

circles in this city, and quickly traverse the whole country! And suppose further that to-morrow morning it were to be announced that these leaders had come to a decision to lay aside for the moment all their war paint, all their implements of party offence and defence, all their subtle plans for party scrimmages and campaigns, and that all the members of Parliament would be asked to meet for the next four, five, six or more weeks in committee of the whole and devote themselves to an unbiased consideration of concrete proposals designed to cope with the knotty questions with which we are faced. I imagine that such an announcement would be greeted throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion with a loud paean of praise, an expression of national satisfaction that the solution of the present grave and menacing problems would no longer be delayed for months by parliamentary contests with respect to mere theories and to the personalities and incidents that are commonly associated with party politics. That indicates my view of the spirit which should animate Parliament when great crises arise.

I am proud to see that optimism prevails throughout the Dominion. I do not think that the spirit of Canada has been broken or nearly broken by the grave situation which has existed for some time and which seems likely to continue, to a greater or less extent, for an indefinite period. It is true that there is some pessimism in some quarters, but I think I am right in saying that on the whole a reasoned optimism is decidedly uppermost.

In order to deal effectively with these problems it seems to me that the first thing we need to do is to try to apprehend the causes for the present situation. The first duty of a doctor in attending a patient is to diagnose the case, and the subsequent success or failure of the treatment depends greatly upon whether the diagnosis is accurate or not. And in our national affairs we need to understand what has brought about the present condition, and what is responsible for the prospect of a continuation of that condition.

If we examine into these causes we find that paramount amongst them, absolutely basic, are the effects of the old methods of applying war to the settlement of international disputes. That is a fact which ought not to be ignored in the attempt to arrive at an explanation of our difficulties. We should impress upon the present and future generations the necessity of ever keeping in mind the evil effects that have flowed from the Great War, and do our utmost to make sure that the citizens of

Canada in the years to come will enroll themselves in the army of active opponents to war and supporters of international peace. At the basis of the smallest individual burden as well as of the greatest of world problems will be found some after effects of the last great conflict between the nations. Let us, therefore, enroll as defenders and supporters of the great organisation which has brought about whatever co-operation, goodwill and international confidence exist at the present time. Undoubtedly it will be a long time before the ideal is attained, but step by step, march by march, year by year, over larger and larger areas of private sentiment and conviction, and of public morale and world faith, there are advancing the forces that will make war impossible in the future and will ultimately establish permanent peace among the nations.

I am not one of those, nor do I think there are within the range of my voice any of those, who feel that Canada is down and out. There is no reason why we should lose courage and initiative and hope. We who take this stand do so because of our faith in Canada and Canadian people, a faith that is based upon a knowledge of what has happened in the past, as well as some understanding of the present and the prospect for the future. In the solution of our difficulties there need be no excuse of sectional differences, for in this matter what affects one part of the country affects us all. If an eruption broke out on my arm, would I say: "Arm, heal thyself. This is something which does not concern the rest of my body"? No. Every section of my anatomy would be affected, and would suffer so long as the cure were postponed. So it is with Canada. If one section of our country is suffering more severely than others from economic ills, we are not justified in demanding that the rest should stand aside while the most seriously afflicted portion is attempting to heal itself. Canada is an entity, whole and integral. The East cannot ignore the hurt of the West, and vice versa. I am heartily in accord with the sentiment that has been expressed here in the last day or two, that we stand as a united country. He would be a daring man who would preach sectionalism in any part of Canada to-day. Experience and observation teach us that as a nation we possess great resources.

After all, there is only one of our enterprises that has really been hit hard. Perhaps depressions will come and go in the future as in the past, but I think it cannot be denied that in comparison with other countries the

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