

of representatives of signatories to the covenant, and Canada as one of the secondary powers will undoubtedly have representatives on the general council of the league. Each nation may have not more than three representatives but only one vote. The executive of the league is composed of nine members, one representing each of the five great powers, the other four to be chosen by the general council of the league as they may hereafter determine. The management of the affairs of the league is vested in this general council and this executive committee.

I shall not enter upon the discussion of the terms of the covenant of the League of Nations, but in order to emphasize its importance, I would point out one or two of the matters covered by it. Not only is the object of the league to preserve the peace of the world—but to guarantee the territorial integrity of the different nations that are signatories of the covenant as against outside aggression. I will not go into the procedure provided to ensure that territorial integrity, but it means that every nation that signs the covenant of the league pledges itself to maintain the territorial integrity of the others, as against outside aggression. When a league is being formed under which not only our territorial integrity but that of the Empire is guaranteed, a league which will affect our whole future and obligate us to adopt the measures called for by the covenant of the league, then surely we have before us one of the most momentous questions to which the statesmen of this country can devote their attention. In view of the character of this document and of the issues involved at the Peace Conference, I am sure the Parliament and people of Canada will recognize that the place of the Prime Minister at this particular time is overseas looking after this country's interest. My hon. friend will remember that the peace treaty is to be based upon the negotiations that took place prior to the signing of the armistice and which formed part of its terms. These negotiations embodied President Wilson's fourteen points, one of these relates to the economic relations between the nations parties to the league and the enemy nations. Is it conceivable that negotiations should be going on in Paris touching questions of economic policy that will affect Canada as one of the signatories to the league and Canada not be represented or her interests safeguarded? I venture to say that no hon. member will say that Canada should not be represented. It is a great honour to Canada that she should be represented at this conference.

[Mr. Rowell.]

It is an immeasurably more important conference than that of 1814,—that was a conference only of the nations of Europe. This is a conference not only of the nations of Europe, but of the nations of Asia, Africa, America, and of the islands of the sea; some thirty distinct nations are there represented. It means the redrawing of the maps of Europe, Asia and Africa, and determining the form of government of many of the islands of the sea. It means arriving at decisions that will affect the whole course of human history in the days that lie before us. No conference could gather whose decisions would have more weight, or in which it is more important that Canada should be represented. Canada should be just as influential in the settling of the terms of peace as she was in bringing the war to a victorious conclusion.

I mentioned a moment ago the situation in Russia. A veil of mystery appears to cover that great country, and no one can predict with certainty what the outcome will be. But there are one or two facts of which we here should not be ignorant. Some discussion has taken place in this House in reference to Bolshevism and what it means. I hold in my hand the fundamental law of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, and I think the members of the House will be glad to know some of the fundamental laws upon which the Bolsheviki government is founded. When the Bolsheviki came into power the Constituent Assembly was about to meet, an assembly that had been elected on a democratic basis representing the whole people of Russia. When the Bolsheviki found that the Assembly would not carry out their views and probably would not maintain them in power, they immediately dissolved the Assembly. Some of its members who were not prepared to consent to the dissolution of the Assembly fled for their lives, and some were killed on the spot. The Bolsheviki followed this up by providing for the disarmament of all people in Russia, other than their own followers, under the most severe penalty. On the other hand they armed their own followers. So the position was that the partisans of the Bolsheviki had arms and the others had not. Now, what is the object of this government? Article 9 provides:

"The principal aim of the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic in the present transitory period is to establish the dictatorship of the city and rural proletariat and of the poorest elements of the peasantry in the form of a powerful All-Russian Soviet government for the purpose of completely suppressing the capitalist class, of abolishing the exploita-