

He has made a success of two loans and perhaps he is the only man on the opposite side of the House who could make a success of a third. To save Canada's finances will he not promise the right hon. gentleman to act as Minister of Finance for a very little while longer? In making this appeal I am not authorized by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House; I am speaking on behalf of my electorate.

My last word is this: I sincerely regret, if it is true—I have only the Associated Press report for it—that Great Britain has sold some \$400,000,000 of Canadian securities to the United States of America. I regret that, because I think that Canadian securities ought to have been good enough for Great Britain to hold. I do not believe that the people of Canada want to be annexed to the United States, but annexation is the inevitable outcome if the United States possesses our securities, our credit and everything we have. In conclusion, I trust that the ex-Minister of Finance will be prevailed on to give his services to Canada once more, not merely while peace is in the air, but till we have peace upon the earth.

Lt-Col. CYRUS W. PECK, V.C. (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House to-night with a deep feeling of gratitude because I have been spared from the vicissitudes of the war to come back to the Parliament of the country I love so well, and take part in its deliberations on the Treaty of Peace and the Covenant of the League of Nations. If there was one thing that impressed me during the war as we passed from stage to stage and from victory to victory, leaving behind us that long swath of comrades, (the finest men God ever put breath into,) it was the thought that was expressed by every thinking man that it did not matter whether his poor life or the lives of a hundred or a hundred thousand men were spared or not so long as the great rampant power of Germany was crushed and peace was once more restored to the world. I had hoped that this debate would have an elevated tone and that the gentlemen who took part in it—I am not reflecting on any one in particular—would drop parochial politics, realizing that they were dealing with one of the greatest questions that have ever come before this Parliament, and before the world. So you will understand my feelings, Sir, if I speak to this House with some emotion to-night. I shall endeavour in my remarks to eliminate everything in the nature of controversial politics.

I want to say one thing, however, in justice to a great man. I was a follower and a great admirer of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the great leader of the Liberal party. He was one of the statesmen in this country, if ever there was one, who stood for Canada's autonomy.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

COLONEL PECK: I am very much obliged for those cheers, but I want to say that that great statesman is scarcely cold in his grave before his followers come here and scoff at a Government that has put into execution the ideal for which he stood during his whole career. If that revered leader was in his seat here to-night, while he might criticise some of the features of the Treaty, there is one thing he would not criticise, and that is that our plenipotentiaries went to that Conference and insisted that this nation should have full representation as an autonomous power, and take its full share and independent action in the deliberations of the Conference. I do not want to delay the House at this hour, and my only apology for rising is that I have hoped and lived for this very hour.

In my opinion the plenipotentiaries we sent over to Europe did everything they possibly could along the line of the progress of autonomy and independent action. They could have done nothing more unless we were to become an independent state, and if hon. gentlemen think that we should become that they should say so. I do not think so; I think we are very well as we are—not that I partake in any of the Crown colony ideas that have been expressed by hon. gentlemen opposite.

Before I sit down I want to refer for a moment to the speech that was made the other day in the course of this debate by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland). I always listen to that hon. member with the greatest possible interest and emotion. I say emotion because, if I may trespass upon the tender ground of memory, we all in this House know that that hon. member endured a long and cruel imprisonment during which time he suffered all those bitter and poignant griefs that flesh is heir to, but during it all he bore himself with a courage and dignity and fortitude which not only reflected the greatest credit upon himself but was the admiration of every member of this House. I know that hon. gentlemen of all shades of opinion will feel honoured to have been associated with him on the floor of this House. There was one question, however, he raised in his speech