

MEIGHEN ON AFTER- WAR CONDITIONS

Drew Sombre Picture of
World Six Years After
Hostilities Ceased

OLD CONDITIONS PRESENT

Former Premier Addressed
St. James' Methodist Church
Congregation in Connection
With Window Unveiling

It was a gloomy picture of after-war conditions which the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen drew with light touches in speaking last night at the St. James Methodist Church. Mr. Meighen spoke in connection with the unveiling of the war memorial window at the morning service. On the dais with Mr. Meighen, in addition to the pastor, Rev. Dr. McIntosh, was Hon. C. C. Ballantyne and Senator Lorne C. Webster.

Mr. Meighen, while admittedly sombre in his picture of the world after six years of peace, pointed out that too much must not be expected in a short period, that no progress in civilization and democratic paths could be expected except at the price of suffering. The sacrifices that the young men of Canada had made in the Great War would be for the benefit of those who come after, even as the sacrifices and struggles of our fathers were reaped by ourselves. One fact was certain, and that was that in every hamlet, village and town the memory of those who had served, and especially of those who fell, was commemorated.

Some people today are inclined to feel misgivings as to whether the war effort and sacrifice had been worth while, whether the war had which justified a modicum of good which justified the awful sacrifice. It had been felt at the commencement that it was a case of the principle of evil opposed to the principle of good, that it was a matter between justice and liberty as opposed to the principle of might and despotism. As we look around this year there was to be found, said Mr. Meighen, the spectacle not of amity, as had been hoped would come about, but the darkness of suspicion between the units making up the world. There was the same old traditional jealousy, the same antipathies, the old competitions which prevailed before the war. In Europe, where civilization had reached its highest point previous to the war, people were still struggling through a long trail of wreckage, struggling to again build up national structures.

MUST HELP THE DEFEATED.

One point made by Mr. Meighen was the fact that the victorious nations now realized that they must raise the prostrated, defeated nations if they were to reap the results of their victories. Britain, struggling to overcome problems that would break the heart and spirit of any other people, still stretched out her single arm in an effort to help. The Empire was the greatest of all forces with the outstretched arm to all nations which are bent in the pathway of peace. In a passing reference to the ideals of the League of Nations, Mr. Meighen wondered how long the great power of the United States was to be withdrawn from the efforts to restore peace and safeguard civilization.

There were some who talked of what would have happened in Canada if we had not participated in the war, or even if the war had not come, but it was idle to go into the realm of supposition any more than it was to seek to peer into the future. However, as far as the human mind could judge, and history teach, it might be said that if the result had been otherwise we in Canada would have lost the heritage secured through two hundred years of effort, and been within the despotic compass of German power.

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