

We all remember the peace organization set up after the last war. It is a matter of deep and widespread regret that the League of Nations did not effect the purpose for which it was brought into being.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. KING: We cannot blame its failure on those who associated themselves with the organization. It failed because it lacked the support of the one great power whose head had initiated the proposal for its formation. But, apart from its failure to maintain world peace, the League of Nations did much useful work of international scope in regard to labour conditions, and control of narcotics and white slavery. No doubt that work will be continued by this new organization.

Chapter VI is devoted to the Security Council and is divided into four sections, covering composition; principal functions and powers, voting, and procedure. It is proposed that the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Republic of China, and, in due course, France, shall have permanent seats. The General Assembly is to elect six states to fill the non-permanent seats. These six states are to be elected for a term of two years, three of them retiring each year, and they will not be immediately eligible for re-election.

I may say, in order to allay the alarm felt in certain quarters, that it is not proposed that the peace of the world shall be controlled by force; but primary responsibility will rest on the Security Council to take whatever steps may be necessary to check aggressive action by any nation. It must be gratifying to the peoples of the world to know that the great Allied nations are prepared to continue their association in the post-war period, to the end that their joint efforts shall ensure international peace. A glance at the map will show that the geographical location of these great powers places them in a peculiarly advantageous position to maintain international peace and security.

In this respect we on this half of the hemisphere are very fortunately situated. We have as our immediate neighbour the United States, a major power of great military, industrial and economic strength, and enjoying high standards of living. Further removed we have the republics of South America, united in the Pan-American Union. Those republics at a recent meeting in Mexico unreservedly endorsed the proposals for the establishment of a general international organization for the main-

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tenance of international peace and security. Their representatives will attend the San Francisco conference.

For over a hundred years Canada and the United States have lived together in uninterrupted amity under the Rush-Bagot treaty, and during this war they entered into a pact for mutual defence. Canada and the United States have set an example to the whole world in the amicable settlement of disputes and misunderstandings which from time to time arise between nations. An outstanding tribunal for this purpose is the International Joint Commission, composed of members representing our two countries. That commission has resolved many difficult problems affecting the United States and Canada, and its members have contributed largely to the maintenance of friendly relations between these two great nations. This surely is an example to the world of what can be done to maintain international good will, if there is a desire for good will.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. KING: Some doubt has been expressed as to the voting powers of the General Assembly. These are dealt with in section C. I am advised that the eleven delegates, five permanent and six non-permanent, can vote on all questions before the Security Council, and that on matters of procedure there must be an affirmative vote of at least seven members.

Hon. Mr. EULER: May I ask the honourable leader a question, prefacing it in this way? I have always believed that one of the defects of the League of Nations was the absence of any power to enforce a decision. Apparently that power is now to be created. This is my question. Can that power be exercised against all the constituent nations of this proposed international organization, or is an exception made in respect of the five great powers?

Hon. Mr. KING: I had intended to deal with that when discussing the powers of the organization. If there should fail to be unity among the five Great Powers, the Security Council, exercising its voting strength, could intimate its policy to the Assembly, and the question of the commitments to be made by the Assembly would be decided. The decision might be for war or it might be against war.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I do not like to interrupt the honourable leader, but from what I have heard and read I am under the impression that if a dispute should arise which would affect one of the Great Powers, no action could be taken against that power.