

*German Reparations*

guarantee that Germany will not again invade France is that France has gone in and taken hold of the Ruhr district, and I hope that France will keep it until every last cent of reparations is paid. I never had stronger sympathies in my life than I have for the people of France to-day for what they suffered in the war and what they are suffering yet. The question is whether France will be ruined or whether Germany will be ruined. If that is the issue, then my preference is that it shall be Germany. As far as my stand is concerned, I am with the French, and notwithstanding all the economists who may speak on this question, if I were a Frenchman I would glory in the action of the government of that country. I would tell these economists—who do not know half as much as they think they do—because these are the fellows that told us the war could not last three months, that the economic conditions were such that it was impossible to continue it, but it lasted over four years—I would tell these economists that I have great hope that France will win out in the contest that is now going on in the Ruhr. May I also point out to hon. gentlemen that every fifty years of the Christian era France has been invaded by this power, and why should we take our stand now by the side of the invading power and against our ally by adopting a resolution of this kind?

My hon. friend from Calgary East says he is as much troubled now in deciding who started the war as he is in deciding who won the war. Well, I think, Sir, that his mind must be entirely devoted to metaphysics and must be clear of all the practical questions of the day if he finds so much difficulty in deciding that question. I want to associate myself with those who would make Germany pay the cost of the destruction of France and Belgium. I protest against a motion of this kind being brought into the House because it can serve no good purpose and is designed, in my judgment, clearly to try and find a reason in the minds of some people in this country for exonerating Germany for its dreadful conduct in starting the war. What was the cry? "World power or ruin!" That was the issue that the German people under their leaders made. If they had succeeded in getting world power, what would this country be to-day? A colony of the German Empire, and my hon. friend (Mr. Woodsworth) would not be permitted to stand in the parliament of this country and say against Germany things that he is able to say on the floor of this House against the British

[Mr. Hocken.]

Empire. Liberty, as we have it, would not exist in Canada if this were a German colony. Germany made her choice—world power or ruin. She is pretty well ruined. Still, I think, whether these reparations can be paid now or later on, they should be paid, and the payment of them is the only means by which the people of that country will be educated as to their iniquities and the unwisdom of war.

A provocative motion of this kind should have no place in parliament. I think I understand the peculiar and distorted mentality of the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg, and I sympathize with him that his mind, which might have been bright and practical, and of value to the people of this country, has run off until he has become, I think he would not object to my saying, a Bolshevik. If his opinions are not of a Bolshevik turn, I do not understand what Bolshevism is. I do not think he would object to that characterization, and I am extremely glad that throughout this Dominion of Canada there are so very few of his type.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there are four conferences, the proceedings of which should, I think, be considered in connection with the resolution of the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth). The first was the conference of Versailles, at which the Treaty of Versailles was drafted and signed by the different countries involved in the war. The second was the conference at Spa, held in 1920, at which the reparations which, under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had admitted she should pay to the allied and associated powers were allocated as between the different powers. The third conference was a conference of inter-allied representatives, held at London in 1921, at which conference the proportion of the reparations to be assigned to the British Empire and others of the allied and associated powers, was definitely fixed. The fourth was a conference held in London in 1921, between the British government and the prime ministers of the different dominions, at which conference the proportion of the reparations which Canada and the other dominions and Great Britain were to receive, was determined. For purposes of record, may I mention one or two relevant particulars with respect to these conferences?

Under article 231 of the treaty of Versailles, Germany admitted responsibility for all loss and damage to which the allies and associated governments and their nationals had been subjected as a consequence of the war. Ger-