

members of the Senate, and also recalling to my mind that in September, 1917, we had a very heated debate in which reflections were made upon his loyalty to the policy which Canada had adopted in connection with the war. Naturally he desired, upon retiring from this Chamber, that he and ourselves should continue to have a favourable remembrance of his presence with us, and that I should correct a charge which I made at that time regarding his attitude on the Military Service Act. In his letter he has assured me of his loyalty to Canadian institutions, and particularly to Canada's part in the war, and of my entirely mistaking his sentiments on that question. I am very glad to accept the statements which the honourable gentleman has made with reference to the debate to which he refers, and to express my regret if I wrongly construed the sentiments which he expressed upon that occasion. I should be very sorry indeed to give any pain or distress to the honourable gentleman, for whom I have always entertained the highest respect, and I desire to say that if I construed wrongly the attitude which he took in regard to the very important legislation we were then discussing, he will not think I wilfully did him an injustice, and will accept this explanation of the construction I then placed upon his remarks.

The Address which is before this Chamber for consideration has been dealt with by my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Bostock) in a temperate and reasonable way, to which I can take no exception whatever. This is the third session since the Armistice of November 11, 1918, was entered into. At each of the preceding sessions we indulged the hope that, the war being over, civilization would at once settle down in the normal channels of peace, and that the world, forgetting the terrible holocaust through which it had passed for five years, would not only cultivate the arts of peace, but leave no human means untried to return to the paths from which it was driven in August, 1914. Unfortunately our expectations have not been entirely realized. We are yet facing a disturbed and dislocated world. Central Europe and the whole Russian Empire is yet practically in a state of revolution. The forces that for centuries were repressed by absolutism and tyranny have broken the bounds within which they were restrained, and to-day they are expending themselves in riot, anarchy and revolution. These

forces will naturally run their course of human license before they settle down to anything like established government. Even in the countries of the Allies there are to be found conditions of unrest and disturbance that also must necessarily run their course, and cannot by any system of law be suppressed. Until the disturbing forces set in motion by the war more or less exhaust themselves through the various channels in which to-day they are finding expression, we shall have to face these conditions. In Great Britain, in the overseas Dominions, and in the United States the people are suffering to-day from the abnormal conditions that constitute the aftermath of the war. Markets have been destroyed; great systems of production and trade have been wiped out. New channels of trade must be built up; new international relations must be sought, cultivated and established. Labour, owing to many causes, has become restless and uncertain, and so varying in its demands that the unrest and disturbances are seriously reflected in all the areas of production. Production of the world's necessary commodities has been and is seriously handicapped by the many causes that have led to the difficulty, and often the impossibility of securing raw materials, in addition to the untold difficulties of producing the finished product; hence, to-day the great arteries of trade are seriously impeded. Trade, in its widest sense, is seriously battling with almost overwhelming obstacles to release itself from the forces that are yet taking a strangle-hold on its freedom. Canada is not exempt from this world dislocation of trade brought about by five years of war. When we consider the causes that have led to these conditions, it is not difficult to understand why this should be the case. It is easier to pull down than to build up. It took nearly five years to almost destroy a civilization that took centuries to build; and now that for the last fifteen months we have faced a world wrecked by the greatest war that ever cursed a smiling earth, it is needless to say that it is going to take time and unprecedented human enterprise and energy to build up what man has so ruthlessly rent asunder.

Under these circumstances government is being carried on. Under such circumstances it is of vital importance that a government, charged with national responsibilities that transcend in consequence and importance the duties cast upon any former government, should receive a proper recognition of its efforts and achievements. My