

possibly to throw into the arena of European discussion some element that might be capable of being misconstrued and do more harm, than good. I can, however, assure my hon. friend that the government is following the whole negotiations with great care that thus far it has reason to feel that what these European countries have been seeking to do is all to the good, and that, as regards our Dominion, no step is being taken which will in any way occasion concern to the people of Canada.

Mr. SHAW: Do I understand from the Prime Minister that no obligation will be assumed without the approval first being had and obtained of the Canadian parliament.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. I have in my hand a despatch which was sent yesterday from London. I could not do better than read it because it sets out in an authentic way the position to date: It comes from the Secretary of State for the Colonies and it gives a summary of what took place in the British House of Commons on the 24th instant in regard to the security pact. After mentioning that a copy of this debate is being sent to the government in full, the despatch states:

In the course of his opening speech and reply to points raised in debate, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made it clear

(1) That what the House had to discuss was not a treaty, since there is no treaty or draft of treaty in existence, but mere preliminary statement of principle and of what countries concerned feel it would be possible for them to undertake and in what direction they think they can make an advance.

(2) That no obligation will be undertaken on behalf of this country except subject to the approval and ratification of parliament.

(3) That dominions have been kept fully informed of policy of His Majesty's government but that with the exception of New Zealand which has expressed its complete confidence in policy of His Majesty's government and its readiness to leave decision in their hands they have not yet declared themselves.

(4) That no dominion can be committed except by its own government acting with consent of its own parliament.

I think that covers the point raised by my hon. friend.

Item agreed to.

Amount required for expenses of Canadian delegates to the League of Nations, \$15,000.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is being taken up this year, and who are the delegates?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The government has not yet appointed delegates for the present year. It is the regular annual meeting of the league.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We have no special side show this year?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not that I am aware of.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous—mental hygiene comity, \$10,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What is this organization, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is of a similar category to the tuberculosis and social hygiene associations, only it relates to mental diseases.

Item agreed to.

For reception of the Interparliamentary Union for Peace, \$10,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What is this organization?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is an association of members of parliament of the different countries of the world. I understand they are having a meeting in the United States in the fall and intend to visit Canada for a few days. The government thought it would be in every way appropriate and desirable that these gentlemen should be invited to visit Canada and be our guests while here. My hon. friend from West York (Sir Henry Drayton) is vice-president of the association.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It is an extension of the visit to the United States, as my right hon. friend has pointed out. A large number of questions are discussed at the conventions of the association, and it may be looked upon as a useful auxiliary of the League of Nations. As a matter of fact, it started the idea of arbitration in the first instance. These members of parliament from all over the world meet together, and the social reactions result in a better knowledge of each country's troubles and difficulties, and as a result they are in a far better condition to consider any international questions that may arise.

Mr. THURSTON: How many countries are represented?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: A great number. There are no bars to membership.

Mr. SPENCER: Where was the convention held last year?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My recollection is that it was held in Geneva.

Item agreed to.

Expenses under the Pecuniary Claims Convention with U.S.A.—further amount required, \$9,000.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Some years ago I remember we had an arbitration board looking into pecuniary claims, but their sittings