

very unfortunate isolation of the United States. It must be remembered as well that Russia stands without, and that lately the great Republic of Germany has been added to the ranks of non-member nations. The effectiveness of the League, therefore, for the main objects of its existence is very seriously impaired. It can still carry on its subsidiary objects, though not so well as it could have done but for this impairment, but its great central and fundamental purpose it cannot fulfil and has failed to fulfil in serious crises in very recent times. We have not much difficulty in placing the responsibility for this failure, but that does not alter the result. I fear it must be admitted that the condition of the nations and the repose and security of humanity on this planet are improved very little, if any, as compared with what they were before the War.

Nor has anything happened to make us much more confident of the results of international conference as a means of establishing a better situation, a stronger foundation for peace, or even a stronger foundation for material prosperity than at present exists. Conference has followed conference, but the angles of viewpoint of the nations are different, distrust is rampant, suspicion grows with the years, and all these conditions are accentuated by certain disparities, inequalities and injustices in the Treaty of Versailles; so much so that one can understand the growing disposition of nations to seek first to remedy troubles at home, to try to establish some better status of society within their own domains, and then hope for the best. Such is the attitude of the United States, after the monumental failure, and that country perhaps more than any other is zealously adjusting itself to the task of trying to build up a new economy and greater happiness within its own boundaries.

The honourable senator (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) emphasizes the necessity for higher farm prices in Canada and deplores the present condition of the Canadian farmer. No one can pretend to be satisfied with the condition of agriculture in this country or in any country; likewise no one can pretend to be satisfied with the condition of the artisan and the unskilled worker; least of all can anyone be satisfied with the lot of those people throughout the industrial world, whose numbers aggregate not less than thirty millions, who stand beside the idle machines of the universe and are unable to find any work at all. It is indeed a most inexplicable situation in which the world finds itself. I am not one of those who think that things are still getting

worse. On the contrary, I am confident that they are improving. I am further confident that here in Canada we have advanced probably more than any other country, with the possible exception of England. In comparison with other lands we cannot complain, but relative to where we ought to be, in view of our great basic wealth and our opportunities, our position is such that all we can do is hang our heads in shame.

The honourable senator does not compare the prices that the Canadian farmer pays or receives, when he buys or sells, with those existing in the country of our chief competitors. Such a comparison would show that the Canadian is better off. I believe the Canadian farmer has been very substantially helped by the trade agreements of 1932, especially in relation to the subject of hogs. Honourable members will recall I discussed this subject when we were considering the treaty, and I had very great hopes of the fruits of the treaty with respect thereto. Canada now has a tremendous lead in that field, and the Canadian farmer has reaped and is reaping substantial and gratifying benefits because the treaty was made. Some nine cents or a little more is paid the farmer in this country, as compared with less than half that just across the line. While one cannot be satisfied that things are wholly right, one can at least feel assured that this country has not been mismanaged, as compared with our great competitor. And what is true in that field is true in others, though to a less extent.

But we have at this hour a surplus of many things, if we can call a surplus something that cannot be disposed of at a profit. I do not know how under existing world economic conditions we are ever going to dispose at a profit of the large-scale modern power production of field and factory. While I think things are better and are going to continue to be better for a time—for how long it is beyond me to predict—and while I believe that the surge, now upwards, is a more or less universal surge which even the mistakes of government cannot thwart or turn back, nevertheless he must be a very hopeful man and possess a special heritage of optimism who can see a solution for the world's unemployment problem even in the returning prosperity that now surrounds us. The unemployed of the United States aggregated not long ago some twelve millions. They are somewhat fewer to-day, largely because of government enterprises that are being carried on with borrowed money, construction works under way that are either undertaken directly under the Government or financed with money supplied by the central power. But the naked

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.