

sition (Hon. Mr. Bostock) in congratulating most heartily the mover and the seconder of the Address. My honourable friend the mover of the Address has long been known in the commercial and industrial life of Canada as one of the great captains of industry and as one of the most representative men in this Dominion in large affairs. Likewise, my honourable friend the seconder of the Address is a man of very great prominence in public life. He was for many years a member of the House of Commons and occupied a distinguished position in that Chamber. We in this Chamber are fortunate and may congratulate ourselves that gentlemen of this class are members of the Senate and bring to its deliberations the knowledge, experience, ability, and judgment which they possess.

During the five sessions of Parliament preceding the present year, it was our public and unavoidable duty to deal with questions having to do with the carrying on of the greatest war in history, and one in which Canada was engaged to an unprecedented extent. During that period all the resources of Canada were enlisted in the responsibilities which we had assumed. In addition to this, our people were at the highest tension of nervous strain in the efforts which they had undertaken, and in their anxiety concerning the war, which in itself was overwhelming. It was, therefore, with great relief that during the session preceding the present one, by reason of the armistice of November last, we could look forward to the negotiations for peace which were then being considered, knowing they would terminate satisfactorily at a reasonably early day. Since the last session of Parliament the Peace Conference, representing the Allied Nations of the war, succeeded in determining upon conditions of peace which have necessarily to be ratified by the different nations concerned.

The Treaty of Peace with Germany has not only been accepted by Germany, but has been ratified by the British Parliament, and will during the present session come before us for our ratification. In view of this Treaty being submitted by the Government at an early day, it would be unwise for me at the present time to enter upon any discussion of the conditions and details embodied in that Treaty. Suffice it to say that we can repeat the language used in the Speech from the Throne that "with reverent thankfulness we realize that the world emerges victorious from its long struggle against the forces of barbarous militarism and savage aggression."

The period that has passed since the armistice was signed, and covered by the deliberations of the Peace Conference, has been marked with an unrest of the masses throughout the civilized world. This, in itself, was the natural outcome of the war. It was impossible for a convulsion of the civilized forces of the world to take place during the five long years of that war without bringing about a disturbance of the normal conditions of life. The many millions of men that were compelled to leave the ordinary channels of industrial life, and to participate in the conflagration by which the whole of the civilized world was aflame, naturally brought about the greatest revolution that the world has ever seen from what had been the normal conditions of human life. The concentration of those millions of men in equipping themselves for the work of destruction and devastation of life and property, which almost without interruption was carried on for five long years, could not fail to bring about conditions of disturbance and revolution such as marked the period of at least six months after the termination of the war.

When we consider the millions of lives lost, the destruction of property, the devastation of national resources and wealth, the creation of an almost inconceivable debt, and the diversion of human energies from the ordinary channels of life, we are more than surprised that this disturbance of which we speak has not assumed proportions more overwhelmingly destructive than have been reached. The aftermath of a great war is usually fraught with more serious thought and anxiety than existed during the carrying on of the war; but in the case of a war like the world's great war which has just closed, by which the world of civilization was set ablaze and almost destroyed, we may well congratulate ourselves that we see within reach before us a settlement of conditions by which we may soon hope to reach those normal conditions that mark the reign of peace.

We in Canada are just beginning to realize, now that the smoke of battle has cleared away and the noise and tumult of war have ceased, that the resourcefulness, the energy, the enterprise, and the determination which permitted of our making such a marvellous contribution to the defence of the Empire in the late war, shall be enlisted and extended in our entering upon and grappling successfully with the many problems of reconstruction which have grown out of the war.