

says that all departments of government are interested in preserving peace. But likewise, all departments of government are interested in seeing that the trade of the country is carried on properly. Nevertheless, a department of trade has been created in order to give better assistance to matters of trade and the public interest in trade. The same thing is true in regard to public works, agriculture, labour, and so on. A war department has also been created in the past, and it is still maintained in spite of the peaceful disposition of mind of the government. The Prime Minister thinks there is a strong argument in the fact that the department is called the Department of National Defence. But all the war policies of all countries were prepared under pretence of defence.

The Prime Minister has spoken of the

fully worked on by warmongers, whether they belonged to diplomatic circles, to war organizations or to trade associations. Prejudice was raised in Germany against Russia, in France against Germany, in England against Germany, in Russia against Germany, so that many people of Germany came to have a feeling that they were 'encircled' by all the peoples who surrounded them and that their government was justified, nay, was compelled, in taking the first opportunity to strike a blow. I do not say that those suspicions were equally justified. But this was the growing state of mind in Europe, as I could follow it, from time to time, during the fifteen years that preceded the war. I could see the war wave rising steadily in every one of those countries, in England and France as well as in Germany and Italy. It is a falsification of history and popular psychology to pretend that the world was and is divided between nations who want war and nations who want peace. No. There are in every country causes which make for war and causes which make for peace; and it is the highest duty of every government to its own nation and to humanity to take whatever means may be in the hands of political power to strengthen the elements of peace in every country and to minimize the dangers of war. Each country can do that by itself, within itself, and not for its neighbours. We in Canada cannot render either the German, English, Italian or Polish peoples more peaceful than they are; but perhaps we can do something to end here what was done during the war for the purposes of war. Perhaps we can do something to demilitarize or demobilize the minds and souls of the youth of Canada. Perhaps we can accomplish something to develop ideas of peace, to appeal to the highest ideals of humanity as well as to the most selfish interests of any class in this country by demonstrating to them that war is not only hell, as General Sherman described it, but that it is destructive of every moral, social and political principle of order that makes up a nation.

I take the motion presented by the hon. member for Southeast Grey as offering to the government of Canada, responsible as it is for the welfare of the people at large, an opportunity to help those forces of peace to work for the benefit of the future generations of this country. This generation will probably escape the next war, but if we do not take advantage of the present currents of thought in this country, as elsewhere, to strengthen the forces of peace, the next generation will be caught in the turmoil of war, just as the past generation was caught. Was there any

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES**  
**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**