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WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASS'N

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To Members of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada:

Toronto, March, 1934

DEAR SIRs:

The Women's League of Nations Association have noted with approval the views expressed by the Canadian Government through their representative, the Hon. R. J. Manion, at the last Assembly of the League when he stated that any success in bringing about disarmament would certainly receive the support and sympathy of the Canadian people and that every effort should be made to disassociate armament-making and private profit and that the Canadian Government hopes that in the near future some agreement may be reached to do away with this evil, either by nationalization or by complete government control of this industry.

They also commend the Hon. A. D. McRae for this statement:

"I appreciate the seriousness of the statement that I am about to make to this honourable House, but I am giving my considered definite opinion when I say that I cannot conceive of any developments which would justify this country in sacrificing the blood of one single Canadian on the future battle fields of Europe. Let us look ahead! We must! We generally get into trouble by not taking the long view. Let us act in such a way that we can honourably decline to participate when the hour arrives."

We thoroughly disapprove, however, of his suggestion that Canada should withdraw from the League of Nations, for such an act would be an admission that the efforts for international co-operation and for the establishment of an international society based on law and order have failed, and that we are in the same condition that existed in the pre-war world, which led to so much suffering and loss in the period 1914-1918.

In this connection, we should like to point out that information which reaches us from reliable sources in Great Britain leads us to believe that the British Government is not doing all that it might or should do to further the cause of disarmament and strengthen the machinery for the maintenance of peace. This is particularly true in regard to the private manufacture of armaments and in the reluctance to give any guarantees in advance that will make disarmament possible. We hope that as individuals and as a government, the members of the House of Commons and Senate of Canada will take every opportunity to press for disarmament and for the elimination of the private manufacture of arms on the authorities in London, in Washington and in Geneva.

Canada is the main source of supply for nickel. Will not the Canadian Government seek to have that portion of nickel as well as raw materials supplied by other countries, which are used for armament manufacture brought under international control? Why should we deceive ourselves? Some portion of our nickel is used for Armaments, which may be used to kill Canadian soldiers.

Signed on behalf of the Women's League of Nations Association,

Alice A. Chown
President.

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