

bers of another Chamber clamoured for the abolition of the Senate, but looked forward at the same time with considerable anxiety to being promoted to this body.

The Senate in acquiring these two gentlemen may congratulate itself. I hope they will be heard very often on the floor of the House, and that they will not depend for inspiration upon the atmosphere that comes from the House of Commons, but in cold reason and in cold blood will express themselves as we are moved to do on the floor of this Chamber in discussing public business.

Reference has been made to the League of Nations. Canada was represented at the recent meeting in Geneva in such a way as to reflect credit upon the representatives whom we sent to that great gathering. It is unnecessary to discuss at any length the enormous task which was imposed upon the Peace Conference at Versailles out of which grew the League of Nations. Probably never within the four corners of any document was there so great a task entered upon as to give effect to the Covenant of the League of Nations and the great objects which it had in view.

It is to be regretted that the United States did not see its way to become a party to the League. In my judgment, to make the League an absolute success, so that effect may be given to the objects which it has in view, it is indispensable that the republic to the south of us should become a party to that League. I am at a loss to understand how the League can be made a success if the United States should refuse to become a member thereof. We on this continent are particularly interested in this phase of the subject. I have no doubt that upon the Republican régime entering upon office, as they will next month, this difficulty will be overcome. It seems to me that too much attention was given to the phraseology of the League and too little to the essence of the purpose which it had in view; and if to-day the different articles of the League are of such a character as to prevent the free entry into the League of the United States or any other nations that have refused to enter, no articles or language should stand in the way of there being a League of Nations united against war and committed to the maintenance of the world's peace for all time.

There is just this further comment that I should like to make in regard to the League. There appears to be a disposition on the part of some European nations to deal with questions somewhat outside the

purview of that very important body. There is a tendency to make it a kind of international parliament instead of purely a League of Nations for the maintenance of peace and the prevention of war. I feel assured that nothing will result so injuriously to the success of that great tribunal as importing into its discussions questions which are not international, and which must be dealt with exclusively by the different nations which up to the present time have entered the League. I hope, therefore, without being at all critical, that the League of Nations will hereafter confine its deliberations to questions affecting peace or war.

Reference has been made in the Speech from the Throne to the inquiry instituted into our tariff laws. This inquiry has created considerable interest in the country, and very properly so.

The Tariff has always been the most important political issue in Canada since 1878 down to the present time. When Confederation was entered into we had a continuance of the revenue tariff that obtained in the different provinces previous to that period. It only needed a few short years to demonstrate that the industries and revenues of Canada required something more than a mere revenue tariff for their support.

Upon the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Canada at the conclusion of the Civil War—an abrogation which was manifestly brought about with a view to crippling the industries which Canada had built up during the currency of that Treaty—it was thought from that time down to 1873 that Canada might possibly be able to face the hostile tariff legislation which had been passed by the United States. For some seven or eight years this struggle continued until it became apparent that Canada had to adopt tariff legislation to meet the legislative conditions of the United States, which operated most seriously against us. Between 1873 and 1878 a tariff propaganda was successfully carried on in Canada, which in the latter year resulted in the adoption of protection by an overwhelming majority and the defeat of the Government of that day. From that date down to the present time protection has been the fundamental principle of our fiscal policy.

Governments advocating free trade have succeeded Governments that advocated protection, but when faced with the responsibilities of office and the carrying on of the national affairs of this country, even