

tion of the hon. member for Kingston, Mr. Nickle, whose fine qualities, high position in this House and devotion to duty are well known to us all. Mr. Nickle came to me and discussed his resignation after it had been placed in the hands of the Speaker. He announced to me no such reasons as those which my hon. friend has conjectured, and which are the outcome of his all too vivid imagination. If my hon. friend would confine himself more to facts and rely less upon his imagination he would be of more service to us in this House.

If I could be induced—I do not think I could be, but if I could for one moment be induced—to follow the example of the leader of the Opposition and give rein to my imagination, I would rather suggest this, that although Mr. Nickle knew that he had important duties to discharge as a member of Parliament and that such responsibilities ought not lightly be thrown aside, nevertheless his confidence in the Government was so strong that he really thought that his presence here was not needed any longer. That is the real explanation which should be accepted if any hon. gentleman in this House desires to trust to his imagination.

Mr. McMASTER: That requires real gifts of imagination.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Nothing at all in comparison with those which my hon. friend's leader exercised in the speech he addressed to the House.

Mr. BUREAU: That puts my hon. friend's leader in the shade.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not recall anything else in the address of my hon. friend to which I should direct my attention. The conditions with which we are to deal at this session are more especially those that relate to the bringing about of the peace of the world. It is, I think, highly desirable that peace should be announced between four of the nations of the world at the earliest opportunity. No doubt the ratification, if it is accomplished, will very soon be followed by the ratification of the other allied nations. But when peace is once established, when this treaty is once ratified we in this country have still a great task before us. The task, after peace has been established, will be no less difficult than that which confronted us during the war. We have our different ideals, we have our different views of public questions and out of this conflict of ideals and out

[Sir Robert Borden.]

of the discussion of public questions will be evolved in the end some policy which we hope will be in the best interests of the country. If we maintain in Canada the same spirit of resolve, the same spirit of unity, the same purpose and endeavour in the development of the resources of this country as that which sustained our men at the front, and sustained the population at home as well, I am perfectly confident, heavy as our burdens are, that we can face them with a firm heart. To strive as best we can for the interests of our country is the purpose which every one of us should keep before him. We have divergent views, and that purpose may incline us along separate lines, but I hope regard for the real interests of the country will be the overmastering consideration that will animate all of us.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR (Antigonish and Guysborough): I desire to join with the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition in congratulating the mover and seconder of the Address. Both gentlemen performed the duty allotted to them with credit to themselves and with satisfaction to members on both sides. The hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Whidden) comes from the constituency which I have the honour to represent, and it will be a pleasure for me to tell his old friends and neighbours that his abilities and personal worth are being recognized by the Government and by his fellow members in this House.

The visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada was very well timed. He has had a most cordial reception everywhere, and I have no doubt that his visit will tend to deepen the devotion and affection of the Canadian people for His Royal Highness, as well as for the illustrious house that he represents.

The present session, we are told, has been called for the purpose of dealing with the Peace Treaty. We all recognize the importance of that document. We also recognize that the Treaty has already been ratified by the only Parliament in the world whose ratification counts for anything, and that anything we can do in the Canadian Parliament with respect to it will be largely of a sentimental character.

We must not forget that many domestic questions are pressing for attention from the Government of this country. The speech from the Throne expressed the hope that the session would be short, but, Mr. Speaker, why should the session be short if by remaining here and attending to business we can honestly earn our indemnity and at the same time do something to re-