

THE PEACE TREATY WITH GERMANY.
RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL AGREED TO.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved:

Resolved, That it is expedient that Parliament do approve the Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany (and the Protocol annexed thereto), which was signed at Versailles on the twenty-eighth day of June, nineteen hundred and nineteen, a copy of which has been laid before Parliament, and which was signed on behalf of His Majesty, acting for Canada, by the plenipotentiaries therein named, and that this House do approve of the same.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, in moving the resolution which stands in my name on the Order Paper for to-day, I shall assume that the copies of the Treaty which have been received from the Imperial Government have been distributed, and have been read by honourable gentlemen in this Chamber.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Not read.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, I hope so; I hope honourable gentlemen have read the Treaty.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I was unable to get my copy until half-past two yesterday.

Hon. Mr. POPE: You had all night.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I know so well the ability of my honourable friend to acquaint himself speedily with voluminous documents. I am quite sure that in an hour or two he could fully acquaint himself with the contents of the Treaty.

I should be very sorry to weary the House by going into any very lengthy explanation of the Treaty. It will, however, be necessary for me to make some passing reference to some of the articles in the Treaty, particularly those in which we feel rather a greater than a less degree of interest.

It may not be out of place for me to say, in beginning my observations, that the Treaty is probably the most important and most momentous Treaty that has ever been entered into by any group of nations. It deals with matters fraught with greater importance, not only to the public of the present day, but to future generations, than any similar document ever penned; and, owing to its momentous import, the responsibility upon our shoulders is all the greater to give every consideration to the subject before us.

It is needless to say that the Treaty marks the fortunate ending of the war. We can readily recall with what trepidation we entered upon the tremendous struggle which commenced in August, 1914; the anxiety

with which not only Canada but the Empire to which we belong, and in fact nearly all civilization, was strained, by reason of the possibilities which seemed to be wrapped up in the struggle then beginning. It is unnecessary for me to attempt to sketch the development of that struggle or to refer to it at any great length. Suffice it to say that for four long years there was a neck-and-neck struggle between the Allies and the enemy. It looked at one time as if the forces which the Allies had brought to bear upon the battlefields of France and Flanders would be insufficient to cope successfully with the enemy. When we contemplate what might have happened had the Allies been vanquished in the great struggle upon which they had entered, the human mind is staggered by the thought of what might have followed a victory by Germany under the terrible circumstances which surrounded the war. When we think of the consequences which did result from the war, notwithstanding the splendid victory of the Allies; when we consider the convulsion of not only the whole of Europe but the whole of civilization, by reason of the struggle which was started and maintained by Germany, we fail to grasp the possibilities of defeat; and yet, honourable gentlemen, there was a time when we held our breath fearful if the Allies would not be successful in the war in which they had engaged. It is needless to say that if Germany had conquered in this war autocracy would have been triumphant, freedom would vanish, liberty would be trampled in the dust, and the Allies, including this Canada of ours, would be under the tyrannical heel of the Prussian's jack-boot for probably generations to come. But fate was kind to us, and, notwithstanding the apprehensions with which we looked upon the war a year ago, very happily the Allies were in a position to dictate a peace, which peace is to be found within the four corners of the Treaty we are considering to-day.

I am quite aware, honourable gentlemen, that there has not been conclusive unanimity upon the contents of this Treaty. It was not to be expected that, in a document as lengthy as this, and one to which thirty-two nations are signatory, embodying the varied views of so many and involving rival interests to the extent to which they must have entered into the consideration and preparation of the Treaty, unanimity would necessarily be arrived at. After all, it is a compromise on the opinions and views of all the signatories to the Treaty