

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not know what the Prime Minister means.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There was a certain communication sent by Mr. Churchill at the time asking if Canada was prepared to join with the British government in sending forces to the Near East. Does my right hon. friend say that that was a communication sent with the knowledge of the British government?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not know what is the point of this interruption. Do I say the British government's communication was sent by the British government?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am referring to the so-called dispatch sent out broadcast to the press, whether that was an authorized dispatch on the part of the British government?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, the Prime Minister is raising the point whether the member of the government who sent that dispatch had the authority of the other members to do so?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, I do not know what that had to do with what I was saying.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It had everything to do with what you were saying.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will come to it in a moment, but it had not the remotest relation to what I was saying. At the time I made the address referred to no reply had been sent by Canada at all.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, a reply was sent the next day.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There was none given to the country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I beg my right hon. friend's pardon,—it was given to the country a dozen times.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Not at the time I spoke.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, a week before you spoke.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The reply of Canada?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I can hardly think so. It would not be consistent with what I then said.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say it was. The government asked Great Britain for information on which they could announce

to the country the basis of the decision to be made.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Prime Minister hardly calls that a reply—a request for information?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We also replied that before any troops were sent or any decision come to for action of a military or naval character the Canadian parliament would have to be summoned to discuss the matter, and in the interval we should like to have information which could be laid before parliament.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Prime Minister says this reply was made at the time. But it would not affect the matter to any appreciable extent. Reading the speech as I have it before me, it clearly states that Canada had taken no position. I was stating what we ought to do under the circumstances, and I was not making any attack; there is no sign of an attack in the whole address. But it was not because an attack was not well merited when we found out the exhibition we had made of ourselves. Now the Prime Minister wants to know if I think the dispatch sent by Mr. Churchill had the authority of the British government. I am inclined to think it had. I read the controversy which took place between the Foreign Secretary of that time and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and expressing my opinion—which otherwise I would not have intruded in this debate because it has no pertinence—I thought the Secretary of State for the Colonies got rather the better of the controversy.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What did the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs say?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs complained of the announcement to the press. I came to the conclusion that the very terms of the dispatch were generally approved by the British government, and that Mr. Churchill's contention to that effect was borne out by the argument. However, this is not the point in issue at all. Now, what were the circumstances at that time. There was an inchoate treaty of Sevres, a treaty, however, which had stipulated on behalf of Britain and her Allies the securities which in their judgment in the circumstances under which it was negotiated were the best securities for the peace of the world and the rights of the nations engaged. This treaty was never ratified by Turkey, it was kicked into the Dardanelles by a new Turkish government, and consequently a formal ratification by His Majesty the King had never