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this political ideal and this higher destiny as the League of Nations or some such means of collective action and collective security among the peoples of the world in order to banish war as an instrument of diplomacy.

Sympathetic Vigilance.

But the speech which Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, has just made at the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva is a clear indication that Canada is alive to the imperfections of the League as it is. She has never considered herself to be bound to follow the Covenant in acting the policeman towards every aggressor whoever he may be and whatever his offence. She refused to have any part in the Locarno Pact, which visualises military action against an aggressor on the Rhone frontier. She gave a decisive No to Mr. Lloyd George when, as Prime Minister, he suggested the co-operation of the Dominions in military action in the Near East. "Canada," says Mr. Mackenzie King, "reaffirms adherence to the fundamental principles of the Covenant," but "automatic commitments to the application of force are not practical policy." Experience has shown that the nations will not come into line when the moment for action

arrives. "Universal acceptance of the Covenant must be the constant aim of those who hope for the termination of war as an instrument of national policy," and "in the evolution of the League emphasis should be placed upon conciliation rather than upon coercion."

As matters stand at the moment Canada's spokesman does not see that formal amendment of the Covenant is either possible or necessary but "regional pacts and proposals show a closer approach to reality by linking obligation with a definite contingency and direct interest." To assist in this development "the League Covenant should be detached from the Treaty of Versailles."

Here we see Canada persisting in her refusal to commit herself to European entanglements that do not directly concern her. She might or might not share in action against an aggressor: "there have been no absolute commitments either for or against participation in war or other forms of force." She must judge each case as it arises and from the standpoint of her own people. Her sympathy is with the policy and attitude of the British Government, and the happenings of 1914-18 prove how far that sympathy may carry her.