

France, Italy and Japan, and Poland, which was signed at Versailles on the twenty-eighth day of June, nineteen hundred and nineteen, a copy of which has been laid before Parliament, and which was signed on behalf of His Majesty, acting for Canada, by the plenipotentiaries therein named, and that this House do approve of the same.

Mr. McKENZIE: What obligations, if any, do we assume under this Treaty, or what obligations have we already assumed through the action of our plenipotentiaries in attaching their signatures to it?

Mr. DOHERTY: No obligations are assumed by Canada under this Treaty. The purpose of the Treaty is to impose obligations upon Poland. As a result of the Treaty entered into by the Allied and Associated Powers, Poland has been reconstituted and revived as a living nation. It was thought proper that in consideration of that fact Poland should be called upon—and she readily acquiesced in it—to undertake certain obligations; in substance, to respect the rights of minorities. It is a unilateral Treaty, one might say, so far as obligations are concerned.

Mr. JACOBS: One of the articles of this Treaty provides as follows:

Jews shall not be compelled to perform any act which constitutes a violation of their Sabbath, nor shall they be placed under any disability by reason of their refusal to attend courts of law or to perform any legal business on their Sabbath.

Further it goes on:

Poland declares her intention to refrain from ordering or permitting elections, whether general or local, to be held on a Saturday, nor will registration for electoral or other purposes be compelled to be performed on a Saturday.

And throughout this article equality is declared to exist amongst all Polish nationals. I suppose it is within the knowledge of the Government, and especially of the Minister of Justice, that since the armistice has been signed, outrages of an unparalleled character have been perpetrated upon Jewish citizens in Poland. The latest figures, which have been carefully compiled by a commission which visited that country from the United States are that about 100,000 people were massacred in cold blood by this "free and independent" nation which has, within the last few months, received its charter from the Allied powers. It is declared in one of the sections of the Treaty that:

Poland agrees that the stipulations in the foregoing articles, so far as they affect persons belonging to racial, religious or linguistic minorities, constitute obligations of international concern and shall be placed under the guarantee of the League of Nations.

[Mr. Doherty.]

Mr. ROWELL: What section is that?

Mr. JACOBS: Article 12. In the second paragraph of this Article it is further stated that:

Poland agrees that any member of the Council of the League of Nations shall have the right to bring to the attention of the Council any infraction, or any danger of infraction, of any of these obligations, and that the Council may thereupon take such action and give such direction as it may deem proper and effective in the circumstances.

The minister is probably aware that representations have already been made to the Polish Government and that a reply has been received from M. Paderewski, the head of that Government. This has been considered so unsatisfactory that, speaking in the House of Commons a few days ago, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, declared that the British Government intended to have a special commission appointed to investigate into the serious charges made against this new Government. I should like to know if our Government or the Minister of Justice has anything to convey to the House regarding these matters.

Mr. DOHERTY: We are not in receipt of any official information bearing upon the matters to which the hon. member has referred. The Government are not in receipt of any other information than that at the disposal of the hon. gentleman and of the public generally. It may be observed that it is under the League of Nations that Poland is put; it is towards the League of Nations that the responsibility on the part of Poland for the fulfilment of these obligations is imposed, and the sooner we get through with these different treaties and the sooner the League of Nations gets into operation, the sooner shall we have an effective method of enforcing compliance with these obligations.

Mr. JACOBS: In the meantime, until the League of Nations is constituted, does the minister propose that the whole of the Jewish race in this "independent" country of Poland shall be annihilated?

Mr. DOHERTY: I do not quite understand the suggestion.

Mr. JACOBS: Sometimes one cannot wait.

Mr. DOHERTY: I am not opposing any such action, but I am pointing out that that is the thing that was stipulated for, namely, that the control should be in the hands of the League of Nations. The hon. gentle-