

our boys, and in return our boys have educated the British. Glowing tales have been told of this Canada of ours. Given the proper opportunities and encouragement, thousands of hearers will be eager to come out to take their part in the development of Canada.

And so I say that in the new knowledge and understanding that has grown up out of the relations of our boys with the people of the Mother Country and have, consciously or unconsciously, changed the relations of Canada to the Old Land, and, in a wider sense, the conception of the Empire by the world at large, a new foundation has been laid for the development of our country. I may safely say that we have a new self-confidence, a new autonomy which but for the war and our part in it, we should have been years in attaining. Friendships and mutual understanding of our needs and our desires have been developed in a way that would otherwise have been impossible.

This, as I have tried to point out, we owe in the largest measure to the boys who have fought for us. Of the debt we owe to them and how we are to pay it I shall speak later. At the moment I wish to emphasize that the greatest opportunity for Canada's future has arrived—is now in our hands—and it is our grave responsibility to see that by wise and provident legislation we take advantage of it to the full not only within Canada but also abroad: within Canada in its development, enrichment and betterment; without Canada in its development in relation to the Empire and to the world at large, commercially and politically. Of the latter phase I shall have but little to say. We have the opportunity. We must develop it and its development depends in a large measure on the success of our internal expansion, which will give weight to our outside influence. Yet I desire to speak briefly of what we must attend to in our external relations. Personally I am as resolute as any Canadian in devotion to the Imperial idea, but I do believe that in the colonial idea there is danger, as well as retrogression, and safety and unity may be found only in the concession of complete national autonomy to the Dominions and in equal and independent co-operation with the United Kingdom for common objects and the common security of the imperial structure. Our status was generously assumed by the Mother Country. Canada was recognized by the other allied powers as one of the nations which should sign the Treaty of Peace. Certain honourable gentlemen could see no particular significance in the Treaty as affect-

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ing Canada and some even contended that the Dominion would be committed to grave and dangerous obligations incompatible with national autonomy and involving a costly partnership in the defence of other nations. With all due deference to the opinions of these honourable gentlemen who regarded the Treaty as of little significance to Canada, their viewpoint indicates to me a lack of foresight, of imagination, of conviction in the future of our country. I would ask these gentlemen if they think that Canada would have been asked to affix her signature if she had not participated in the war. I would ask the other honourable gentlemen if there was any compulsion, any force exerted upon Canada to enter the late war, and if not then, how much less for any future wars. I am quite convinced that the power of the Parliament of Canada is in no sense impaired. I am at one with the Hon. Mr. Doherty when he says:

If unjust aggression occurs. I have no doubt the Parliament of Canada would act on the advice of the Council of Nations, but there is nothing in the Treaty of Peace or the Covenant of the League of Nations that provides machinery for the expenditure of a single dollar or the raising of one soldier if the Parliament of Canada is unwilling.

It is true we have no direct representation on this Council, which consists of representatives of the principal allied and associated powers, Great Britain, France, the United States, Italy and Japan, together with representatives of four other members of the League, selected by the assembly from time to time, at its discretion. It is reasonable to think that Great Britain will continue to have direct representation on the Council and that so long as she does a second British representative will not be chosen. For this reason it is doubtful if any representative of the Dominions will be elected to membership, but our technical right to it is the recognition by the League of the equality of Canada with other nations. This new status which we have, I say we must retain in our relations to the world at large.

As to its effect within the Empire, I can see in our new position only a sign of greater growth—a new cohesion and unity on a basis commensurate with the size and influence of Canada. I repeat that I look for complete national autonomy and independent co-operation with the United Kingdom, but whether we are to achieve that through the theory of equal nations or organic federation, I have confidence that the genius of British statesmanship will develop the machinery necessary to ensure the security