

them to know that we fully endorse clause 4 of the resolution now before us, which reads:

That this House agrees that the representatives of Canada at the conference should use their best endeavours to further the preparation of an acceptable charter for an international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Also, I should like them to feel that we are prepared to support any measure which will lead to the formation of such an international organization for the guarantee of future peace.

With the honourable senator from Rougemont (Hon. Mr. Beaugard), who has just spoken, I deplore the fact that Poland will not be represented at this conference. I have been an active member of the Canadian Friends of Poland, an organization with which I have done quite a little work.

When speaking on the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the honourable senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Haig) made a statement to which I had expected there would be some reference in subsequent speeches. He said:

With all respect and humility I say that the late President of that country made a great mistake, and because he did not carry his own people with him, he probably is as largely responsible as any other man in the world for the terrible conflict in which we are now engaged.

As a former President of the League of Nations Society in Canada, I should like to comment upon that statement. From pronouncements of leaders of opinion in the United States and from views expressed by people with whom I have talked, I have come to the conclusion that the ideals of President Wilson exercised a sound influence upon the thought of the American people and were largely responsible for the swing from the former United States policy of isolation. I heard only yesterday that a Gallup poll showed eighty-two per cent of the people of the United States as favouring participation by their country in such an organization as the League. Two or three years ago the former home of President Wilson was dedicated as a national shrine, and on that occasion his great work was heartily endorsed in a speech by President Roosevelt. Only last week the New York Times quoted Senator Connally, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate, as having said at a mass meeting of the League of Women Voters in New York city:

It is sometimes said that the League of Nations was a failure. That is an unjust charge. It may be admitted that it was not a complete success. It did, however, serve a useful purpose.

It was an experiment in a virgin field. It could not be expected to attain perfection. It supplied the foundation, however, for further and more complete exertions for the future. The history of the League will light the pathway along which nations will travel in the years to come.

I may now say that it may form the basis and the concept around which the instrumentality which we seek to establish may be constructed.

The honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert), who was present with Sir Robert Borden and Mr. John W. Daffoe at the Peace Conference in Paris, has spoken of the universal acclaim with which President Wilson was received when he presented his much cherished Covenant in the Clock Room of the Foreign Office at the Quai d'Orsay. Great hopes for the future were entertained then, and no person who witnessed the spontaneous enthusiasm with which Wilson was greeted in the streets of London, Paris and Rome could doubt the sincerity of the aspirations for peace which were expressed at the end of the last war.

To those who have followed the sad story of the defeat in the United States Senate of the motion to enter the League of Nations, it is clearly evident that Wilson's political opponents, led by Senators Lodge and Borah, resorted to subterfuge. This is freely admitted by Senator Lodge's chief lieutenant, Senator James Watson of Indiana, in his book "As I Knew Them." It says.

"Eighty per cent of the people are for it. Fully that percentage of the preachers are right now behind it . . . all the people who have been burdened and oppressed by this awful tragedy of war . . . are for it . . . I don't see how it is possible to defeat it. . . ." He turned to me and said, "Ah, my dear James, I do not propose to try to beat it by direct frontal attack but by the indirect method of reservations."

We realize to our sorrow to-day that unfortunately this policy was only too successful.

The first President of the League of Nations Society in Canada was Sir Robert Borden, and to the last he maintained his interest in the Society's work. I am very proud to have been associated with that great man, J. W. Daffoe. I think it is generally conceded that he did more than any of his contemporaries to influence the Canadian public to think internationally.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: It is unfortunate that his powerful personality is absent to-day, for he never failed to keep before us the high ideals upon which the League of Nations was founded. Only this winter, in company with others, I attended a meeting of the executive of the League of Nations Society. We chanced to speak to an officer belonging to an air