

THE PEACE OF THE WORLD,

AND

THE WELFARE OF CANADA.

Electors of Ottawa:

A grand crisis is at hand in Europe, and the Dominion of Canada may now fairly earn an honorable position among the great nations of the earth. Millions of armed men are already prepared to exert their utmost efforts to destroy each other, and desolate some of the finest cities and countries in the world; but fortunately Canada has a special interest in this matter, because Canada wants some of these millions of able-bodied men, who may so shortly be sacrificed in battle, or fall a prey to the exposure, privations, disease and misery which always attend great wars. Canada not only wants some of these millions of choice men of Europe before they are destroyed; but Canada wants also some of the thousands of millions of money which must otherwise be expended in effecting the destruction of these men, and the devastation of their cities and countries.

The question is, can Canada possibly prevent the sacrifice of these millions of choice men, and these thousands of millions of money? I answer confidently, Canada certainly can do this, and much more also, if Canada will only act wisely in good time, in accordance with the suggestion in my Address to the Electors of Ottawa, published a few days ago. It is easily understood that one man may prevent the conflagration of a whole city, simply by happening to see the fire at its very beginning and promptly extinguishing it; whereas were the same fire quietly allowed to extend itself, so as to become a great conflagration, the combined efforts of the whole population of the city might then be absolutely powerless to subdue it. As it is with fire, so it is with war also; a little foresight, and timely action in the right direction, may easily prevent any serious evil result; whereas unwise delay, or neglect, may soon allow either fire or war to become altogether beyond any human control.

Let us suppose now that, before war is actually declared in Europe, the Dominion of Canada (as the chief of the British colonies, and as one of the extremities of the British Empire) should appeal to Queen Victoria (or the British Government) as the head of our great empire, and request that such action should be taken upon the occasion of the coming Jubilee as might lead to the flow of an abundant stream of men and money into the extremities of the British Empire, that our immense territorial possessions may soon be peopled by industrious, prosperous, and happy populations, and so become of incalculable value, instead of remaining vast solitudes, as at present.

Such an appeal as this, on the part of Canada, and the other British colonies, would certainly receive due attention by the Home Government; and the Queen, or the British Government, would certainly be urged to take the requisite steps to bring about a Grand Convention of all the Great Powers of Europe, in the hope that they would agree to reduce their enormous armies five or ten per cent. simultaneously every year, for several years in succession, until they should realize that they would be actually much better protected from each other with only a hundred thousand soldiers each, than they are at present with half a million, or more.

Thus action on the part of Canada, and the other British colonies, at the extremities of our great empire, would naturally lead to action on the part of the Queen, or the head of the empire, which, in turn, would doubtless lead to action also on the part of the great powers of Europe generally, and the resulting Grand Convention would naturally cause the