

economic sanctions in the far east have been regarded by Japan as equivalent to war. I do not know, however, that that is generally recognized in international affairs, and I think there could have been certain economic sanctions taken that would not have involved war. But we did not propose to take those sanctions, we did not even make any strong protest in the matter. There is my point. I am not saying whether Canada acting alone could have taken any economic sanction, but I think we might very well have joined with other nations in taking such sanction, and in that case I do not think a general war would have been precipitated. But I would point out that through our inactivity we are laying the foundation for a war in the future. There is not much doubt that Japan has ulterior designs in Manchuria. One of her great generals said not long ago that the frontier of Japan was the western boundary of Manchuria. That boundary is Russia. We cannot ignore the very delicate situation that will prevail when Japan faces Russia. I think it is generally recognized that under these conditions Russia has behaved admirably, that she has refused to be drawn into war—not that I am imagining that she is doing that through any altruistic motive, not at all, but I believe probably she is not ready for war and will bide her opportunity. Probably she needs time to consolidate her position.

Mr. BAKER: Do you know all about it?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not, but I would tell the hon. gentleman that I have tried to read what some people have said in regard to the matter, and what he will find in almost any reputable journal of international affairs to-day.

Mr. BAKER: I rather think you know all about Russian affairs.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No. My point is the danger of neglect by the European nations may lead to the precipitation of a war between Japan and China, and I have said that so far it seems to me that Russia has avoided that conflict. I will not say whether or not we have been rather abetting Russia in this matter, for unless I mistake, some of that grain which was shipped recently from Canada to Russia would in case of conflict be used to feed Russian troops.

Mr. BAKER: If the hon. member would tell us all he knows about it, it might help us.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am trying my best to tell all I know about it, because I have nothing to conceal in the matter.

Mr. BAKER: I hope not.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Nothing whatever.

Mr. BAKER: I doubt it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The gentleman may doubt as much as he pleases. It is an astonishing thing that one can hardly talk in this house about international affairs and come within range of certain countries without some hon. gentlemen becoming rather hysterical.

Mr. BAKER: I am not hysterical.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I hope, Mr. Chairman, that we may have order for a few minutes. I will not weary the house but, I have waited months in the hope that we would have some suitable occasion to present certain matters relating to the international situation. As I have said, it seems to me that the European nations at Geneva through their activities are opening the way to still further trouble in the east. I know that at the present moment it would seem as if the situation has been somewhat bettered. It would appear as if the pressure of the League of Nations has led to the withdrawal of Japan from Shanghai. But Japan still appears to have her ambitions in Manchuria, and that would involve the destruction of the territorial integrity of China, which we have pledged ourselves to preserve. I desire to read a few paragraphs from an appeal from the Chinese government—a statement communicated by the Chinese delegation in conformity with article 15, paragraph 2, of the covenant of the League of Nations:

The gravity of the issue thus presented can hardly be exaggerated. A great country with a population of approximately 400,000,000 inhabitants is here virtually staking its national existence on the practical application and enforcement of the league's covenant. The supreme test of the effectiveness of the league in a capital emergency is at hand.

Again:

That Japan launched the attack, that her armed forces have relentlessly advanced for nearly five months, and that they are now in occupation of a vast extent of Chinese territory in two widely separated parts of the country cannot be controverted. A formidable invasion with all the terrible concomitants of war has taken place and is going on. The scale of the operation and the period of time over which it has persisted have removed all possibility of characterising it as casual or incidental.

Article 10, the very corner-stone of the covenant, is being shattered. That article reads: