

doing a more glorious thing for those who died and a greater thing for Canada and for the world. That is my position on this resolution.

I would refer, in closing, to an incident of last session, which is pertinent to the present discussion. We had an honoured professor from Oxford who came to this parliament last year and was introduced by the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons. They sponsored this professor, and what was his plea to us? Those of us who took the trouble to be present will remember that he outlined the whole economic situation in Europe. He showed us the hopelessness of trying to extract the indemnity from Germany, and he finished in words that were both dramatic and prophetic, suggesting what a great thing it would be if Canada could take the very course which this resolution asks that we should take. I think we can lay aside all animosity, and all unfair criticism and face this resolution on its own grounds. We know that the whole world is affected by the economic situation in Europe. We know, if we know anything, that the war cannot be paid for to the extent that is hoped by those who are entitled to receive indemnities, and most of us know that if we draw a tooth from Germany to-day, or pluck an eye from the Kaiser, to satisfy the hon. the Minister of Labour, that some day they will probably draw a tooth or pluck an eye from some other nation. We know also that, if we have that magnanimity of spirit which is worthy of our Canadian dead, we will say to the world and to Germany specifically: We will not have your marks, they are worthless anyway, keep them; we will not ask you to pay anything, but we will foreswear our share of the indemnity in the interests of that world peace for which our Canadian soldiers died.

Mr. H. C. HOCKEN (West Toronto): We must all admire, Mr. Speaker, the Christian sentiments expressed by the hon. gentleman from Calgary East (Mr. Irvine), but I am at a loss to understand why such a resolution as this should be presented to a Canadian parliament at this time. Are we pressing for reparations? Are we in any way oppressing these poor Germans, whose ardent friend from Winnipeg is trying to protect them before they are attacked? Why bring in such a resolution as this? Is it his desire that this parliament should give a lead to Europe and to the Imperial parliament as to how it should deal with reparations? If that is his purpose I do not think that the Imperial parliament would be inclined to follow in his footsteps. So far as reparations are con-

cerned, Mr. Speaker, I think that the Dominion of Canada might very well follow the lead given to us by the Mother Country and its government, and wait for developments before we begin to express our friendship for the poor downtrodden German. I am not concerned about the reparations, but I must confess that it vexes me considerably to have a man stand up in the House of Commons and tell us that Great Britain and France were as much responsible for the war as Germany. That is substantially the statement made by the hon. gentleman for Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth). He read a number of quotations last night, among which I find the following:

The British and French General Staffs had been in active collaborations for war with Germany ever since January 1906.

Does he mean to tell the House and the country that France and Great Britain had contemplated war against Germany in 1906? If that is what he is trying to make us believe, I think he has a task on his hands in which he will fail. There can be no doubt in the minds of men who followed the circumstances attending the beginning of the war that Germany was solely responsible for the war. He referred last night to what Austria and Hungary had done. Austria and Hungary did what the German Kaiser and the German government compelled them to do, and they had to do that right up to the time of the armistice. He knows, if he knows anything at all about the war, which I doubt, that Austria and Hungary would have ceased fighting long before if the Germans had permitted them to do so. But to come into this House and attempt to excuse Germany I cannot regard as anything but a little piece of German propaganda, designed perhaps to create opinion in Canada, and as far as it goes outside of Canada, that these poor people are being oppressed. If that is his object, I want to utter my protest against the House of Commons being used for such a purpose. The hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) answered his argument about the poor little children. I need not go into that further than to point out that whenever a man commits a crime his little children and his family are the sufferers, and when the leaders of the government committed that unparalleled crime they brought suffering upon the poor people of Germany.

I would like to draw another thing to the attention of my hon. friend when he is talking about reparations. There is only one argument that a German can understand, and that is the argument of force, and the best