

entirety, but they cover the whole situation and I am dealing only with a certain aspect of it. The opinions expressed by Mr. Ewart I commend to the attention of many hon. gentlemen sitting opposite, for they may cause the minds of those hon. gentlemen to be fixed not on imaginary ideals, but on ordinary, simple, even if rigid, realities.

"By means of the most cleverly conceived artifice," says this writer, are the imperialists putting their policy to the front; and he is right in his views as well as in the way he expresses them. Had there been no "artifice," the Government would have put before the people of Canada every paper or letter which has been interchanged between the various parties to the Treaty and themselves. We are called upon to approve of all that has taken place and what have we got before us? The Treaty and the answer to Germany's representations; what are those German representations, it might be very interesting to know. They have been made in no private document; they should be available to the people of this country as they have been available to those who have represented Canada at the Conference. The Prime Minister also says that jointly with his colleagues he has submitted certain views, but they are in the form of a "private document," they cannot be made public. The people of Canada are deprived of the opportunity to know what were the opinions expressed by our representatives and contained in the famous "private document." How many other documents, letters or written representations are hidden? Our own diplomats only know. Let their intimate thoughts remain secret, and let us draw our conclusions that possibly they are part of the "cleverly conceived artifice" which imperialists know how to use.

Sir, a few words more and I have concluded. To sum up: I believe that since the Treaty of Peace has been submitted to us for approval, although it will seem extraordinary for a colony to have anything to do with it, I accept the compliment paid to Canada by other countries that henceforth they recognize Canada as a nation. We say we are not a nation, others contend that we are. We all want to be; therefore there would be nothing to gain in refusing to approve of this Treaty under reserve of rights and privileges guaranteed the Canadian people by the British North America Act.

For these reasons, Sir, I am pleased to vote for the amendment presented by the member for Shelburne and Queen's.

Mr. O. TURGEON (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, in rising to address the House on this very important question, the most important that has ever come before the Parliament of Canada, I assure you that I do so at this late hour only because I am moved by a sense of duty to my constituents. I shall endeavour to abridge the remarks which I had intended to make on the subject. It is not my intention to deal with this question from the standpoint of politics. The President of the United States, at the beginning of an address which he made to his people, asked them to forget for the moment that they were either Republicans or Democrats. I feel that on this occasion I should forget whether I am a Liberal or a Conservative. I believe that we should deal with this matter purely from the standpoint of a desire to preserve that democracy for which our men so nobly fought and died on the fields of France and Flanders.

I wish to approach this question simply as a Canadian, living, as I do, under a constitution which is dear and sacred to my heart—a constitution permanent in its character, but which carries within it the ways and means of making any change which in the development of our country may be necessary in connection with the relations existing between Canada and the rest of the British Empire or, indeed, between Canada and any of the other nations of the world.

For over fifty years we have been living under a constitution which has made Canada an integral part of the great British Empire. The privileges which we have enjoyed under that constitution have instilled into us feelings of loyalty and affection for the Motherland and for the Empire—feelings which have been exemplified in the voluntary sacrifices which we have been willing to make in time of stress. The same feeling of loyalty and affection prevails among all the component parts of the Empire. Inspired not by a desire for power and supremacy, but by a feeling of fellowship and love for our people across the seas, we are numbered among those million of subjects who, under a common flag and in a common allegiance, live under the smile of Providence.

The nations of the world, which, since the creation, had been admiring with amazement the movements of the heavenly bodies