

I shall not deal with conditions in Spain. I have always looked upon the Spanish trouble as a civil war in which, unfortunately other nations have supported the warring factions. The committee of non-intervention have had indifferent success in their desperate efforts to achieve a certain measure of restriction of the warring operations. Ships have been sunk in the Mediterranean. Nationals of other nations have been killed. The situation has developed in such a fashion that some untoward or unseen act might be a spark which would cause an international explosion. I do not desire to say anything which might add to that difficulty.

I hold strong views, Mr. Speaker, personally, with respect to the Sino-Japanese situation. I listened with great attention to the language of the Prime Minister. I must say that I found it a little difficult to agree with him. Having read the letter written, when he was Secretary of State, by Mr. Stimson, after listening to his discussion of the nine-power agreement, remembering speeches made in this chamber expressing sincere belief in the Kellogg-Briand pact, the pact of Paris, with respect to resort to war as an instrument of national policy, and remembering that a Canadian sat at Geneva on a committee of the League of Nations which unanimously condemned the unprovoked and unwarranted attack upon China by Japan, I find it difficult to stand in this house and say that we can have anything like the state of mind which has been suggested. Is no value to be placed upon the plighted word of a nation? Are treaties to be scraps of paper? We went to war on that issue. Is the language employed in the Kellogg-Briand pact to be entirely forgotten? Are we to condone this nefarious conduct, reminding us of the barbarous days of the middle ages when nations treated agreements as merely scraps of paper? Can I forget the Washington treaty, the nine-power treaty? Have we forgotten how solemnly Japan promised she would protect the integrity of China? Can I as a Canadian forget that? Our government signed it on behalf of Canada. Can I disregard it? Can I treat with those people as I would with the power which they have struck down without notice?

China is invaded, destroyed, and I am asked to condone it, and to say, "We must be very careful, though it is true that we are co-signatories; though it is true that, according to a decision of the committee of the League of Nations on which Canada was represented, Japan has violated that treaty."

[Mr. Bennett.]

I honour the action of the Canadian who sat on that committee. I believe his finding was right. I believe that in Senator Dandurand, for instance, we have as skilled a man with respect to these matters as any man in this country. He has been dealing with the League of Nations all these years. And when I find his condemnation of that unprovoked and unwarranted action against China, I cannot place myself in a position where I am prepared to have the minister of the other nation stand in my country and say, "We are going to defeat these Chinese." "We are going to defeat them!" There was no declaration of war; there has not been one yet; and still they talk about "defeat" and "the end of the war." Sir, we either are a nation or we are not. We either respect ourselves or we do not. We have a sense of honour or we have not. For my own part, and speaking now for myself alone, I say I cannot bring myself to a state of mind other than a feeling of deep-rooted resentment against the violation of its plighted word by that great people, the Japanese, who have invaded China, sacked its cities, murdered its civilians, and now talk in Canada about the ultimate "defeat" of their "enemy" and victory for their cause.

I have not forgotten Manchuria. I have not forgotten the Lytton report and its findings. Has any hon. member forgotten it? Sir, it is there that the right hon. the Prime Minister and I part company.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my right hon. friend, I hope no word of mine can be construed as in any way condoning what Japan has done. The very opposite is the case. I agree entirely with him in his denunciation of the action that Japan has taken. I agree with everything that was done at Brussels, what was said by the leader of the senate; in fact, he took his instructions from the government here. No words of mine are capable of the interpretation that is being put upon them.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

### After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

### PRIVATE BILL

#### SECOND READING

Bill No. 120, to incorporate The Workers Benevolent Society of Canada.—Mr. Thorson.