

many, and the terms under which the League of Nations will be called together. Who would have dreamed at the time of Comederation, fifty-two years ago, that we to-day would have been called together to consider a document of such enormous portent? As this has only been recently distributed and cannot have been considered very fully by the majority of the members of this House, I will read the names of those countries which are banded together. The fact that this country is one of the signatory parties, and that our own Prime Minister sat at the Imperial councils of peace during the time this important document was being framed, should redound to our national credit and appeal to our national pride. The countries which I have mentioned are as follows: the United States of America, the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Union of South Africa, the Dominion of New Zealand, India, the French Republic, the Kingdom of Italy, the Empire of Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bolivia, the Republic of Brazil, the Cuban Republic, the Republic of Ecuador, the Kingdom of Greece, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Haiti, the Kingdom of Hedjez, the Republic of Honduras, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Peru, the Kingdom of Rumania, the Czecho-Polish Republic, the Portuguese Republic, the Slovakian Republic, the Republic of Uruguay.

These, honourable gentlemen, are the names of the different signatories to this Peace Treaty; and, while there may be some objections to it, it is a wonder to me that, when such vast questions had to be considered and decided in such a very short space of time, the objections were not more numerous than they have been found to be.

His Excellency also refers in his Speech to the necessity and the wisdom of considering the Peace Treaty at the earliest possible moment. In that, so far as I am personally concerned, I am in accord, for the reason that until the world is at peace and we settle down with an understanding of the terms under which we are to live in the future, it is impossible that production shall go forward, and it is impossible unless production goes forward that we shall be able to arrange to provide the wherewithal to carry on.

I have in my hands a copy of the New York Times of August 20th, which I think

Hon. Mr. NICHOLLS.

is a very valuable document to help us in considering the terms of the Peace Treaty. It contains a full stenographic report of a conference between the President of the United States and the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, at which he was questioned in regard to nearly every point of difference that had arisen in the discussion in the United States Congress. The President of the United States, in addressing the Conference, stated:

I welcome the opportunity for a frank and full interchange of views.

I hope, too, that this conference will serve to expedite your consideration of the Treaty of Peace. I beg that you will pardon and indulge me if I again urge that practically the whole task of bringing the country back to normal conditions of life and industry waits upon the decision of the Senate with regard to the terms of the peace.

I venture thus again to urge my advice that the action of the Senate with regard to the Treaty be taken at the earliest practicable moment because the problems with which we are face to face in the readjustment in our national life are of the most pressing and critical character, will require for their proper solution the most intimate and disinterested co-operation of all parties and all interests and cannot be postponed without manifest peril to our people and to all the national advantages we hold most dear.

In these sentences I think the importance of expedition is exemplified most thoroughly.

In an editorial in the same paper on the same date, the following appears, under the heading of "War when there is no war":

The President's conference with the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should send the Treaty unchallenged to immediate ratification. In the address with which he opened the conference, Mr. Wilson appealed to the understanding, the candour, the fairness, the patriotism, and the judgment of the senators. He pointed out to them that our present condition is that of being at "war when there is no war;" he laid before them clearly the need of the country's industry for settled peace; he pointed out the grave risks we run by further postponement of peace of losing our present advantage in international trade; labour will be in a turmoil, and there can be no stable conditions of employment until we know what the final settlement will be; the future of Europe will remain uncertain, and there can be no return to normal conditions of life in this country until the war has been ended by the acceptance of this compact.

Honourable gentlemen, it would be unwise, and it would be in bad taste, for me or any other member of this honourable House to discuss or criticise the proceedings of our neighbours to the south in regard to the Peace Treaty; but we may hope that, whatever conclusion is arrived at after full