

people. They are most welcome to this green chamber where I hope much distinction awaits them.

The mover (Mr. MacNaught) and the seconder (Mr. Cournoyer) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne have been rightfully congratulated upon their speeches. They performed a brilliant feat in managing to say so much so eloquently about a message which contained so little of any definite meaning to so few. The very vagueness of the terms of the speech vaguely indicated a vague situation which it was vaguely proposed vaguely to remedy. Even with the legislation already placed before this house, one can only surmise the trend and purport of the legislation which will be brought down later. It might not be amiss to utter some words of warning as to the pitfalls which lie clearly ahead for all Canadian statesmen. In the field of international relations the situation is not reassuring, notwithstanding the bland pronouncements of well-meaning and honest statesmen whose good faith is being thoroughly exploited by others whose bad faith is becoming apparent even to the man on the street.

It must not come to pass that one may outwardly prepare to sit at the peace table and secretly prepare to sit at a council of war. The old diplomatic game of playing for time, bluffing, ace in the hole, must give way to blunt speaking, fair dealing and cards on the table. A distinguished Canadian clergyman who was chief padre of one of our Canadian divisions in Europe was repatriated last summer. He was able to travel fairly extensively in conquered Europe, and he told me recently that in some of the conquered territories the population were praying secretly and hoping for another war which would rid them of their recent conquerors whose rule was more cruel, more autocratic, than that of their former ones. Did we enter the late war to legalize wholesale displacements, wholesale looting and wholesale disfranchisement? It is high time that the world was informed that, so far as Canada is concerned, it will not be a party to a treaty which will encourage sanctions or foster the geopolitics and dictatorships which we were asked to help destroy in the gestapo and wermacht. Shall the "Big Four" turn out to be the Big Stick? What then becomes of the solemn pledges of the Atlantic charter to all the small nations of all the world? What, then, will be the lot of the common man, the small man all over the world, who has been asked, and is still being asked to bear in times of precarious peace and reconstruction the same preponderant share of the burden and sacrifice he bore during the war?

If the words of democracy and freedom are not to be further indecently uttered and invoked some definite and concrete reassurance must be given by the great powers before treaties are signed, and in the texts of the treaties themselves, that the small nations, the small men, wherever they may be, have nothing to fear, and that their moral, political, economic freedom, security and welfare will be fully and permanently assured and safeguarded.

In fewer words the "Big Four" may have titles to ensure and direct the true destiny of our civilized world, but since when have they the right to dominate it? Our Canadian government took a definite step in the right direction when it lately made known Canada's views to the special agents sitting in London. These views were in conformity with those of the right-thinking Canadians of all political parties.

The speech from the throne made passing reference to interprovincial relations. This is a subject loaded with dynamite and of great concern to all of Canada. If it is not finally, fairly and justly solved, for the nine, not the six provinces, it may lead—and I wish to emphasize this—to internecine strife, distrust and discontent.

Great emphasis has been laid by previous speakers and eminent members in the house on the fact that six provinces have already accepted federal proposals. It has been underlined, not without some ironical touch, that some difficulties were being experienced with Ontario and Quebec and that Premiers Drew and Duplessis were somewhat adamant and unreasonable in their demands. Much less has been said about the obstinacy of Nova Scotia, where apparently a Liberal administration holds sway. Most speeches made in this house have given the impression that if Messrs. Drew and Duplessis were in the Liberal ranks they would be more amenable to an agreement and that there lies a sinister political behind their stand. I for one cannot see the matter in that light. Ontario and Quebec have a greater population and pay more taxes than the other provinces put together.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Where do you sell your products?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HEON: As one back-bencher to another, I may tell the hon. member that I cannot hear him.

Logically they have, therefore, a greater interest in the proposed agreements and