

ing one with the other; and that the government do not progress towards this general and political line of action which is not going to add to the centripetal forces, but will add to the centrifugal influences which are drifting us away from the unity of the British Empire.

That is all, honourable gentlemen, that I have to say on this point in comment upon the Speech from the Throne. There will probably be other opportunities during the Session for a more extended discussion and consideration of our foreign relations, and also our international relations, which I should like to see dealt with in this and the other branch of Parliament. Largely without very much thought in the rank and file of the people of Canada, a new institution has been established—the League of Nations. Canada has assumed obligations under it, but in this and the other Chamber, and of course outside of this House, there is comparatively little adequate understanding of just what it all means—the obligations that have been taken, and the tendencies which are being pursued. If such a discussion here leads to a deeper research, broader information, and a more adequate idea of what the League of Nations is and what it is doing, I think we may congratulate ourselves that there has been started along those lines an influence which must spread through our people, and mould their thinking. If the peace of the world is ever to be assured, and war—that barbarous absurdity for the settlement of international disputes—is finally driven out from this world, it must be by such influences as these.

Honourable gentlemen will have seen this morning an announcement from Washington that a new treaty, to replace an old one, of arbitration and conciliation between the United States and France, has been agreed upon and is ready for signature, and will shortly come to the Senate of the United States for its approval. At the head of that, and as one of the lights under which that treaty has been developed, and as one of the advertisements that that treaty gives to the world, there is the statement that France and the United States admit that war, as an instrument of national policy, is wrong, is barbaric, is an obseletism at the present time, and that they set their faces against it. That is at the present time the doctrine of the League of Nations, fifty-five in number, who at the last Assembly, after eight years of practical work for the peace of the world, and after one of the most dignified and well-sustained debates that I have ever read, came to the unanimous conclusion to brand aggressive warfare as a crime against humanity and

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declared that it is the duty of every one of the fifty-five members of that League of Nations to imbed that doctrine in their administration, and imbed it as well in the mentality and conviction of the units of the country to which they belong. I look upon it as a gratifying and hopeful sign that the mentality of the world is being aroused, an international opinion formed against war, and that the principles set forth and advocated once every year in a forum open to the whole world, the great Assembly at Geneva, are producing a moral influence and bringing about a revolution of methods of international dealing in so far as the settlement of disputes is concerned.

Now, for a moment, let me touch on the last subject upon which I intend to make a few remarks; that is the question of immigration. I have long thought that probably we did not get the full import of a great national question when we simply talked of immigration and set our minds to a consideration of methods by which immigration into our country might be increased. The great fundamental question, to my mind, is this: how shall we best conserve and increase the population of Canada? Immigration is only one part of that great question, and perhaps we have done less useful and progressive work along the line of our endeavour because we have separated immigration from the great question of which it is only a part, and have made it almost the only question. Our native population at the present time runs up close to ten millions. The conservation and the increase of that native population are the major part of the problem of retaining and increasing the population of Canada. Who does not admit that one native-born, brought up from childhood under Canadian conditions, is worth more, much more, than an adult not raised in Canada, but brought in from a foreign country, and consequently of alien thought, alien culture and alien tendencies, fully and thoroughly developed. That is no condemnation of alien culture, alien ability, or alien adaptability, but it means that the newcomer has something to learn of Canada, which he undertakes to learn in his riper years, and it implies also an inability on his part to comprehend Canadian conditions and work in with Canadian tendencies and culture. I think no one will doubt the fact that to keep one native Canadian as a continuing citizen in our own country is worth more than to bring in one adult, maybe two, maybe more, from a foreign country. Whatever tends to conserve the native-born population is a matter which should occupy the attention of Government.