

and Russia will develop a keen national interest in foreign politics. There will be a tendency to increase the power of our foreign representatives so that our commercial and political intercourse may take place through more direct and less complicated channels. It will be conceded, I think, that Canada should have her own accredited representatives in France, Italy, Russia and the United States, and should begin the development of a consular and even diplomatic service of her own. The participation of Canada in the war will have given her a position in the eyes of foreign countries which she should maintain.

It is certain that there will be a great movement westwards of European people. The intensive cultivation of Europe and the density of her population are only possible because of vast accumulated capital. The war will have destroyed much of this accumulated capital and great numbers of people unable to find the capital necessary for European cultivation and life will turn to the natural wealth and unclaimed capital of Canada. This process will be assisted by the destruction of family and business ties and the adventuresomeness and restlessness resulting from long military service.

I believe that after the war Canada will enter upon a great period of expansion and of material prosperity. But we will be untrue to ourselves if we do not jealously guard our precious heritage. We should carefully control the character of our immigration and we should adopt such laws of conservation as will, while encouraging legitimate development, prevent wanton exploitation of natural wealth. For men like yourselves who have been prepared to pay the extreme price for national honour and existence, there will be, I think, an intense seriousness in the consideration of these two problems, and we will not lightly fall into the detestable crime of placing material considerations and the desire for rapid wealth before a sane and wholesome, though perhaps less accelerated, national development.

In short, Canada having taken her place among the nations of the world must necessarily acquire a foreign policy — and in many respects her situation and her racial composition will facilitate the establishment of valuable associations. In a very special degree her attitude to and relations with the United States may have a profound influence upon human progress in general and British civilization in particular. I think Canada has won in the eyes of America a most honourable position. We shall hear less from cock-sure but well meaning Americans of Canada's inevitable absorption into the republican states.