

ing to maintain the peace of the world, and I believe that view is held by every member of this house and by the people of Canada at large. How best we may do that is a matter which might admit of differences of opinion. Hon. gentlemen on this side of the house may hold an opinion which is wholly in accord with that held by gentlemen on the other side, and it may equally be that opinions held by various members on the other side differ one with another. In the same way there may be differences of opinion among members who sit on this side of the house, because it is obvious that this question never can be, at least it never should be, a matter of party difference. These matters far transcend party differences; they have to do with the very fabric of our social and economic life and with the peace, happiness and prosperity of individual citizens, regardless of their views or beliefs as to politics, religion, economics or any other question. I am certain that we shall all approach the discussion of the problem with an open mind and with the desire not hastily to prejudge it by any statement which is made in this chamber, because more importance will attach to what we say in the house than to what we say outside it, and no statement should be made here which could be construed as, on the one hand, in any sense provocative, or on the other, as unduly optimistic. We must remember that we are merely trustees, upon whom a certain measure of authority has been conferred by the people as a whole.

In dealing with international questions this parliament is not in the position of the British Foreign Office, though that department, it is to be observed, endeavours to divorce itself from political considerations when discussing problems affecting the welfare of the nation and the empire. We must endeavour to deal with these issues in a manner which will demonstrate that in so doing we are without party bias. After all, a Prime Minister is seized of information that we have not, and in the very nature of things, as I have frequently said when my views were not very highly regarded by those who now sit on the treasury benches, he must accept responsibility for determining whether or not it is in the public interest—not party interest—to precipitate a discussion of questions which affect the welfare of the nation as a whole. I do not frequently give my confidence to the government, but I believe that, in delaying for the moment a discussion of the position of Canada with respect to the League of Nations and our

relations to other nations in regard to the present European situation, no Prime Minister with a sense of proper responsibility would do other than give to the problem the best judgment he could, and when he advises the house that in his opinion the public interest will be best served by delaying any discussion of that kind, I for one am prepared to accept his statement.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): May I say a word in support of the stand taken by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett)? The council of the league is naturally seized with the question; it is a very difficult problem, so complicated and so fraught with danger that even they, with the information they have, have thought it better to adjourn, until some time in the month of June, any discussion of the matter. Surely if they could not do otherwise, we in this house are not in a position to do better than those who are assembled at Geneva. In the second place, we are not members of the council. When a decision is reached there, it will be time enough for Canada to take a stand as to following the decision and accepting the views of the council, or refusing to do so. I appreciate the earnestness and the sincerity of my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), but I am sure he will agree with us that for the present it is better to let the matter be discussed over there, without bringing before the house material which might make the situation more difficult.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

## SUPPLY

### DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### Project Already Undertaken

To provide for completion of the Qu'Appelle Indian hospital at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, \$30,000.

Mr. BENNETT: These are supplementary estimates?

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Superintendent General of Indian Affairs): Yes.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Would the minister give us a little more detail with respect to this \$30,000 vote? Is it an added amount needed to complete the building?

Mr. CRERAR: No, it is not an added amount. Ordinarily this would have been expended under the Public Works Construction