

those who are younger. Let all old and young join hands in what is truly a sacred union.

Then it comes to my mind at this moment that the Greek history tells us that in the great celebrations, in Athens, was to be seen a procession of a truly imposing nature. It was the filing past of the old men ahead of those of the younger generation, the old men, bending towards the grave, chanting words like these: "We are the fathers of the nation, the hour of our departure is near, we disappear and you will follow us." And after the old men had marched past the forum, the younger one appeared and these were singing: "We come after you and our supreme duty shall be to march in your footsteps."

A moment ago, the honourable minister was recalling to us the immense task accomplished by the Fathers of the Confederation, at a time when the future was not very bright before them. Well, we can repeat after him as after the Fathers of the Confederation: "We are your descendants and we will follow in your footsteps, in order that Canada towards which are turned the eyes of the world, be a happy country, united in harmony and prosperity."

Motion (Sir George Foster) agreed to.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

MR. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I congratulate you that after an enforced absence of four years, it is possible for you to assemble in your new legislative home, resting in trustful security upon the old foundations and surrounded by the picturesque and historic setting of Parliament Hill. Though not entirely completed, its noble proportions, its wide and convenient spaces, its beauty of design and chasteness of finish and its unique local situation mark it as a most striking and dignified structure, worthy of the people whose national life it will henceforth serve.

Since the last Session of Parliament events of importance have taken place which have brought appreciably nearer the much desired settlements of peace. Following the exchange of the final ratifications, the Treaty of Peace between the Allied Powers and Germany has been brought into full force and effect and has rendered possible the constitution of the League of Nations and the establishment by it of the various Commissions and mandatories

[Mr. Bédard.]

authorized by the Treaty to be carried out under its direction. It is satisfactory to note that the status of Canada as a member of the League has thus been definitely fixed.

The Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria has been concluded and will be submitted for your approval. Negotiations for the conclusion of Treaties of Peace with Hungary and Turkey are now well advanced and, if concluded in time, will be laid before you during the present Session of Parliament.

The first meeting of the International Labour Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Peace, was held in Washington in October and November of last year and was attended by representatives of my Government and of the Canadian employers' and employees' organizations. It will be gratifying to learn that Canada was selected as one of the twelve Governments whose countries are entitled to representation on the governing body of the International Labour Office.

When the remaining Treaties shall have been concluded and the functions of the League of Nations and the various tribunals authorized thereby become fully operative, it is confidently hoped that the end will have been reached of the confusion and uncertainty consequent upon the long and regrettable delay in bringing into operation the provisions of the Treaty and an effective beginning made in the improvement of national conditions and the adjustment of international relations which will ensure the continued blessings of peace.

The forces which Canada contributed to the war have now nearly all been returned and mostly demobilized and the great majority have resumed their avocations and again become active and important factors in civil life.

The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board continue to provide vocational training and opportunities for permanent occupation which greatly aid in the solution of the problem of readjustment, whilst the work of the Labour Employment Bureaus and the helpful service of the Canadian Patriotic Association in administering the emergency fund provided by Parliament, have materially assisted in solving the problem of temporary non-employment.

In the European economic field clear vision is still impossible and the unsettled state of Exchange, the lack of International Credits, and the inflation of paper currency, combined with the scarcity of raw materials and the demoralization of labour and transport conditions, combine to retard production and to restrict the exchange of products necessary for the proper sustenance of life and the rebuilding of the waste and destruction caused by the great war. From every quarter of the world is being impressed, often by severe privation and suffering, the one great lesson that increased production through increased work, combined with thrift and economy in individual and state, is the only sure hope of business improvement and future prosperity.

After four years of war and a year and three months of confusion and dislocation which has succeeded thereto, it is satisfactory to know that business in Canada has been well maintained, that production has been large and that general conditions are on the whole satisfactory. It is cause for thankfulness that of all countries affected by the war, Canada has maintained a record of social