

WHAT OF CANADA?

An address before the Bar Association of North Dakota,
August 1920,

BY

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NOTE: This address had been planned and in manuscript before the speech in the Canadian House of Commons of the Honourable N. W. Rowell, K. C., President of the Council, of March 11, 1920, in which he expressed in the clearest terms and with the perfect approval of the House, the position of Canada, nationally and internationally. I made a few changes in terminology to make my language in accord with that employed by the official spokesman of the Government of Canada; the thought is unchanged.

Since this address was in the hands of the Secretary of the Association, speakers on both sides of politics in the United States have spoken of Canada's right to a place in the League of Nations; it should not be necessary for me to emphasize the fact that I had, as I have, no desire or intention to interfere in American politics.

Two years ago, the world was at war, democracy and our civilization were in the balance. American and Canadian soldiers stood, marched, fought, died side by side in the one cause of what we believed was just and right and holy.

But a few days and the foe who had with braggart front and contemptuous disregard of all but his own will, thrown himself upon crucified Belgium and tortured France, acknowledged defeat and sought peace.

The victorious nations sat in council and not only determined the conditions upon which peace should be granted to vanquished Germany and Austria, but also carefully evolved a scheme which it was fondly hoped would render impossible for the future such acts of aggression. The scheme largely, indeed almost wholly, an American product, promoted and formulated by an American, was painfully reduced to form, and after much anxious thought and earnest discussion shone forth as the League of Nations.

The great nations of the earth by their representatives signed this League, the Stars and Stripes floated over the statesmen whom the mighty Republic had chosen as its