a resolution of this character. For these reasons I shall emphatically oppose the resolution.

On motion of Mr. Warner, the debate was adjourned.

**UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PAPERS
CIVIL SERVICE—APPOINTMENTS AND
PROMOTIONS**

Mr MANION:

For a copy of all orders in council passed since January 1st, 1921, removing appointments or affecting the removal of appointments or promotions from the Civil Service Commission.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 11.10 p.m.