

Whatever doubt may exist in other cases, it is unquestionable that this Treaty should be submitted to Parliament for its consideration and approval before ratification on behalf of Canada takes place. The formal ratification is of course in the name of the Sovereign; but in giving that ratification on behalf of Canada, His Majesty necessarily acts at the instance of his constitutional advisers in this country. We gave our pledge to submit this Treaty to Parliament before ratification, and that pledge is now fulfilled. There is the greatest urgency for securing ratification at the earliest possible moment. The period within which Germany shall carry out many of her undertakings under the terms of the Treaty, dates from the period of ratification by three of the Allied Powers. The words of the Treaty in that regard are as follows:

A first procès-verbal of the deposit of ratifications will be drawn up as soon as the Treaty has been ratified by Germany on the one hand, and by three of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers on the other hand.

From the date of this first proces-verbal the Treaty will come into force between the High Contracting Parties who have ratified it. For the determination of all periods of time provided for in the present Treaty this date will be the date of the coming into force of the Treaty.

It is anticipated that two other of the powers referred to will ratify within a very short time and we have been urgently requested to use every possible expedition in having the Treaty considered by the Parliament of Canada. I hope, therefore, that the resolution which I propose may be passed, if the House approves, with the least possible delay. The Bill, which makes provision for carrying into effect the terms of the Treaty so far as Canada is concerned, will afford the opportunity for such further debate as may be desired.

Before proceeding to give a brief summary of the Treaty, which has been laid upon the table of the House, it is fitting to recall for a moment the dark days through which we passed in the years that are behind us, to remember that irretrievable disaster seemed more than once to wait on the threshold of the allied nations, and to acknowledge our profound thankfulness that the peace we are now to consider is founded upon victory and not upon defeat; fitting, also, to renew and emphasize our grateful acknowledgment of the indomitable valour of the allied armies which made that victory possible, and to recall with solemn pride the glorious achievements of our own heroic army.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

Speaking of the general aspects of the Treaty, I do not deny that its terms are severe and even stern; but, stern as they are, they do not fill the measure of the crime which brought horror and disaster upon humanity. The military autocracies of the Central Powers were undoubtedly the immediate instruments that brought the scourge of this war upon mankind. But can we forget, ought we to forget, that so long as the fortunes of war seemed to smile upon them, the policy of world domination which forced this war commanded the approval and support of the enemy nations? Those who have passed from the inconceivable devastation and destruction of France and Belgium to the smiling and untouched countryside of Germany are not wont to regard the terms of this Treaty as unduly severe.

Coming more in detail to its terms, it defines the boundaries of Germany, restoring to France the lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which were torn from her nearly half a century ago, and to the newly established Polish republic the large and important territories acquired by Germany through the dismemberment of that country. The intermixture of German and Polish races in the eastern portions of the former German Empire necessitated elaborate and complex provisions, establishing Dantzig as a free city and giving to the inhabitants of certain districts the right to determine by vote their future national status. Territory of less extent and importance has been ceded by Germany to the new Czechoslovak state.

The Treaty also revises the boundaries of Belgium and establishes a new system of government for Luxemburg and the Saar basin. Possible additions of territory to Denmark are provided for, and Germany has been placed under obligation to recognize the independence of German-Austria. Germany has been deprived of all her colonial possessions. She has been subjected to severe restrictions as to the armaments which she shall be allowed to maintain on land, on sea, or in the air. Tribunals have been created for the trial of persons upon whom rests the primary responsibility for the war, or who have committed acts in violation of the laws and usages of war. To the extent of her resources Germany has been required to undertake reparation and restitution for the destruction and ruin which her mad ambition has occasioned. The Treaty provides for international control of certain ports, railways, rivers, and canals. It em-