

Supply—Lausanne Treaty

Close consideration was given the question of British policy in Egypt and the future status of that country, and general agreement was reached regarding the principles by which His Majesty's government should be guided in the negotiations with the Egyptian delegation.

Now, the British ambassador in Turkey urged the unconditional abandonment of the protectorate. That was the position taken by Turkey, and she refused obstinately to recede from it. It transpired that the decision of the Imperial conference was disregarded, and the policy advocated by Turkey was adopted by Great Britain, the protectorate being unequivocally taken away without any bargaining. This amounted to a complete change of policy in a short space of time between that which our Imperial conference had settled so well and what it was actually necessary to do to meet a given situation.

Now, what did consultation do for us in connection with the events which brought about the war with Turkey, of which the treaty under discussion is supposed to be the end? I want to recall these events to the minds of hon. members, because they have an important bearing on the subject we are now discussing. What were the events which led up to the war between Turkey and the Allies? And was Canada consulted in respect to these events? If so, what were the consultations; where may they be found; what was Canada's advice; what was Canada's viewpoint? If Canada was not consulted, if Canada had no viewpoint, or had no means of expressing it, then let us do away with the policy of consultation which places us in such a hopeless position as that. May I put this question to the right hon. leader of the opposition—although he is not in his seat: What did he do at the conference of 1921, or what did he do as Prime Minister of Canada or as a member of the party that was in power when these events were taking place, what did he do with all the consultation that he is supposed to have had, what advice did he give, what was the Canadian viewpoint which he sought to impress on the Imperial authorities? What were the events? I am going to deal with only three of them; there are no doubt many others. I shall be as brief as I possibly can.

Mr. McMASTER: Go on.

Mr. IRVINE: It will be recalled that Sir Louis Mallet was the British ambassador to Turkey at that time.

Mr. McMASTER: What time is that?

Mr. IRVINE: This is 1914. I will give more definite dates later. Sir Louis Mallet was having a very difficult struggle to main-
[Mr. Irvine.]

tain diplomatic arrangements in favour of Great Britain against a very astute diplomat from Germany, acknowledged to be one of the leading diplomats of the day. I want to point out some of the events which practically wrecked all the efforts of Sir Louis Mallet to keep Turkey out of the war or to bring her in on the side of the Allies. While he was engaged in this diplomatic struggle what do you suppose took place? Well, it appears that Turkey had engaged firms on the Clyde to build two dreadnoughts, and shortly before the war one of these was about ready to be launched and the other one was not so far advanced towards completion. On August 3, 1914, Sir Louis Mallet received a message from Sir Edward Grey indicating the intention of the British government to appropriate these two ships. The British ambassador sent back a reply the same day indicating that Turkey would look upon such action as unfriendly, and impressing upon Sir Edward Grey and the British government that in the building of these warships a very heavy financial responsibility had been undertaken by the Turkish people in consequence of which they were all extremely interested in the battleships and were looking forward to their delivery. In this way he sought to change the viewpoint of the British government. On August 9 the ambassador telegraphed again asking if Turkey could have the assurance that the ships would be returned after the war, because he thought that if such an assurance were given it would possibly have a soothing effect on the rising wrath of Turkey. But there was no reply to this message. Then again on August 18 another telegram, amounting to what I might term a protest, came from Sir Louis Mallet to Sir Edward Grey reiterating that it was a very unpopular thing to hold these ships to the cost of which the people of Turkey had contributed out of their own pockets, and that the German ambassador was very active in using what he described in Turkey as "the British government's high-handed action" to further Germany's diplomatic proposals to Turkey. Then on August 20 another message was sent to a similar effect, and not until August 25 did Sir Edward Grey reply, when he informed Sir Louis Mallet that the British government would return these ships after the war, provided that Turkey observed strict neutrality.

Now, what did the right hon. leader of the opposition do in 1914 in regard to this matter? Was he consulted? What did he do in regard to the message which was sent on August 3; what did he do in regard to the message which was sent on August 9; what