

they would see the wisdom and humour of handing back to us what is of little value to them, but of life importance to us. It would be a proof of mutual forgiveness, a sign to the world of an alliance, and of the new spirit which has begun to prevail in all relations between free peoples. If it were done quickly, it would bring conviction to the old enemies that there is no further use in contending against a new world.

Such a proposal as this is one which might more properly come from the United States, as it is their territory which is involved. But one nation cannot be expected to originate a proposal which is of minor importance to itself, although it may concern the very existence of another. And yet it is of the profoundest interest to the United States that Canada should be allowed to develop freely in accordance with the laws of history and of nature, rather than that she should be persuaded to mould a blighted future behind a barrier which was imposed merely by a treaty drawn up far in advance of events.

We are a small and a poor people. Before this war we had pledged our future for as long a time as human vision could reach in developing the widespread territory which was committed to our care. One-quarter of our adult male population went overseas. Many of those who returned are broken men, and yet compelled to sustain the burden which the war has imposed.

It may be urged that this barrier against future development exists merely in our minds and sentiments; but nationality itself is an affair of sentiment, which none appreciate better than the people of the United States. This proposal for an act of generosity on their part will, it is believed, appeal to their just and generous nature, and will be entirely in harmony with that spirit of idealism which impelled them to come to the relief and rescue of the distressed nations of the world which were striving to be free, and to remain in freedom. Here is a master chance for putting the League of Nations to the test.

THE EDITOR