

devising means by which both sides might come together to a satisfactory conclusion. However, I am not going to make any further criticism with reference to that. The report of the conference is open to all members of the Senate who wish to read it, and I think that the ten or twenty minutes required to do so would not be badly spent.

After these delegates had held their conference and come to no conclusion, the matter came before the Canadian Government for action, and the action that was taken is outlined in the letter of the Prime Minister of the 15th of March last. Just here may I remark that it has been stated in numerous headlines in the newspapers that the Government had come to a final decision, and that that was the end of the matter. But the Government has not finally decided, and it is to the credit of the Government that it has not done so, and it is the hope, if not of all the people of Canada, of a very large proportion of its reputable citizens that a better conclusion may be reached. The Government was wise enough not to close the door, and if you read the Prime Minister's letter to Mr. Phillips you will find that he expressly states in the opening paragraphs that the Government has not come to a final decision on this matter. Then certain suggestions are made that officers from the United States force should be placed in certain Canadian ports in order that they might despatch information to officials on the other side. That proposition has been as courteously declined as it was courteously offered, and the United States Minister says that in the opinion of his Government it would be of no particular use. For my part I am rather glad that the United States Government has come to that decision, for after all, the information which is provided by the customs officers as to the clearance and despatch of vessels carrying cargoes of rum, ostensibly for the United States, is of very little practical use, because it is very largely fictitious and the distances are so short that the boat arrives often at its rendezvous before the information can be acted upon. The Canadian officer takes the information that the captain of the vessel gives him, the name of the ship, its description, whither it is bound, and anything like that. The loading of the cargo is now supervised by Canadian customs officers—an improvement possibly on the old system. Inasmuch, however, as vessels carrying such cargoes do not dare to go into United States ports, nor can they enter their cargoes, because they are illegal, they seek an advantageous place, of which there are thousands along the lakes and rivers, for the disposal of the cargo, the hour for which, with

the appropriate cover, they are skilled in seeking. That is the position at the present time.

Honourable gentlemen will, I think, agree with me that this is no light matter. It is not so simple as it sometimes seems to be to the man on the street. This is an international question. When one neighbour nation prefers a request, a request which it thinks is not unreasonable, and asks for consideration thereof, it becomes necessary for the nation which is approached to study the question in all its bearings, and if it possibly can, to sympathetically and practically co-operate. I think it is an international duty to do so, and it is generally considered in that light nowadays. We are passing into a somewhat different atmosphere from that which prevailed before the war. The honourable gentleman to my right (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) yesterday made an amiable allusion to the enthusiasts who gather annually at Geneva. Well, I take that in good part. I am happy that there are some enthusiasts who gather at Geneva and elsewhere in the interests of peace. The enthusiasts for war have had things their own way during all the ages, and a sorry mess they have made of it. If there is any possibility of the enthusiastic forces of public sentiment in fifty-four or sixty nations of the world mitigating the horrors of war and making more secure the blessings of peace, for Heaven's sake let us get down on our knees and pray for their success. Call them enthusiasts. Blessed be the enthusiasts. What a drab world we should have if there had been none of them in the past ages and were none now.

There is a growing feeling that no nation's life is separated, as in a water-tight compartment, from the life of other nations, but that there are obligations, benefits and interests which can be best effected by international co-operation, good-will and understanding. To a large extent, then, this is an international question, and on that ground I am sincerely glad that the Prime Minister has not closed the door on the negotiations. Let us hope that a solution may ultimately be found.

This is also a national question, for it affects Canada in many vital particulars. Morally, socially, and from an administrative and governmental point of view we are deeply concerned. No one can read the history unfolded in the reports of the Royal Commission without getting a poignant and humiliating sense of the position in which matters stood three years ago and thereabouts. I should like to say that the attitude of Government in Canada has undergone a great change, and I give the administration, and the energetic