

no assurance that America, if not Europe, might not have unpleasant quarrels with Japan.

So as to pave the way for that international peace, section VIII is aiming at the reduction of armaments. Such a scheme suits me very well, provided I am given the assurance that wars shall henceforth be bygones. However, that is so uncertain that, although the idea of extravagant armaments is repugnant to me, I cannot help crying out: "Let us be prepared for whatever may come." The saying is "forewarned is forearmed." May it be also true in the case of nations. Let the sad experience gained during the first year of this universal war be conducive to other results than the laying out of the foundation of a ridiculous Utopia: the dawn of that everlasting era when war shall forever lose its sway.

There is a last topic which I intend to broach. Will the conclusion of peace and the establishment of a League of Nations bring any changes in our relations with the United Kingdom? In 1897 Sir Wilfrid Laurier said in Edinburgh:

"A time will come when the relations between the colonies and the Mother Country can no longer remain as they are; they will either be severed or drawn closer. The solution of this dilemma rests with England, Scotland and Ireland, for the colonies will always be disposed to maintain filial ties as long as England will uphold them."

Has that time come? Must we anticipate change in the near future? The present is uncertain and the future will be able to tell us. Nevertheless, true it is that the war has brought a complete transformation of the map, an upheaval of trade and of all the powers in the world, barring none. Will the swerving of nations from their former course, will the new spirit instilled by the war be felt in Canada as elsewhere?

This query will puzzle many politicians, many Canadian statesmen. In alluding to this, I am not in the least inclined to raise a discussion which would bring about a practical settlement just now. The problem will be thrust upon us and time will undoubtedly set it on its proper ground. Our relations with Great Britain, as with the different colonies forming part of the Empire, were always most satisfactory; the cause of the one has always been the cause of the others and we may say without fear of contradiction that because of those common ideals the same patriotic spirit has prevailed throughout the Empire. We have

[Mr. Mackie.]

approved and we still desire to maintain the same state of things, but we will not allow our integrity to be attacked, when we in Canada have enjoyed for the last seventy-five years the rights and privileges of a quasi independent state.

As far as Canada is concerned, one of the results of the war is that, on account of our participation in the struggle and of the part we have played in the council of nations in order to lay the foundation of peace, instead of being a mere dependency or colony in the face of the world, we have virtually been acknowledged ipso facto as a free nation. Having signed the Treaty of Peace, Canada has incurred responsibilities, and the fact of being assembled here in order to approve or condemn the terms of the Treaty in question is the undeniable proof of the status we have gained among the future nations of the earth. Present times bring responsibilities to Canada, as to the other, shall I say colonies, towards the Mother Country, on account of their being an integral part of the Empire. These responsibilities bind us to England by ties closer and closer inasmuch as we are called upon to follow its policy of reconstruction and adopt its standard of international magnanimity. Because we are to play a part identical with that of England, have we to adopt a policy which would embroil us in the old-time quarrels of European countries.

Or again, while accepting the responsibilities and obligations imposed by our new status, shall we be in a position to better co-operate with the other countries toward solving the numerous and intricate problems that will from time to time arise? Can we play that new part without impairing our constitutional privileges, and avoid being drawn into bloody and disastrous wars, by the force of events or circumstances without having been consulted by the contracting parties? I for one shall always hesitate to give my approval to any measure that might modify our actual relation to the Mother Country. The parting of Canada from the British Empire is as distasteful to my mind as a policy of irrational imperialism. I am a Canadian and such I wish to remain, though always a loyal British subject. "All that is national is ours" used to say the Duke of Orleans. All that is Canadian is ours. That is what we want, and that is yet the safest way to continue to be loyal British subjects.

Accept, Mr. Speaker, the assurance of my complete approval of the principles of the national and international policy expressed in the speech from the Throne.