

sons, which flowed so abundantly on the battlefields, would produce no fruit whatever, if, after winning the war through force of arms, the United Nations were to lose the peace.

That is what has been so well understood by the men who are at the head of the Canadian government. Accordingly, they did not hesitate to take the commanding place to which Canada was entitled at every conference in which the nations of the world have participated, with a view to solving the numerous and difficult problems of the postwar period.

The breadth of vision shown by our statesmen, their tact and the suggestions they have made, have, largely contributed to the solution of the most complicated questions and to the satisfactory results attained by the conferences, which, at times, seemed doomed to disastrous failure.

Those mainly responsible for this wise, friendly and clear-sighted policy are the Prime Minister himself and his worthy successor at the head of the Department of External Affairs. It is to this policy that Canada is indebted for the enviable place it now holds among the nations of the world. Moreover it has had its effect on the internal affairs of the country as well. A superficial review of our export trade shows that for the first eleven months of 1946 the total value of our exports has been over two billion dollars, that is to say, more than two and a half times what they were before the war. Our imports have risen in similar fashion. These figures put Canada among the great exporting and commercial nations of the world. This country will owe much of its great economic and commercial prosperity to the wise and enlightened direction of these two leaders.

Let us add also that Canada has moved from wartime to peacetime production effortlessly and without any post-war depression. The level of employment has never been so high as it is now. The recent statements made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the subject of the drafting of peace treaties with Germany and Austria show clearly that our country will not be content to play a minor role. He is to be congratulated on taking such a firm stand.

Wars now assume worldwide proportions. The leaders of all political parties were unanimously of the opinion that it was our country's duty to participate in the recent conflict. American statesmen fought the isolationist sentiment of a large number of their countrymen before they were forcibly dragged into the last two conflicts which have desolated the world.

The union of all sane elements, the union of all freedom-loving countries has shown itself and shows itself more and more to be necessary in the fight against those too-ambitious countries that seek to dominate the world.

Sacrifices made by Canada to ensure final victory confer upon our rulers the responsibility of taking a major part in the establishment of an enduring peace and in the drafting of treaties of world-wide importance.

Besides, has not the 1919 precedent shown that it is no longer possible to keep away from these important discussions nations which—such as Canada, whose unselfishness is an admitted fact,—have submitted to so many sacrifices.

The representatives of our country will be impartial judges, who will see more clearly through the maze of such complex interests as those of continental European politics, and who will advocate the directing principles of an enduring peace based upon charity and justice, as well as on a sound economy of commercial relations. Such a participation by Canada is necessary for the settlement of peace in the world and in the interests of our country in particular.

It is with great pride that I conclude my remarks on our country's international policy by quoting the words recently uttered by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister: "There are older countries, there are larger countries, but no country holds a higher place in the esteem of other nations".

I also wish to congratulate the Right Honourable the Prime Minister for having placed international politics above party politics, and for having expressed a formula which commands the attention and respect of all Canadians, irrespective of party. With this rule of conduct, our international policy will remain truly Canadian. Forever it will stand above party lines, which are frequently mean and unproductive.

The invitation extended to all leaders to participate in international discussions, together with the acceptance by these leaders in a truly national spirit, will confer to all decisions taken the permanency which they of necessity require.

Now that we are an independent nation, we have the right to call ourselves Canadian citizens. It is a new claim calling for national pride. It is the symbol which so efficiently characterizes the members of a free state. It comes at the very time when Canadian liberty is asserting itself so distinctly. Canadians of both great races accept it without anxiety, without mental reservation, but with joy. On January 3 last, the Prime Minister