

ment to do their utmost to obtain an indemnity for Canada. This Government must have done something in that direction—it would have been criminal negligence on their part if they had not taken some steps in the matter. But until now the people of Canada are not informed as to what has been done. We were not told in the speech from the Throne that some announcement as to what steps were being taken to secure an indemnity would be made by the Government. Nothing has yet been heard of the matter, although it is probably the most important question with which this Parliament has to deal during this session.

The people of Canada are anxious, indeed, I may say nervous, in regard to this question, because we read some time ago a declaration by the Prime Minister that this country would not insist upon obtaining an indemnity, that what Canada had done in this war was done gratuitously. Indeed, we read in an important paper, the *Globe*, if I mistake not, a declaration that when Belgium and France received indemnities, this country would probably receive nothing. I am sorry that such statements should be made by the Prime Minister, and I am sure, if he is correctly reported as stating that Canada would not insist on receiving an indemnity, he does not voice the opinion of the people of this country.

Some days ago, the federal authorities in Australia took action to support their Prime Minister, Right Hon. Mr. Hughes, in France, in his endeavours to obtain an indemnity for that country. This question is not new; it has been in the minds of the people since the beginning of this war; and the Prime Minister himself announced at the outbreak of the war, that we were forced to go into it, but that Germany would pay the cost of it. Those are not his exact words, but that is substantially what he said.

The object of this resolution is to let it be known to our representatives, and especially to the representatives of other countries in France, that the people of Canada desire and, indeed, unreservedly demand, that an indemnity be paid to this country. I trust that our interests in this matter will not be sacrificed, that they will not be exchanged for titles or marks of distinction, that they will not be exchanged for a mess of pottage. I trust the Government will take this question in hand at once, because the future of Canada depends to a large extent on the securing of an indemnity. That is perhaps the only way to re-establish in this country the necessary stability in financial and other matters. This is not a

question of politics, it is a matter concerning the benefit of the country at large. I hope, therefore, the Acting Prime Minister will give an assurance to this country that the necessary steps have been taken, and that we shall receive from Germany, through the proper channel, or, if necessary, from England, the indemnity to which Canada is entitled.

Sir THOMAS WHITE (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with much of what my hon. friend has said upon the matter of this resolution which deals with a most important subject, I can say that I am in agreement. My hon. friend has truly stated that the cause of the war was German ambition and lust of dominion. If there is anything clear to the world, it is that. It is not open to doubt in the mind of any one to-day that it was within the German intention to conquer the world—I do not say to conquer the world at once and in the war which she had in contemplation in 1914. Her immediate purpose was evidently to strike down France and to crush Russia. Having over-run Belgium and with Holland at her mercy, having defeated France and Russia, Germany would have been supreme in Europe, would have extended her frontiers to the Straits of Dover and the English Channel, would have seized the French seaports, naval stations, and navy, would have exacted an immense indemnity from both Russia and France, and then would have bided her time—one, two, three, four, five or more years—preparatory to her next spring, which would have been against Great Britain and the world. It is not open to doubt that the rulers of Germany and their military advisers had in mind the unparalleled conception of conquering the world. When the war broke out I confess I had hesitation in believing that the German people were behind their rulers in their schemes of world aggrandizement, but as time went on it became clear to me, as I think it became clear to all, that the German people really were behind their rulers and military authorities, were possessed with the lust of dominion, and hoped by the strategy I have outlined ultimately to impose their will upon the entire world. As the war went on, it became apparent to all that it was not a European problem, but a world problem, and that I think accounts for the fact that almost from the beginning neutral opinion ranged itself on the side of the Allies. The neutral nations felt that their interest lay there; they were moved by fear of German ambition, and more than that, I am happy to say, they were moved