

arrived at by the representatives of the Canadian people on Canadian soil. Any other procedure would not end, but would perpetuate, the dependence Mr. Daffoe de-  
sires.

#### CANADA AND THE POLES.

Were Mr. Lloyd George to find it necessary in defense of the integrity of Poland to bring about a state of war between Soviet Russia and Great Britain, Canada would be at war, in common with the other overseas Dominions, as a result of the action of a Government and a Parliament in which the Canadian people have no representation and over which they exercise relatively little influence.

There could be no active participation in such a war by Canadian troops except by consent of the Parliament of Canada, but a declaration of war on the part of the British Parliament would lead at once to the suspension of trade between Russia and the Dominion, to the seizure of the property of Canadians by the Soviet authorities, and to other acts of war which might be within the power of the Government of Moscow.

There is much sympathy with Poland in Canada. The constancy with which the Poles, during a century and a half of enslavement, held high the torch of liberty touched the imagination of Canadians, as of all the freedom-loving peoples of Europe. The action of Marshal Pilsudski's Government in endeavoring to push the boundaries of the recreated Polish State far to the east of the territory occupied by the Polish race was suicidal, and there was in Canada, as elsewhere, a feeling that he and his advisers were tempting fate. The disaster which has overtaken Poland's armies in the field became inevitable when Polish ambitions brought about a union of Russians of widely divergent views in defense of their common country. Russia reacted to invasion as the British Empire would under similar circumstances. No one can blame the Russians for driving the invaders out of territory to which ethnographically Poland can lay no claim, but the Allied peoples will not, without a struggle, permit Poland once more to be swallowed up by the Muscovite. Canada in this respect is entirely in accord with the course outlined by the British Government.

But if the Canadian people are again to become an active factor in the settlement of European affairs it must be in a constitutional and regularized fashion. Loose talk of sending one or two Canadian divisions to Poland "when the call comes" is bound to produce disquiet in the country. The Government of Canada has no delegated power to participate in war or to make peace without the consent of the elected representatives of the people in Parliament assembled. Mr. Meighen, in connection with the Siberian and Archangel adventures, learned how unpopular were small, semi-official wars entered upon by the Ministry without the full consideration and consent of the people's representatives. He is not likely to give countenance to another such campaign without placing the facts before Parliament and securing the considered judgment of members. That will involve a special session, should the Polish crisis become acute, but the expense and disturbance of an emergency call to members is greatly to be preferred to any attempt by the Ministry to usurp functions which must be exercised solely by Parliament if popular government in the Dominion is not to become extinct.

There has been talk of the creation of a Council of Empire, composed of representatives of all the British peoples, which shall have jurisdiction over questions of peace and war. In this connection Mr. J. W. Daffoe, speaking before the Imperial Press Conference, declares that Canada's present situation is one of dependence, in spite of after-dinner speeches about equality, and urges that a formal declaration be made "that British countries are nations of equal status united in a partnership of consent."

Such a declaration would do little toward solving the practical problem arising out of the suggestion that Canada help in the defense of Poland. Canadian representatives sitting as members of an Imperial War Council with powers equal to those possessed by the representatives of the United Kingdom could not be given authority to declare war or make peace. At the best their decisions must be subject to the approval or disapproval of the Canadian Parliament. In matters of national defense, and in regard to all questions which may involve Canada in war, there can be no delegation of authority to any Committee or Council sitting in London of which the Dominion's representatives must inevitably and properly form but a small minority.

Canadians of all parties will stand firmly for the principle that in matters concerning Canadian participation in world politics, and particularly in the consideration of issues of peace and war, the final decision shall