

size of this country and the distances that one has to travel, unfortunately sometimes make it impossible to be where one would wish to be.

In the Speech from the Throne we are asked to deal with the Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany, signed at Versailles on June 28, 1919. The mover and the seconder of the Address have spoken in very favourable terms of the arrangement that has been made under this Treaty. The Treaty is a very complicated one, and there is no doubt that the work to be performed by the representatives of the various countries was very onerous and troublesome. This is not only a treaty of peace with Germany, but also includes the Treaty of the League of Nations. That part of the Treaty is probably the most important to us in Canada, because it deals with the position of Canada amongst the countries of the world.

When the war commenced the people of Canada were of one mind in their desire to do all they could to assist Great Britain in the fight that she was making for liberty and freedom against German barbarism and militarism. We went into the war voluntarily; there was no compulsion; and we went into it to the fullest extent within our power. But under this Treaty we are asked to bind ourselves to a certain course of action. Unfortunately I am now speaking before the representative of the Government in this House has spoken; and so far we have not had any explanation of the position of Canada under the terms of the Treaty of the League of Nations. The impression exists in the minds of a large number of people that we are assembled here to-day for the purpose of approving of this Treaty; some people have said to me that we were meeting for the purpose of ratifying it. I should like to read to the House the words used by Mr. Lloyd George in the English House of Commons when he was asking for the approval of that House to the Treaty. At the commencement of his speech he said:

I have to lay on the table of the House, and to ask the leave of the House, to introduce two Bills to enforce the most momentous document to which the British Empire has ever affixed its seal. There are two Bills which I shall have to ask the leave of the House to introduce. It is unnecessary to obtain the ratification of Parliament to a treaty, except in one or two particulars. The ratification is for the Crown, but there are certain provisions in the Treaty of Peace, signed last Saturday, which it is necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament in order to enforce. Therefore I propose to ask leave to introduce a Bill in the usual form to enable His

Majesty to make such appointments, establish such offices, make such Orders in Council and do such things as appear to him to be necessary for carrying out the said Treaty, and for giving effect to any of the provisions of the said Treaty. That is the usual form, I believe, in which measures of this kind have hitherto been couched. It is also necessary to have an Act of Parliament in order to obtain the sanction of Parliament to the Convention between His Majesty and the President of the French Republic.

That makes it very clear that all we are asked to do is to approve of the Treaty; that the ratification is in the hands of the Crown, and that the Crown alone can ratify it for the whole of the British Empire. Therefore we have to consider our position under the Treaty of the League of Nations.

Canada is a member of the Assembly, and as such will have one vote in the Assembly. The Council of the League of Nations will consist of representatives of the five principal Allied and Associated Powers, as mentioned in the treaty, and representatives of four other Powers which at the present time have been named—Belgium, Brazil, Spain, and Greece. Those nine representatives will form the Council of the League of Nations; and the only way by which Canada could be directly represented in the Council of the League of Nations would be if the Assembly, consisting of twenty-seven members besides the five principal Allied and Associated Powers, were to elect a representative of Canada as a member of the Council. In my opinion, the chances of that happening are somewhat remote, because the natural feeling of the other members of the League of Nations would be that, inasmuch as the British Empire was represented at the Council, Canada or the other members of the League of Nations who are part of the British Empire would be over-represented if they were to have a representative on the Council. That being so, we shall probably be put in the position of being a member of the Assembly, but shall have a very remote chance of having a representative on the Council, which will be responsible for directing the policy of the League of Nations. Once we have approved of this Treaty of the League of Nations we shall be bound by the terms of the Treaty to provide our quota in case it becomes necessary for the League of Nations to enforce its orders or resolutions upon any of the members of the League, or upon other countries who are not members of the League. As I understand the Treaty, it will be decided as to exactly what quota Canada and the other nations are to provide.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: In men and money.