

mandatory Powers in relation to the said islands.

The seventh treaty adds a clause to the Peace Treaty of the Pacific. Some islands are excluded from the scope of the treaty at the request of the United States and Japan.

I think that this work, which was carried on and brought to a successful conclusion at Washington, will mark an epoch in the history of the world. I was happy to learn that Canada was officially represented at that Conference, and I must congratulate the Dominion upon having had as her representative the Right Honourable Sir Robert Borden, a gentleman who had the necessary qualifications to assert our interests, and to meet on equal terms with the representatives of other nations.

I have pleasure in proposing the ratification of these treaties, seconded by Hon. Mr. Belcourt.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: Honourable gentlemen, I desire to support the motion which has been made by my honourable friend opposite, who represents the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), and seconded by the honourable the senior member for Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt). It is probably not necessary for either the leader of the Government or myself to spend very much time in adding to the information already possessed by members of this Chamber. We all followed with a great deal of interest the formation of this Conference at Washington, and the mode of operation which was adopted there. We have all been advised more or less fully of the results of the Conference, as seen in the treaties which were framed and which have been alluded to by my honourable friend. This being so, it is not at all necessary to go into the details of the Treaties.

What strikes one first in regard to the results of that Conference, is, I think, the great onward step taken by the United States, one of the greatest Powers of the world, towards the elimination, as far as it can possibly be done by agreement between the Powers, of the causes of destruction, which, if not eliminated, might result in great wars, or a repetition in part at least of what we have already gone through. It was therefore encouraging to every lover of peace, and to that extent discouraging to every lover of the old system of war, to see so great a nation as the United States throw her influence in the balance on the side of peace. That, I think, is one of the greatest results which has accrued.

It has given heart to all friends of peace, and it has taught all enemies of the new methods of settling international disputes that they are up against the great moral influence of the British peoples in this contest which is going on between the old methods and the new. It has strengthened every adherent of the League of Nations, because the influence and example of the United States seems at this moment to have been, if not necessary, yet very useful in bringing the fifty-one nations who belong to the League of Nations to a realization of the fact that the United States, though not a member of the League, is still marching along step by step with the cardinal principles and the main ideas of the League. We may have different views as to just how the ultimate peace of the world is to be brought about; but it is a great thing to have removed a prejudice or a presumption that the United States, by holding herself aloof from active union with the League, was not in sympathy with the principles of the League. That idea cannot have any further existence.

The other great thing that has happened through that Conference is that the United States of America has removed a very great obstacle from one of the cardinal principles and aims of the League, namely, the diminution of armaments. That was especially stressed in the programme of the League of Nations as set forth in the Covenant; but the practical difficulties were impossible of being surmounted, and the problem was insoluble so long as the United States remained outside of the League of Nations and at the same time did not give her views and indicate her position with reference to the diminution of armaments. Take naval armaments, for instance. That was the difficulty that faced the League of Nations in all its Council meetings and in the two Assemblies which have already taken place. How was it possible to carry out disarmament under the existing circumstances, when the United States had proclaimed and put into process of construction a naval scheme which, when carried to its fulfillment a few years hence, would make her fleet the most powerful in the wide world? It was impossible then that Britain or France or Italy or Japan could consent to disarmament or the diminution of their naval forces unless they knew what would be the sentiment and the action of the United States. That was all cleared up at Washington, and the remarkably practical, clear, and courageous plan which was