

out a declaration of war? If Canada is a nation, as the Prime Minister said a few moments ago, able to declare war or not to declare war, then I should like to know what steps are to be taken. Are we to have a declaration of war? Are other nations to regard us as neutral? It is not fair that we should have the privileges and immunities of neutrality if we are in reality assisting Great Britain in a war. That is not fair. That is not honest. As the minister was suggesting a few minutes ago when he quoted that beautiful poem of James Russell Lowell—I confess I think it is rather prostituting it to use it in this connection—truth should be the predominating thing. I know that truth is one of the first victims of war.

Are we at war? How do we get into war if we are going in? Some of us would rather ask: How can we keep out? If the Prime Minister is correct in some of his statements to-day, we are not yet in a state of war and it is for this parliament to decide whether we are at war. If so, we ought to know it. For a good many years the Prime Minister has told us that parliament would decide. That is a beautiful but rather ambiguous expression. What are we to decide? According to some of the statements issued a few days ago, we are in the war and all that parliament can do is to decide the extent and nature of our contribution. I think that was stated. If in addition to deciding the extent of our commitments and the nature of our help in the war we are still able to decide to keep out of war, then I would hold up both my hands to keep out of war. Whether you agree that we are to go into the war or are to stay out of the war, I think you will agree that we ought to have some definiteness with regard to a matter as important as this.

Mr. HANSON: Are we at war or not at war according to the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation interpretation?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The Prime Minister is probably within his legal rights in having brought into effect the War Measures Act. However, I would remind him that that act was first brought into force when a war was actually in progress. The phrasing of that act may permit the government to take certain preventive actions, but I submit that if we are not at war there has been no need so far to resort to the elaborate measures and the enormous expense to which this country has been committed. I want to thank the Prime Minister for his great courtesy to some of us who belong to the minority groups by telling us of the serious situation that existed. I say in all sincerity that I appreciate this very much. I want to say also that I think the government is to be commended for

having called parliament promptly. I do not know that it can be said, as I had almost hoped it could be said, that it should be commended for laying down a government policy.

There are several matters which I should like to consider, some of which have been touched upon already by the Prime Minister. First of all, I should like to know Canada's responsibility for the result of British policies. On other occasions in this house I have tried to take my stand with those who have said that we were no longer colonials. I have felt that we should have an independent policy, and yet until the recent statement by the Prime Minister apparently this government has been slavishly following the lead of the British government. The League of Nations has not been functioning during recent times. Theoretically Canada is an independent nation. However, in practice, in our foreign policy we have been very closely associated with the United Kingdom. If I understood the Prime Minister aright, the policy in the past has been for Canada to refuse to have anything to do with any imperial council. Yet he would have us support Great Britain in the results of policies in the formulation of which we have had no part. I do not think that can go on. I think I speak as anyone living in Great Britain would speak. Living under British institutions we claim the right to decide our own policies and not have them decided in any degree outside. I hope the Prime Minister agrees with that. But if he does, I am afraid the leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion) will not.

Let us be clear on these matters. In my judgment the immediate situation has been due almost entirely to the bungling of Mr. Chamberlain.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes. At least that is my opinion. I have read a good deal in the British journals as to what has been going on. I have read a good deal in some of the working class journals of England as to what has been going on.

An hon. MEMBER: What about Ramsay MacDonald?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I know something of the way in which Mr. Hitler has been built up by some big interests in Great Britain. I think that anyone who has studied the policies of the British government for the last year or two—their policy, for example, in Spain—knows that by this means Hitler has been actually built up, as it were, and now that matters have gone too far a great appeal is sent out, not only through Great Britain but all over the world, to rescue Great Britain from the situation in which she