

the trappings around and about us remind us of our great loss, and that we have no longer the Queen—a name familiar to us from childhood has been removed, and this House has, for the first time, met without a message from Her Majesty's representative. But she has given her name to a great age, and the Victorian era will never be forgotten so long as men shall speak. It has been truly said that if anything has dimmed the throne during all that long reign, it has been the brilliancy and splendour only of her own individuality. History has turned two important leaves—the Victorian era and the nineteenth century, running almost concurrently—and that worthy, that good, that beautiful life is no more. Her brilliant career is ended, but its usefulness in the British Empire and over the whole earth is felt now even as it has never been heretofore.

May we not look forward confidently in the belief that the influence of that splendid life, which has shed such lustre upon the British Empire for so many years, will continue to live in the world's memory, and from that greater height shine even more directly upon and ever exert its splendid influence over the people of the whole world.

Even in our sadness we rejoice that we have her son for our King. King Edward VII., now a man of mature years, grown into manhood under the direct personal influence of his Queen mother, we cannot but believe that he will be greatly influenced by his late mother.

He has already said that he will follow closely in her footsteps. And then too, we have still a Queen, the King's Queen, our Queen, a noble woman greatly endeared to the people of the whole empire, second only in the hearts of the nation to the late great Queen herself. Truly we are greatly blessed, and with heartfelt thankfulness we pledge our loyalty to King Edward VII.

We may hope that our relationship with foreign nations may by her death be made even more permanently satisfactory. This great sorrow brings the people of the great German Empire and the British Empire very close together. I could wish they would as between themselves agree that all differences should for all time be settled by arbitration, without force of arms, and if

to these might be added the great nation to the south of us, and possibly others also, and that together they would agree to act on the offensive or defensive, in so far as may be necessary to preserve the peace of the world, possibly the great army and the tremendous navy now found necessary to maintain the supremacy and insure peace, might be lessened and combined with each other and thereby practically ensure the peace of the world for all time to come. Reference has been made to Canadian contingents in South Africa. We are reminded that most of our men who went to South Africa have returned. We are indeed proud of the men who went there. We are glad to know that they did their full duty. Glad to know that having gone, they took their full share in hardships, in the long marches, and in the battles that were fought. We greatly regret that so many of them can never return. The severe loss of life at Paardeberg alone, where more than 10 per cent of the contingent were killed or wounded, is to be greatly regretted. But we are proud to know that there, on the veldt, side by side, Canadian Scotchman, Canadian Englishman, French Canadian, and Irish Canadian, fought for Queen and country, and this fact ought to indicate to us, and tell us in the plainest terms that Canada as a nation, made up as it is of various peoples, is still entirely Canadian, and that no questions should arise as to the loyalty of any of our people. It has also brought out the fact that the women of Canada have done a splendid work in the absence of the contingent in looking after the interests and wants of the various companies that went to the war, and the friends at home have done a noble work. Reference has also been made by the mover to that clause referring to the consolidation of the provinces of Australia. It is very gratifying to Canadians to know that Australia, divided as it has been into five colonies, I think, in the past, is about to be consolidated and become one commonwealth. I have reason to know that there will be great advantages in trading with Australia under these altered conditions. There have been great difficulties in the past because of the various colonies differing in many important respects. Each colony had its own railway system, so that