

purpose in the end. This empire can be kept together by effective, helpful cooperation. This government is prepared to cooperate with the British government and with the governments of all the other self-governing dominions in ways which we believe will most effectively help to preserve the unity of the empire and make it a great force for peace and good will throughout the world and for the maintenance of peace. But we are not going to take a step which we may believe might have the effect of beginning to disrupt the exceptionally happy and united relations which all parts of the empire enjoy to-day each with the other.

Mr. CAHAN: I would ask the Prime Minister whether he seriously suggests that affording facilities, at the expense of the government of the United Kingdom for the training of men in flying, with the idea of ultimately employing them in the British air forces for the protection not only of the United Kingdom but of all the other dominions, is a retrograde step. The training of British air forces in Canada would be the first step, it seems to me, in cooperation in that direction. Such reasonable cooperation would not, I think, imply the exercise of British military authority over this country. It would not be a military force; it would not be a force under military control; it would not necessarily be a military establishment at all. It would be simply providing an establishment with ample facilities in this wide country for training men for ultimate service in the aerial defences of the empire. It seems to me the right hon. gentleman is going very far astray in his definition.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am glad my hon. friend has asked the question he has. I wish to go a step further than he has gone, in his statement that this country should cooperate in a way that will be helpful to all parts of the British Empire in matters of defence by saying that whereas he proposes that we should have the British government come and pay for establishments which they are supporting in this country for the training of pilots, we ourselves are prepared to have our own establishments here and to give in those establishments facilities to British pilots to come and train here. But they must come and train in establishments which are under the control of the government of Canada and for which the Minister of National Defence will be able to answer in this parliament with respect to everything concerning them.

Mr. CAHAN: The facilities at the present time are utterly inadequate to attain the objects which the right hon. gentleman suggests. Will he in parliament, on behalf of his government,

ask for adequate appropriations for the purpose, so that there may be ample facilities in this country, under the supervision, direction and control of the Canadian government, for the training of adequate air forces for the United Kingdom and the other dominions? If he will do that, I will go a long way with him, but there has not been one practical step taken yet in that direction.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say again to my hon. friend that when we have requests from the British government for a particular purpose we shall be prepared to consider them, but we have had no requests from the government of the United Kingdom for the establishment of training stations in this country up to the present. We have had some exploratory conversations with respect to what might be desirable with a view to affording facilities for pilots to train, and we have indicated our position, as I have stated it on the floor of this house this morning, that we are quite prepared in connection with our own establishments, to help in affording facilities to British pilots if that will be of service to them. But I ask my hon. friend this question: Does he believe that an announcement by any government, either Liberal or Conservative, in this parliament, to the effect that the Canadian government was going to permit military establishments in Canada to be owned, controlled and operated from Great Britain, would for one minute make for peace and unity and helpful, cooperative relations between Canada and the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire? I am not prepared to go that far, because I believe that that kind of announcement would be prejudicial to the exceptionally happy cooperative relations that we at present enjoy.

Mr. BENNETT: The question has been answered. No British government, after the statement made this morning by the Prime Minister of this country, will ever apply to his government for permission to establish an air training school here.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Well, then, my right hon. friend has served a doubtful purpose by his exuberance this morning.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sorry; but I have obtained from the Prime Minister a statement which makes it obvious that no British government will face a refusal; and we have the refusal now, before application is made.

An hon. MEMBER: No.

Mr. BENNETT: It is as clear as it is possible to make it that we have refused, not