

I am particularly glad that the board under the enthusiastic guidance of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Bridges) has been able to accomplish so much of practical value for the fishermen of Canada.

The government is to be commended on its announcement that the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 will be repealed. This was a measure which was passed twenty-three years ago as a result of the economic and political uncertainties following the first world war. This measure has long been regarded as harsh, unnecessary and undesirable. Recently groups have been organized in Halifax, London, Toronto, Ottawa, and other large cities in Canada, representing all classes and political faiths, to urge the repeal of this act. The government, however, have had this step under advisement for some time and the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday that the act would be repealed met with universal approval.

I wish now to commend most sincerely the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) for his courageous stand at the peace conference in Paris. Hon. members will recall that at the end of the first world war the peace treaties were drafted and boundaries of countries were determined largely by four men, Lloyd George, Wilson, Clemenceau and Orlando. The leaders of the little nations, although they had valiantly taken their part and made heroic sacrifices, were merely called in to sign the treaties. For Canada and the other nations of the commonwealth this was an important forward step in their constitutional development, and the leaders of the various commonwealth nations must be given their measure of praise for that important constitutional advancement. It is now apparent, however, that a more lasting, a more enduring, a more just peace settlement would have been achieved had the leaders of the smaller nations been consulted at all stages of the proceedings and not merely been called in to give authentication to something that had already been determined. I do not wish to find fault with our leaders of that day. They achieved much in getting the right to sign.

Toward the end of world war II and when the minds of people were turning to thoughts of peace and peace treaties, the hope arose in the hearts of many that the drafting of the peace treaties would not be left to the leaders of the large nations, but rather that the leaders of the small nations, who had proportionately poured out their blood, should have some say in the determination of the peace treaties. In no nation was this thought more apparent than in Canada.

Our sacrifices, our contributions, in both men and materials, were away beyond those of any other nation of similar size among the united nations. In all my campaign speeches I urged upon the electorate the importance of making very sure that the government was retained in office so that the leadership of the present Prime Minister should not be lost to the world at large during this critical period. I am sure that the liberty-loving people of the world rejoiced when the Prime Minister served notice in Paris that the foreign ministers of the "Big Five" should take up the suggestions as made by the leaders of the smaller nations and not wait and then expect them to sign a treaty without knowing what consideration was given to their suggestions. Already this firm stand is showing results, for we find in New York that the suggestions of the smaller nations were given much more consideration and that our leaders were listened to with greater respect.

I am sure that every hon. member in this house was glad that the Prime Minister found time from his many duties in Paris to fulfil his long-cherished dream of making a pilgrimage to Dieppe and the beaches of Normandy. The people of Normandy were delighted to greet the Prime Minister of the country whose sons fought so valiantly to liberate them from foreign aggression. The mothers of our heroic dead,—many of whom will never be able to visit the graves of their beloved sons—were, I am sure, pleased with this visit of our Prime Minister.

It was with a feeling of pride that we read that the head of our delegation at New York, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent) was the first to bring up the matter of disarmament. Since assuming the position of head of the Department of External Affairs the right hon. member for Quebec East has added not only lustre to his already high reputation but also dignity and distinction to his native land. The spontaneous expressions from the other members of this house, who had the honour to be on the Canadian delegation, approving the stand taken by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, are abundant proof that his leadership was all that could be desired.

I wish also to commend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken), the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, (Mr. Coldwell) and the other members of the delegation for the splendid contributions that they severally have made. It is highly desirable that the foreign policy of Canada should be one which has the approval of the