

that reason hon. members will wish to have the fullest opportunity of examining the Prime Minister and asking him questions at the proper stage.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What my hon. friend has just said seems wholly reasonable. I have no desire to hasten the house into a discussion of this resolution. It is an important one, but one which I believe is of a non-contentious character. I shall be greatly surprised if the entire house does not give to the resolution its hearty support. That however may be an additional reason for having members made fully conversant with the provisions of the resolution, and all that is implied therein. I shall undertake therefore to proceed to-morrow with my statement on the resolution. Then, at the termination of that discussion, another order of business might be taken up—although I should add this, that I think there are several members who would be ready to speak. This is a subject practically all hon. members have been considering for many weeks. However, if there is any objection to allowing others who are prepared to speak to proceed to-morrow, following my address, I should be prepared to have the debate adjourned until another day. As my hon. friend has said, there is a good deal of meat in what will be presented to the house. For the most part however I believe it will be found that the material is familiar to hon. members.

My hon. friend asked me about questions. In speaking on the motion I should like to speak without interruption, and to be allowed to complete what I have to say. Then I would suggest that if there are any points I have not covered, points upon which hon. members might seek enlightenment or further information, and upon which they would wish me to elucidate they might mention them when they speak, giving me an opportunity to deal with such matters in my reply at the close of the debate. If my replies are not satisfactory I shall try to find some means of gaining assistance and making such further detailed replies as may be requested.

The subject is a very large one, and it is most difficult to carry in one's mind all the dates, relevant facts and associated matters about which hon. members may wish to learn; but I would seek to accommodate the house in the fashion I have indicated.

Mr. GRAYDON: I do not wish to ask too much of the government, and should like to have the debate proceed as regularly as possible. However, the difficulty I see in the Prime Minister's suggestion to the effect that he will answer questions in his reply is, as he very well knows, that a question of this

[Mr. Graydon.]

kind is one upon which many people desiring to take part in the debate will want enlightenment from the Prime Minister in respect of certain points concerning which only he can enlighten them. He is the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I know that I should like to ask a number of questions by way of clarification of the government's position, in anticipation of the possibility that he may not deal with certain matters as I might deal with them, or might not view them as I view them. I would ask him therefore to extend the privilege I have indicated, rather than to leave a conglomeration of questions to be answered at the end of the debate. I would ask that he give hon. members an opportunity of knowing the government's policy before they proceed to speak.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am anxious to oblige the leader of the opposition and other hon. members so far as possible. But a great responsibility rests upon the government and upon myself in debating this subject. I must keep in mind the fact that any question asked me and to which I reply may be quoted in all parts of the world. That is saying a good deal, but it is nevertheless true. I do not wish to be placed in a position whereby, upon answering some question with such knowledge as I have, I might be giving information which one of the nations in the British commonwealth of nations, or one of the great powers, would not wish to have given at this time. I can always inquire as to whether or not I might be at liberty to answer certain questions. I must say frankly however that it will not be possible to answer all questions that may be asked, although it is obvious that one might answer some of them. There are some questions concerning which I might have to use my judgment before replying.

It is my view that on the whole it may be best to proceed in the regular fashion. Then, if at any stage it is obvious that the fact that some information has not been given which should have been given is causing embarrassment, I shall seek to relieve such embarrassment. I should prefer however that we follow the customary rule in debating a resolution.

Mr. GRAYDON: There is one point which is not yet clear in my mind. If the Prime Minister goes on to-morrow, is it understood that at the conclusion of his speech we shall have an adjournment for the purpose of considering the whole situation as he has outlined it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If there are hon. members who wish to speak and who