

*San Francisco Conference*

judged not by what they say but by what they do. Assembled there will be men and women of every race, every creed and every colour. In such a conference all distinctions of that type will be sunk; and if we are to maintain the peace of the world in years to come, the sinking of all such distinctions in that conference must be followed by the sinking of racial discrimination in all countries which may be described as the peace-loving nations of the world.

The problem, then, before the conference will be to lay the foundations on which the creative forces of mankind may build human betterment in a world of peace and security. We must not allow the nations to drift apart as they did following the Versailles conference of 1919 when the league of nations was formed. This time we dare not drift, lest we drift again on the rocks of war, a war which will be more terrible than any war the world has ever known. Some who sit in this house and among all parties have seen the devastation of the blitz. We have seen or heard the flying bomb. We have heard the heavy explosions caused by the still more terrible rocket projectile. We know, and we must convey to our people that knowledge, that these new instruments are only in their infancy, and that unless we lay foundations for an enduring peace these terrible engines of war may devastate not only cities but whole nations of the earth, including even our own country. Canada, which seems so remote from the possibility of attack—protected, as we thought she was, by great oceans on three sides and a friendly and powerful neighbour to our south—can no longer be regarded as immune from attack. But the security which we seek cannot be assured only by the setting up of an organization empowered to adjudicate justice and enforce international law. More, much more than that is required. People everywhere are still obsessed by the twin fears of war and unemployment, these fears which have bred the dictators, these fears which promoted the power of Mussolini and of Hitler. The San Francisco conference will deal to some extent, as the Prime Minister indicated this afternoon, with the economic proposals laid down in a part of the Dumbarton Oaks agreement. These—and I am glad he noted it—are distinct from the monetary proposals of Bretton Woods, which must be carefully reviewed later by this parliament before we give our approval to those monetary and financial proposals. At the moment the Bretton Woods proposals do not enter into the consideration of the conference at San Francisco, and therefore

[Mr. Coldwell.]

I am not going to discuss that matter. But no system of security can be successful if it ignores either of the twin fears to which I have referred.

Primarily, of course, San Francisco will turn its attention to the problem of outlawing war. That will be indeed the primary purpose of the conference. But we must not forget the twin fears which are involved in a consideration of the relationships between the nations. We should not forget the Dumbarton Oaks agreement, which will and must form the basis of the discussion at San Francisco, gives some attention, although not as much as I would have liked to see, to the economic problems of the world. The fact that these economic problems will be discussed by the economic council which, under the agreement, is directly under the control of the general assembly of nations, will give that assembly a considerable measure of general control over the economic problems of the world. In other words, there will be opportunities for the discussion of the international planning of trade relationships and commerce.

This is a proposal that Canada should welcome, because we are deeply concerned not only with the prevention of war in the realm of military affairs but with trading relationships in the post-war world. We shall be living in a false paradise if we think that, after a comparatively brief period of reconstruction and rehabilitation, the world can return to tariffs, quotas, and exchange manipulation and remain either prosperous or at peace. Canada, I believe, has in 1944 become the second among the united nations in the volume of her exports. At the moment this does not cause us any concern; but when the war is over and the period of rehabilitation has ended, the maintenance of our exports will depend upon—what? Upon our willingness to import goods in payment for most of the commodities we export.

Indeed, in the kind of world that one foresees, it is only on such a basis that we can maintain and improve our standards of living. Let us not forget that in this conference Great Britain has to adopt a different position, because of her economic standing, from that which perhaps she could afford to adopt before this war began. The old idea that a nation prospers according to the volume it exports, without regard to the volume of imports, is surely fallacious. Our standards of life, as in other countries of the world, will depend upon the amount of goods and services our people can enjoy.