

We have remained united and firm in this gigantic struggle. Mr. Speaker, our men of the Royal Canadian Navy and of the Canadian Merchant Marine were the first to take part in the battle. I wish to pay tribute here to the valour of those brave sailors, heroes of the first phase of the battle of the Atlantic, who did not hesitate to man their inadequately equipped ships in order to bring supplies to the last bulwark of democracy and of civilization. Their courage has never faltered and their contribution to final victory was of an inestimable value.

Mr. Speaker, I take the liberty to digress for a moment. I wish to emphasize the praiseworthy work done by our first minister of Naval Services, the Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, which was zealously continued by his worthy successor, the Hon. D. C. Abbott. From a few obsolete units at the outbreak of the war, our navy has developed, in less than six years, into a powerful fighting force. It is easy to visualize the arduous work which this task must have imposed upon those two ministers.

Our brave soldiers and airmen followed closely our sailors in the struggle and they brought great credit to our country on the battlefields and in the skies of Europe. Nor must we overlook the patriotism of the Canadian women in the various auxiliary services who so ably supported our armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, in these opening days of a new era of peace, we must say a grateful prayer for all those brave sons of Canada who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country.

It is the custom in all the countries of the world to erect monuments to the memory of those who have died on the battlefields. To that end, we attempt to carve in stone a symbol which will remind future generations of the ideals and greatness of those who have gone before.

I congratulate the government for wishing to commemorate in this manner the memory of our dead, for this memorial will express the nation's everlasting gratitude. To my mind, however, we will raise the most beautiful memorial to our gallant men by giving a practical expression to the ideal for which they fell. A more symbolic or lasting monument we can never build.

Mr. Speaker, when our sons fought with such courage and sacrificed so much, it was to give the world a lasting peace, peace among the various nations which people the universe and peace within each of these nations. How can our country participate in winning this peace? In the international sphere, it is our duty to promote understanding and co-operation among freedom-loving nations, since

liberty is the basis of our democratic civilization. Our sons fought to restore to the world its lost freedom, and plain logic demands that we share in the protection of this privilege. Our country has already made great strides in that direction at the San Francisco peace conference, whose decisions will be submitted to the approval of the house. At this point, I wish to express the admiration Canada feels for her representatives at this memorable Conference and particularly for the head of our delegation who represented us with such distinction. From the aforementioned article, I quote Mr. Stanley High's opinion on the matter:

Canada has heretofore been classed as one of the small nations. Under King's leadership, it has emerged from that category. Representing a people conscious of their increased unity and strength, Mackenzie King, at the San Francisco Conference, made Canada leader and spokesman for "The Middle Powers".

I express the wish that our country will pursue this path and make itself heard just as eloquently in future international meetings.

We must insist on being kept informed of all decisions of international import taken by major or minor powers. We must press for front rank recognition and specify this as a *sine qua non* condition of our fellowship with other nations. This right we have acquired by the loss of thousands of young Canadian lives and by our country's magnificent war effort.

Mr. Speaker, the principles of liberty which form the basis of a lasting world peace apply just as well in our own country. We must keep in mind that Providence has entrusted two great races with the mission of moulding the Canadian nation in this land of America, and every Canadian should deem it his duty to help bring about the success of this mission. Our present Prime Minister has, on various occasions, shown more skill and firmness than any other Canadian in effecting the unity of the two races. Among his numerous achievements, I feel convinced that history will consider this accomplishment the most outstanding and most characteristic of his long political career. Our national unity has just survived its most severe assault during the war years, and we must preserve it, for twice in a quarter of a century our sons have sealed it with their blood.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this solemn unity will soon be symbolized by a Canadian flag and an official national anthem. The speech from the throne informs us that this house will be called upon to consider the first of those two projects. Let us hope that the second will follow very soon.