

asserting. At the Hague conference motions for postponing the settlement of various questions were more likely than any others to carry unanimously. Many are the reservations made in regard to the final conclusions. And if we are not willing to be content with what other nations despise, if we are desirous of being on a footing with other countries, at any rate on a par with a few of the 47 states who were represented at the Hague, apart from Canada, we will have to make sacrifices somewhat similar to those made by mature nations, at any rate until the time comes when international conflicts are settled through arbitration.

While adapting Canadian politics to meet the needs of the moment, we should strenuously deprecate those doings which are the main causes of international strife; the excessive ambition of nations, of institutions, and even of individuals, self conceit, prejudice, the coveting of riches, the spirit of domination, and above all possibly that false patriotism, the outcome of which is merely to set up each nation as the foe of all others.

Patriotism, as it is oftentimes understood and advocated, is a deplorable evil which has done humanity more harm than all other covetings and wrong-doings of men. We often hear people dilating on the ardent love men should have for their country. Now, that love of country, which in itself is worthy of admiration, ceases to be such as soon as it depends for its sustenance on the hatred of the foreigner. If in France, the people are to be taught to love France jealously, exclusively, if in England the people are to be taught to love England jealously, exclusively; if in Germany, in the United States and in the various other countries of the world, the same policy is followed, then bloody wars will ensue and to horrible condition will humanity be brought.

A theory cannot be considered good, if the consequences it leads to are undeniably deplorable. If only we habitually viewed our fellowmen as human beings and not as fellow-citizens or foreigners, those in the majority, the great powers, and those in authority would lose nothing of their privileges, while minorities, small nations and weaklings would obtain some improvement in their condition.

Let appeals to national prejudices be discarded, and grasping individuals, institutions or nations, who have existed under all climes and at all ages, will thus be deprived of the means of preying on the naive heroism of the masses, and finding themselves unsupported, will lose all hope of attaining their object. Though it may be designated as patriotism, such exclusiveness is nothing more than egotism and selfishness extended to the nation is neither

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more generous nor worthy of greater admiration, while the consequences are proportionately more disastrous as it extends from the individual to the nation.

No, Mr. Speaker, though substantial progress has been made in that direction, the problem of universal peace has not yet been solved. And we have to choose between making sacrifices in proportion to those made by other nations, or else be content with what others will be willing to concede to us. Now, history and experience have long ago apprised each one of us that if we expect to get fair treatment when left at the good will of others, we will be sadly mistaken. As long as international intercourse is ruled by the customs now in force, it would be folly on our part to put ourselves in such position.

Our opponents entreat us in the name of what is dearest to us, to abstain even from providing the basis of a Canadian navy. That is pure rhetoric, which may appeal to an audience made up for the most part of opponents of the government, who have numerous other reasons for fighting us, but it is no answer to a question which requires to be solved by a growing people, who have reached the adult stage, and who unwilling to continue subsidizing others directly or indirectly for their defence, have resolved to undertake that task on their own account. We might as well and with better cause state that it is in the interest of those who are dearest to us that we consent to the necessary sacrifices being made with a view to laying the foundations of status superior to that of mere wards or dependents of other nations, and to ensuring to the Canadian people and to every one of our fellow-citizens security, consideration, greater independence and more comfort, either at home or elsewhere; to the merchant on the ocean, as well as to the farmers and manufacturers who supply his cargo. Whether powerful or not, whether rich or poor, for the stay-at-home as well as for the traveller, for the diplomat, the shipmaster or the crew of the fishing craft navigating in foreign seas, for the youthful emigrant seeking fortune in neighbouring countries, as well as the hardy pioneer who winds his way to the mining regions of Alaska or the poor miner who goes down into the depths of a Pennsylvania colliery. It is better to belong to a nation esteemed and respected than to a nation enjoying no such consideration.

In conclusion, the proposed expenditure is of a most undesirable character. It is not at all necessary to be in the ranks of the opposition to recognize that. However, it cannot be avoided under present international conditions, unless we are willing to abide by whatever concessions foreign nations are willing to make in our favour. As long as other nations go to the length of