

and permanence of the Empire, "to guarantee and maintain the essentials of political freedom and to establish equal citizenship for all subjects of the Imperial Crown."

This is a matter for ourselves and the Mother Country to deal with. It is not open to question and interference by other nations. Nor is our place in the League of Nations. That arrangement was not made to give the British Empire any undue representation, but to recognize the position of the Dominions in the Empire and assure to the overseas British countries equal authority with the smaller nations. Of late our position has been challenged. It has been most ably defended by the Hon. N. W. Rowell, the President of the Privy Council. He said:

Canada, by the free action of her own Government, and the whole-hearted co-operation of her own people, raised 600,000 men to take part in this war. She mortgaged her future to carry the burdens which her participation in the war involved. The flower of her youth lies buried in France and Flanders, and thousands more are maimed for life in order that Canada, as one of the free nations of the Britannic commonwealth, might make her contribution to the cause of liberty and the restoration of the world's peace. In the light of these facts, it is inconceivable that any Government in Canada could be so false to both the living and the dead, and to Canada's future, as to give the assent of Canada to a proposal which would deprive Canada of the position and status won for her by her soldiers on the field of battle, and accorded to her at the Peace Conference by the enlightened judgment of nations; particularly is this the case when full status and voting rights are granted, and we think, properly granted, to several nations on the American continent which either by reason of treaties with the United States or of economic necessity are dependent upon her, nations which took no part in the war and whose combined population probably does not exceed that of Canada.

These words summarized our position.

The rights we secured should at all hazards be retained. For the sacrifices of Canada in the war there never can be any adequate money compensation. There is, however, the consolation that we did something to save freedom, something to strengthen the Empire and something to ensure closer co-operation among all the British countries in the future.

Turning now to domestic affairs in Canada. In its development and reconstruction our first duty is to our soldiers who made its new future possible.

As pointed out in the speech from the Throne, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board continue to provide vocational training and opportunities for permanent occupation which greatly aid in the solution of the problem of readjustment. It

is true much has been done; but there is still much to do. I am strongly of the opinion that no effort should be spared to render as light as possible the burdens of those who were wounded in the war. Encouragement and assistance has been given, but we frequently come across men who feel they have not received the treatment they should have received, and that the right of securing the vocations they desire have been denied them. It is possible that in some instances they have been unreasonable, but their wishes should not be lightly put aside; our efforts should be directed towards making them happy and contented.

Canada has done much to assist her returned men, and will, I am satisfied, continue to do more. Her pension list is the most liberal of any nation engaged in the war; but when we consider the cost of living our supposed generous pensions are wholly inadequate. My own opinion is, and I know that this House and the country will agree with me, that the wounded and the families of those who did not return should be our especial care, and that the treasure of the country should be used to make their lot as pleasant as possible. After we have accomplished this end, all the available resources of the country should be used in assisting those who require assistance, not by way of charity, but as the gift of a thankful nation. These men did not hesitate to place their lives in jeopardy that we might live; why then should we hesitate to spend our money so as to lighten their load. Every man should be placed in a position to secure a living. No man who went to the front, fought for his country, and returned uninjured can rightly claim that the nation owes him a living; but what he can rightly claim is that the nation owes him an opportunity to make a living.

This is one of the problems the Government has had to deal with. Much has been done, but still more is required. Let us have unity of thought and action, for only in that way shall we accomplish what is expected of us and hand down to future generations, and place before the world at large, the fact that the Canadian Government with its able and patriotic leader, Sir Robert Borden, did all that was humanly possible in bringing the country through a crisis of a kind with which no previous parliament of Canada was ever confronted. Mistakes doubtless were made; but a generous and sympathetic nation will not and does not withhold its thanks and gratitude for what has been accomplished.

First and foremost, as I have said, is our duty to our soldiers, not only for what