

*Supply—League of Nations*

a correspondent in Budapest, Mr. Fred Hankinson. In speaking of Hungary which he observed right on the spot, he says:

The League of Nations commission has been here, and curiously enough prices rose all the time and the kronen depreciated. I feel with you that a foreign loan is only a palliative, and the country accepting such a loan becomes part of a financial gamble in Wall street and in London. If Hungary, like Austria, accepts the loan it may help for a time, but it only postpones the evil day and lays Hungary open to the craft of the international financiers and exploiters.

An editorial on this paragraph comments:

Exactly! Why fool ourselves? Mr. Bertrand Russell, in a recent address, pointed out with admirable cogency, that it is not necessary any longer to conquer a country militarily, or to annex it politically. All advantages of conquest and dominion can now be obtained by making a loan, and establishing the required financial control to see that the loan is safeguarded and its obligations met. Austria and Hungary are to-day colonial dependencies of the Allies. They have disappeared as nations. And, what is worse, not even by this process has anything been done to bring permanent relief to Europe.

I would urge that we are now far enough away from the war to enable us to see the situation in something like its true perspective, and we ought to set ourselves very definitely to reorganizing the affairs of Europe and the world on an altogether different basis. Some of us may be ridiculed as visionaries and impossible idealists or dangerous radicals. We shall have to endure such terms, I suppose and the opprobrium which attaches to them. But the situation is too serious for us to remain silent. We believe it is possible to reorganize the affairs of the world in such a way that devastating wars will be abolished. I would urge that if this league, to which we are contributing and of which we form a part, is to accomplish its true purpose, it must devote itself to a reorganization somewhat along the lines which I have ventured to indicate.

May I ask again, in closing, that we might have from the Prime Minister, some statement, however brief, as to the attitude of the government with regard to the security pact? Personally, I am very thankful because of the attitude which the government took in regard to the protocol. I know that protocol was fostered and put before the world by the labour Prime Minister of Great Britain. None the less I feel that we in this country could not endorse it, and I am glad the government has not asked us to do so. I think, however that at this time we ought to know something at least as to the government's attitude towards present developments in Europe.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The security pact, as my hon. friend is aware, was a matter of negotiation primarily and essentially

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

between the governments of Great Britain, France and Belgium and the German government. The Canadian government, with the government of the other self-governing dominions, have been kept informed

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not developed beyond the discussion of a principle and an endeavour to find out how far these respective countries might be prepared to go with respect to certain matters which are confined entirely to Europe. At no stage of the negotiation has any intimation been made to the governments of the self-governing dominions by the countries that I have mentioned in the nature of asking us for an opinion or making any request. We have been kept informed, as I have said, but we have not thought, under the circumstances, we should either offer advice or take exception to anything that was being done, having no reason to take exception as we are not participating, but reserving always, in the light of the information that was given to us, a freedom of expression if we thought it was required on the part of the country. I gather from a statement which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has issued in the British parliament that Great Britain will not be committed without the approval of her own parliament with respect to whatever the nature of the obligations may be that Great Britain is prepared to enter into. The same intimation has been made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with respect to the dominions, that no dominion government will be asked to do anything without the full sanction of its parliament. That is the attitude which we would expect the British government would take towards any action that might be either expected or anticipated with respect to Canada. Whether or not we shall be asked to become a party to an agreement that may ultimately be reached, I cannot say. It is quite conceivable that an agreement may be reached wholly independent of our parliament, but one thing I feel perfectly sure of is that no agreement will be reached which will commit in any way our country without the explicit condition that this parliament approves whatever action is taken. I think my hon. friends may rest assured that the government is not likely to sanction a course which it has not good reason to believe will be wholly in accord with the wish and the will of the people of Canada. I would point out to my hon. friend that the objection to discussion at any length of matters of this kind is that it is so largely a European affair that, for us to attempt a discussion while parties in Europe are negotiating, is only