

various positions and contortions of forms which really exist.

The honourable gentleman said that owing to the heroic achievements of our soldiers we were now in such a position that we were no longer responsible to the Mother Country but were an independent nation. He said that that was evidenced by the fact that we signed, as an independent power, the Treaty of Peace and the Covenant of the League of Nations. Does that condition really exist, or does it not? Gentlemen have asked for statements based not upon ideals, but upon facts. Is it a fact that we are separate from the Mother Country at this time? Are we governed by the Parliament and the King of Great Britain, or are we an independent power? As I take it, we sit here as the creatures of the British North America Act, passing out from the Parliament of Great Britain, authorized by the King, the Lords, and the Commons. What change has taken place? By what public act of the Parliament of Great Britain have we assumed this new status? Can any one tell us? When a great power renounces a colony or dependency, it does so by some Act of the legislature or some fiat of the Sovereign. When the thirteen States disassociated themselves from Great Britain, the King and all the heirs of the monarchy came down and signed their names to the renunciation of their power. Has this been done in our case? Are we not exactly where we were?

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: No, we are in debt.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: The Governor General came down the other day, and we are answering his Speech. Is it not folly and delusion to talk about an advanced and different status? I am a British subject, and hope always to remain one. I echo the language of Sir John Macdonald when he said, "I was born a British subject and a British subject I hope to die."

The actions of our soldiers were commendable, and received world-wide renown. The fame and reputation of Canada as a fighting country was well maintained.

Was Canada ever a colony? We say we have escaped from the colony state, and have advanced into the monarchical or independent or governing state, whatever it may be. The province of Nova Scotia was a colony, and New Brunswick, that degenerate part that was once attached to Nova Scotia, was part of that colony. I do not think that Canada was ever a colony of Great Britain. The Canadian provinces as

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a whole were never a colony. They were peopled largely by emigrants from the revolting colonies in America, and were largely settled by the English people, and by the French people who remained in it. A large portion of the territory was taken from the French, and stolen from the Indians. The different provinces that were united by the British North America Act were called the Dominion of Canada. Is Canada at the present time a Dominion of the British Crown, or is it not? Gentlemen who contend that we have achieved an advanced status ought to be able to show us the public Act by which this status has been secured.

Another achievement, upon which the honourable gentleman has vaunted himself, is that we have acquired immense possessions by the acts of our soldiers. Well, what is that? We spent two thousand millions of money; we gave the services of five hundred thousand men, and, what was more precious, sacrificed the lives of sixty thousand men. What have we got in return? Great Britain got ships and colonies, and the other Powers seized upon whatever they could get. What has Canada got as a result of the achievements of these heroes of ours? We have got nothing. We have \$2,000,000,000 of debt, and the melancholy spectacle of the graves in France and Belgium.

The honourable gentleman has boasted of the acquisition of peace. That is a great possession. We all freely admit that the cessation of war, with its sacrifices and struggles and tribulations, is a great achievement. I heard the leader of the Government yesterday, in a rather melancholy mood, somewhat different from the optimism that came over him later, asking where peace was to be found, and stating that the nations of the world were convulsed in upheaval and unrest. Where is there peace? Is there peace in China, in Japan, in Siberia? Is there peace in Afghanistan, in Turkestan, in India? Is there peace in the Balkan States, in the Caucasus, in Russia? Is there peace in the Adriatic? Is there peace in Austria or Hungary? Is there peace in Germany? Is there peace in England? Is there peace in Ireland?

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: Never.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: Well, then, I think we can lay aside the great achievement of peace, because all the nations, especially those that are parties to the League of Nations, are secretly arming and getting ready