

Hon. WILLIAM PROUDFOOT rose to move that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament. He said:

Honourable gentlemen, in rising to move that a vote of thanks be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I wish first of all to thank the honourable the leader of the Government for the honour he has done me in selecting me to make this motion. As a newcomer to this Chamber I feel it an especial mark of confidence, in that I have not had the pleasure of participating in the many and important measures which have been before the present Government during its term of office, and many of which must be amplified and developed during the present session. It is an especial honour too, in that the present is, I am quite convinced, one of the most crucial times in the history of our country and to a marked degree Canada's future will stand upon what we build now. The way is open for a Canada such as before the war we but dreamed of. Honourable gentlemen may not agree with that statement, yet it is true. When they consider they will find that we take for granted what before the war we aspired to from different points of view, but, I venture to say, with conviction on the part of none that the end would be achieved without years of gradual national and constitutional development.

His Excellency refers to the ratification of the Peace Treaty with Germany and to the treaties with other belligerent nations which are to be brought before the House for approval. The first meeting of the International Labour Conference has been held, and, as His Excellency points out, Canada has been selected as one of the twelve Governments whose countries are entitled to representation in the governing body of the International Labour Office. Look at the Empire how you will; decide for yourselves what should be the constitutional organization for the Empire: there is not the slightest question that Canada will occupy in the Imperial Conference, to meet this year, a position that but for the war she could not have occupied.

We can thank our gallant soldiers for this in a large measure. From the moment that our first contingent set foot in England an indefinite change took place. It was just a matter of getting better acquainted, an opportunity which had been denied to the masses of the people on both sides of the

Atlantic. The second battle of Ypres, when the Germans first used gas, when our gallant lads stepped into the breach from Gravenstafle to St. Julien and stopped the savage horde which would have swept through Ypres to the sea, cemented the change. Our battered first division, when it emerged from that conflict, found that in the hearts of the people of Great Britain each and every one of them was a hero. The reception of the wounded in England was touching. These boys' mothers and sisters were too far away to tend to them, but self-constituted foster mothers and sisters were ever ready to do their utmost for their kin by blood and by tradition. And so the mutual knowledge and affection grew as our first thirty thousand was followed by many other tens of thousands. When on leave or in hospital, they came into touch with the people and made friends in, I venture to say, practically every city and town in England, Scotland and Ireland. When they did not themselves become acquainted with the people, some English Tommy, or Scottish kiltie, or Irish fusilier, came home and talked of his Canadian pal. I have been told on good authority that when British Tommy and Canadian or Australian Tommy met, the salutation was, "Well, mate, how goes it?" The term "colonial" was forgotten—and how many of us were unconsciously annoyed by that term in pre-war days. Think of the attitude of even the Prince of Wales on his visit to Canada. To other people he was a guest and a prince, even if no retinue of courtiers stood between. To the veterans he was one of themselves. I am told—and I mention it to show how our army impressed even the enemy—that the Germans in a quiet part of the front, when the lines were close together, have been known to call out: "What are you fellows, British or Canadian?"

And in another way too, thanks to our gallant lads, the way is open. The greater proportion of those who are fit and well are back in their homes, scattered from coast to coast, and either settled or in the way of settling down, but with a different prospect and a wider outlook. It is wonderful to think that 400,000 and more of the best of our young blood have been in the Old Land and had an opportunity of studying its ways and conditions. Nine out of every ten of these men have grown in ambition and in confidence in the possibilities of their country. What a great educational factor this is, and what a spirit it is for us to encourage, to foster and to help!

And again, what a stimulus to immigration! England has in a measure educated