

through one of the most terrible periods, if not the most terrible, in all its history. There is world-wide disorganization of business and of trade, and much agitation of society. If there ever was a time when it was necessary that the Government, or Parliament and the people, should maintain steadiness, it is now. It is a time for wise, sane, and cool action. The country has done so well during the war that to my mind it is the best earnest for what we shall do to meet present conditions and the future, whatever it may hold for us. Personally, I have the greatest confidence in the resources of this country, and in the intelligence and enterprise of its people. I feel satisfied that Canada's position will be assured, and that when the war is officially at an end, and when trade resumes its natural channels, this country will go forward with a greater impetus than ever before. We have the natural resources—Canada is one of the greatest countries in the world in that respect—we have just laws, and I am satisfied that no matter what happens to other parts of the world—and I am sure we are all looking forward to the restoration and permanence of peace—no matter what happens elsewhere, I am satisfied that everything will go well with Canada.

With regard to the League of Nations, which has been so much discussed and is now almost an accomplished fact, I have this to say—that I think it feasible; but there must be more on the part of the peoples of the world than the aspirations for peace. Permanent peace in this world will depend upon the attitude of the peoples of the world towards each other, towards life and towards civilization. In the last analysis permanent peace must rest upon an ethical basis. In the meantime, that the peace of the world may be restored and may be maintained, it seems to me that there must be the sanction of force, actual or potential, in order that the decrees and decisions of the powers who are parties to the league may be enforced, and all nations must in that connection realize their duties, obligations, and responsibilities.

My hon. friend (Mr. McKenzie) has spoken about the political situation, and he has welcomed back some hon. gentlemen upon this side of the House, telling them that the light is in the window and the door upon the latch. Well, I am inclined to think, Mr. Speaker, that the members of this House, like the people of this country, are not thinking very much about party politics at this time. The problems that we have to face are so vast,

[Sir Thomas White.]

so complicated and so important, that matters that used to be of interest to us now take a secondary place. When the ship of state, after this world tempest through which it has passed, is equipped and refitted, and sails once again into smooth seas with the prospects of favouring winds and a prosperous voyage, it will be time enough to consider the old party conditions that used to engage our attention to so great an extent. This war, Mr. Speaker, has almost destroyed civilization. What we need in this country to-day is a spirit that seeks not the individual or the sectional gain, but the welfare of the country as a whole. With that spirit in Canada I feel that this country, with its resources, and with the intelligence and patriotism which it possesses, can meet with faith and with confidence whatever vicissitudes the future may hold in store for us.

Mr. A. R. McMASTER (Brome): Mr. Speaker, when a death occurs in a family the sympathy of friends is always precious, and to the Liberal family sitting on this side of the House the sympathy extended by our friends, irrespective of party allegiance, is a very dear and precious thing, and I wish on behalf of hon. gentlemen sitting to your left, Sir, to tender my sincere and hearty thanks.

To the eloquent eulogy to the work done in the field by our Canadian army offered by the leader of His Majesty's Government, I say, Amen and Amen, but may I be allowed to add something else. There is another side, alas, to the medal: during the last four years we have often thought of John Bright's great saying, when, speaking in regard to the Crimean War he said:

The Angel of Death is abroad in the land. One can almost hear the beating of His wings.

To the members of this House, and to the men outside the House—aye, and the women too—who have lost their dear ones, I think it is only proper that the representatives of the people at large should give their humble, their hearty, their sympathetic condolence, and the prayer that the Comforter of all will comfort them in their grief.

I was delighted to hear, Mr. Speaker, the adherence of the leader of the Government to the plan of a League of Nations, because I believe that without a League of Nations, without some international organization for the enforcing of peace, we are likely to have a recurrence of war. I agree with him when he says that the immediate cause of this conflict was the boundless ambition of the German empire and its military caste, and