

The Effort of the "Entente"

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Empire Parliamentary Association, which has for its main object the promotion of matters of general interest to the British Empire and which recruits its members from the ranks of the Parliamentary representatives of the United Kingdom and the self-governing Dominions, holds its meetings alternately in London and in some one of the Capitals of the Dominions. This year, the meeting took place in London, where thirty-three delegates, from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland and Canada, met as the guests of the Executive of the Association, of which the Right Honorable Mr. Balfour is Chairman.

It was my good fortune to be selected as one of the ten representatives from Canada. Our visit to England, Scotland and France and the confidential conferences of the Association, which extended over the months of July and August, included the inspection of the Munition Factories, Military Camps and Hospitals in England Scotland and France, the French and British fronts, on the Somme and in Picardie, and the Grand Fleet in the North Sea.

We were received and entertained by the King and Queen, the President of the French Republic, the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and France and the members of their cabinets; we had confidential interviews and conferences with the statesmen, military leaders and great captains of industry, and many journalists as well, of both countries. And by all we were treated with greatest kindness and unbounded hospitality. Such a visit, in constant company with members of the Parliaments of Great Britain and all the Dominions, under the unprecedented conditions caused by the world war, with every facility and opportunity to see, learn and observe, has left in my mind and, I am sure, in the minds of all the participants, impressions of the deepest kind which can never be forgotten or duplicated.

Our vision was clarified, deepened and widened, our knowledge greatly enlarged, our sympathies quickened and intensified. New conceptions were opened to us. We were deeply impressed with the prodigious preparations and efforts made by Great Britain and France in the great war. Our hopes in the ultimate triumph of our cause were confirmed. Illuminative, impressive, inspiring and reassuring indeed was our visit.

To relate my observations and impressions would take a great deal more time than your indulgence and the occasion permit; I can give you but a few of them and I trust that you will pardon me if I do so without