

left to Die Hards like McNeill, Sassoon and Ormsby-Gore. The "Times" too seems to think chiefly of protecting Curzon and they foolishly do it at Mackenzie King's expense; for, inept as Mr. King has certainly been, it would surely be wiser for the "Times" to leave him to be dealt with by his Canadian critics, who are quite capable of doing it. I have tried to point this out in various directions.

I hear that at the outset Downing Street asked Ottawa to waive representation (1) because otherwise the French would insist upon representation for ~~Algeria~~, etc., and (2) because time was pressing. While this doesn't excuse Ottawa giving away our whole case without a murmur, one can understand that it might impress the comparatively inexperienced Cabinet at Ottawa and conceivably to some of them it might afford a welcome pretext for inaction and peg for argument.

This French claim was trotted out once before two or three years ago only to be promptly sat upon. It seems to me utterly preposterous on every ground - the Dominions' war effort, their present power and resources, and their future possibilities. The fact that a British Foreign Minister could be found to swallow this absurdity in 1922 so soon after the days of Paris, and the fact that governments could be found in Ottawa and the other dominions to take the dose without outcry - these surely are significant and disturbing items each in their own way.

If a further discussion takes place at Ottawa, I hope it will avoid legal niceties as far as possible and go to the realities of the idea of co-operation and the relation of that idea to the substance of foreign policy. For myself I feel certain that if the Dominions do not assert a voice, the danger of finding this country involved in a series of military guarantees and alliances on the Continent will be very real. To enter upon such a course without the understanding support of the Dominions and with the United States outside seems to me demonstrably inexpedient from every point of view. The whole Empire should resolutely decline to give any further pledge of its naval force whatever, unless it can also carry the United States - that seems to me at all events the only rule both in our own interest and in that of general peace; nor would I admit any exception or compromise, however benevolent it might appear in relation to immediate troubles, because the future incidence of these things is incalculable.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald wound up his remarks in