

peaceful settlement of disputes between us (and we have many of them) to become a habit rather than an event. Our experience in this regard has brought us the conviction that the best insurance against war is the friendship and good-will of your neighbours. We do not deny that in respect to our situation, then, we are one of the most favoured of countries. Yet we make bold to declare that armies on our frontiers or warships on our inland seas might prejudice the beneficent effect of that fortunate situation.

In respect to the organization of peace, the importance of which we appreciate, we recognize the value of the many agreements that have been made during the last twelve years, and we are convinced that those agreements should already have resulted in a marked reduction of armaments rather than in the disturbing increases which, in many cases, the published figures show. We think further that this organization of peace can best be achieved at this time by emphasizing the prevention of conflict, rather than the punishment of aggression; by building up machinery for conciliation, rather than providing for sanctions; by using the League of Nations as a channel through which international public opinion can express itself, rather than by developing it into a super-State. In adopting this view, which we genuinely consider to be a constructive one, we are convinced that we are serving, not merely our own interests, but the true interests of all nations as well.

It has at times been suggested that our own fortunate situation and our isolation in the New World have made us indifferent to the problems of the Old. We frankly admit our reluctance to become involved in political problems over which we have no control and whose solution we cannot affect, but we are not indifferent to those problems. Bitter experience has taught us that under present conditions we live in a world of interdependent States, and fifty thousand Canadians who will forever sleep in European soil are silent witnesses to this fact.

May I repeat, in conclusion, that His Majesty's Government in Canada will whole-heartedly support any and every constructive proposals for the limitation and reduction of armaments which may be laid before this conference. We believe that action