

been made in our behalf. An insurrection occurred in Turkey, it was successful, the new Turkish government felt themselves in a position to take advantage of the new circumstances which had arisen, and the securities which had been established after long weeks of negotiation they hurled aside and trampled in the dust. Canada, however, was a party, and Canada approved of the terms set out, believing with the other members of the British Empire that those were the best terms that could be secured, and that the concessions therein insisted upon would make for world peace and prevent a repetition of those violations of the rights of Europe which had been a fruitful source of war in times gone by.

This was the situation as between ourselves and the rest of the Empire. We had agreed that this was the best way to do it, that these securities should be protected, and that peace was attainable best by their protection. In this state of affairs there came a time when those securities were threatened, when the Turk, intoxicated with the belief that he had wholly escaped the consequences of his immersion in the war before, intoxicated with some successes which he had secured against the Greeks, felt the opportunity had come to return once more into that territory from which he had been driven and from which Europe had for many years hoped he would finally be forbidden. The situation was saved.

Hon. members try to make out that the British government made an awful mistake, that they were going to war with Turkey, and were held from it by the supreme sagacity of the government of Canada. The British government stood on the Thracian border with their troops, and because they did they prevented the invasion of Europe and made the conditions such that now we have the treaty of Lausanne. If the rest of this Empire had acted as the government of Canada did, then we would have had conditions as respects Turkey out of which no treaty of Lausanne would ever have emerged, but a treaty infinitely more humiliating. Let me read in this connection first a comment of the Toronto Globe on the manliness of the stand taken by Canada, a comment that I commend to members of the government, because it was indicative of the general feeling throughout this Dominion at the time—not a feeling that we should spring into a war, but a feeling that we should make such an answer as would demonstrate to the Turk the solidarity and the unity of the Empire in any time of danger or in any time when those securities that we had had granted to us were being invaded, threatened, even violated by the Turk. I

[Mr. Meighen.]

will read this first, and then I will read what I said myself, and I ask hon. members which of the two is the more severe in the way of a commentary. The Globe said:

The moral issue with which we are brought face to face by these terrible events is, in our belief, of far more vital importance than any question of national security, or even than the preservation of world peace. Are we to say that it is none of our business that the bestial Turk shall return to Europe across the Straits we solemnly declared must be held as a barrier against him? Not thus can we evade our obligations and preserve our self-respect. If we regard the fate of the Christian people of Constantinople and of Thrace with indifference, if the ashes of Smyrna mean nothing to us, if the cry of the martyred Armenians leaves us cold and indifferent, we should at least call the parliament of the Dominion and repudiate in a formal and official way Canada's adhesion to the treaty of Sevres. It is stated that Lloyd George has not requested Canada to send a military contingent to the Near East—

Quite correct.

—but has merely explained the urgency of the situation and asked whether the overseas dominions desire to be associated with any military steps that might become necessary. We may therefore do nothing and still save our face. Our face we may save, but what about our pledged word as a signatory of the Treaty of Sevres? Is that to become another historic "scrap of paper?"

Mr. CANNON: If the right hon. gentleman will permit me, was that same treaty signed by France?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think so.

Mr. CANNON: Why did France refuse to send troops?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Because conditions arose in respect of France, and France made what is known as the Franklin-Bouillon convention, a convention that did not in 11 p.m. any way assist in the general adjustment of the situation. But with other members of the British Empire we agreed that those securities were in the interests of all; we agreed that it was not in the interests of the world that Turkey should march back again over the territory she had desolated. We agreed to that and we rightly agreed to it, under the circumstances of the time—and this castigation comes from the chief organ in this province of the government of the day.

Mr. CANNON: One further question: Why should my right hon. friend refuse to Canada a privilege that he grants to France?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have nothing to say as to French privileges, but I have something to say as to what we should do in the light of obligations we have entered into.

Now I come to a statement made at the last Imperial conference in the hearing of the Prime Minister and recorded as a cor-