

that false education which has brought the calamity of the war during the last four or five years.

A soldier will, no doubt, say that the German people cannot be civilized. I say that they must be civilized. They can be civilized only by the example of the League of Nations to-day, and it is our duty—to use the eloquent words expressing the same thought, uttered by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) a few moments ago,—to see to it that Germany must be brought into the League of Nations at the earliest possible date. We have seen the effect of the good-will extended by the members of the League of Nations, more particularly by Mr. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, towards enemy nations. We saw that only the day before yesterday when the Austrian Chancellor went before Premier Clemenceau and signed the Treaty of Peace with a smile of peace and harmony for the future, bringing China in the same way to sign a treaty and China will trust to the good-will of the Empire of Japan for the administration of Shantung in the years to come.

But many things have yet to be done if we want to have peace within the world, if we want to have peace within the League of Nations. Ireland, a nation in the League of Nations, must be given relief, home rule of some kind, if the nations of the League wish, and more particularly, if Great Britain wishes to maintain the happiness of her subjects throughout the world. One need not be an Irishman to sympathize with the people of Ireland. Any man with human feelings, who wants minorities to be recognized and smaller nations to grow independent, will certainly feel for Ireland as others have felt for the small nations that were under the yoke of German and Austrian peoples. Ireland must be recognized and must be pacified and brought into the League of Nations in some way acceptable to the people of that country. Much has been said of Ireland's position during the war, but the world at large will recollect that when one day the generous smile of Albion fell on Green Erin, in the enactment of a Home Rule programme which is awaiting the sanction of the King, under the beneficent influence of the smile and the promise which it gave to Ireland, on the 4th of August on the proclamation of war, thousands of Irish soldiers hurriedly crossed the channel, went across Belgium into the fighting line in the first days of the war and mingled their boldness and valour with the heroism of the Belgian

soldiers. If a change took place, it was certainly merely due to the change which had taken place in the direction of the administration by the British Government of the cause of Erin.

I am sure that every British subject who is proud of the generosity of Great Britain to the Dominions of the Empire must feel that Ireland remains the one dark cloud in the bright heavens of the Empire, and the cloud must be dissipated by the British Government and the League of Nations at the earliest possible moment. Let me say for the edification of the House and the people of Canada that this question to-day is troubling the mind of no less a man than General Smuts who has succeeded General Botha as the head of the Government of South Africa. On many occasions during the war his words in England have arrested the attention of the world, more particularly when he has been speaking of the status of the Empire and the aspirations which she should nurse for the future. On the 17th of July last when he was bidding farewell to Great Britain he addressed a large delegation, and the Associated Press gives an account of his speech from which I will quote a few words:

Dealing with questions concerning the Empire and the Dominions General Smuts says the most pressing of all is the Irish question. "It has become a chronic wound whose septic effects are spreading to our whole system, and through its influence on America is beginning to poison our most vital foreign relations," says General Smuts. "Unless it is settled on the great principles which form the basis of this Empire this Empire must cease to exist."

These are serious words given to the world at large, and more particularly to the nations that had signed the Treaty and entered the League of Nations. Much has to be done yet, and I trust that the members of the Government of Canada whenever they come in contact with the ministers of the Crown of Great Britain will do everything they can to bring about a settlement of the Irish question.

As I said before, we are living under a written constitution, with the means provided for any amendment or alteration or betterment which occasion may dictate. Did the representatives of Canada in the position which they assumed at the Conference which resulted in the League of Nations seriously consider that their power was limited by the letter of the constitution of Canada? It is true that evolution has given to Canada and the other Dominions in the last twenty years a greater measure of autonomy than