

ada is Canada, and it will help to good understanding if that elementary fact is borne in mind.

We have made clear our own policy as regards the league. We have indicated our own attitude toward the frequent demands that we should thrust ourselves into the European picture, take sides in the struggle of ideologies, make commitments in advance. We have equally made it clear that we are opposed to making in advance proclamations of neutrality or abstention that would be used to encourage aggressive designs. We shall try to maintain old ties and old friendships and at the same time be ready to enter into friendly relations with every country that will reciprocate. We shall try to keep in mind the difficulties and dangers that other countries are facing, but we shall not assume that it is our duty or within our power to work out their problems for them, to make over their social structure or their political ideas or their racial attitudes. In seeking within our own country, which constitutes half a continent, to build up a genuine democracy, to promote sound social relationships, to develop a tolerance and readiness to work together in achieving unity and furthering and maintaining the ties with the other members of the commonwealth, and the most friendly relations with our immediate neighbour and with all other countries, we shall be doing the task that lies to our hands, our Canadian task.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to make any extended remarks. The party with which I am associated meets in convention at a not distant day, and will doubtless make a declaration regarding the foreign policy of this country. The views I express to-day are my own personal views and not necessarily the views of my party. I think every hon. member will understand quite clearly why I should make that statement.

I have listened, as every member of the house has, with very great interest to the observations of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). With respect to much of what he has said I think there can be no possible differences of opinion, but there are some matters about which our views are widely divergent.

In the first place, I wholly agree that it is not probable that this country, of its own motion and in the exercise of a choice, will be compelled to go to war. I cannot conceive it likely that the Dominion of Canada would find it necessary to resort to arms with respect to any matter that might arise in

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the conduct of its affairs. But I am not ignorant of the teachings of history, and it well might be that by reason of Canada's trading and other relations with the nations of the world a situation would be created which would make the alternatives a resort to arms or the loss of prestige by the commonwealth of nations.

Yesterday I saw an issue of the New York Times, I think of Saturday or Sunday. On one of its pages devoted to foreign affairs was a map of the world. Radiating from Washington there were straight lines to all the centres in which the United States was vitally concerned and interested, and there was not one of them upon the north American continent—not one. There is one in South America. And there was concern in Mexico if you regard it as part of the north American continent; their interests were with China, Japan, Spain and elsewhere—in countries, ten I think in all. And not one of those points in which the United States was vitally interested at the moment was, with the exception of Mexico, on this continent.

How did that condition arise? It arose because of conflicts of interest, because of the activities of citizens of the United States in trading and commerce, because of matters of nationality, the position of her people, in some cases missionaries—all these problems had arisen by reason of the United States being a world power and carrying on its operations in every part of the globe.

Now it well might be that the Dominion of Canada, with its business transactions extending to every part of the globe, if we carry out the idea that is suggested not only, I think, in the speech to which we have listened but by many members of this house, as to our complete isolation, our complete independence, might find that the situation which has developed in the United States has its counterpart in this country. To my mind there is no gainsaying that fact. Upon that first point to which I direct the attention of this house, I have no hesitation in saying that very many people in this country have forgotten that it is because we are part of the British Empire that we have attained the position we enjoy to-day in doing business abroad. Let there be no misunderstanding about that. Why is it that when questions arise affecting the position of our citizens, questions in connection with trade, commerce and nationality, the power which protects is not that of Canada? A frank recognition of that fact, sir, is essential to any understanding, in my private opinion, of the foreign policy of Canada,—the fact, whether we accept it