

for your neighbour-nation too. We shall have here a nation ready to put an end, if necessary, to troubles that may arise in the different countries of Europe. Do not let us think that our country will be a nation of idleness or indifference after the war. It has a mission in connection with the future development of all other nations. I have always stood firm in my belief in the right hon. leader of the Liberal party, stood firm when we have been under the lash, if I may say so, during the last six months, and it is because I realize that he is possessed of the very sentiments that the greatest statesmen of the Empire have expressed on different occasions since the war began. General Jan C. Smuts is a great British statesman, not of Great Britain, not of Canada, not of Australia, but of South Africa, and he was so much admired at the War Conference in London last year that he was made a member of the War Council. Speaking at the banquet of the House of Lords and Commons in London recently, he said:

I pray that you may have the clearness of vision and purpose, and the strength of soul in the coming days which will be even more necessary than strength of arms. It will depend largely upon us whether in the present struggle the prize is achieved or whether the world shall once more be plunged into disaster. The prize is within our grasp, if we have the strength of soul to see the thing through until victory crowns the efforts of our brave men in the field.

Further on in the same speech he expressed sentiments in harmony with the sentiment which ought to prevail in Canada. He said:

Even nations which have fought against the British Empire like my own, must feel that their interests, their language and their religion are as safe and secure under the British flag as are those of the children of your own blood. It is only in proportion as this is realized that you will fulfil the true mission which is yours. Therefore, it seems to me that there is only one solution, and that is the solution supplied by our past traditions of freedom, self-government and fullest development.

Those words attracted not only the attention of his audience, but the next morning the Daily Telegraph, of London, in an encomium upon the eloquent words of this great statesman, had this to say of another great statesman whom we all know and admire:

There is one other great Imperial statesman who will certainly applaud and endorse that statement—Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is exactly the point upon which he has always laid stress when Imperial Federationists have seemed to press forward at too rapid a pace.

If the views of this statesman, so eloquently expressed, as to the future greatness of the Empire, have been acclaimed by the British Empire, and if the sentiments of that other great imperial statesman, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, so nobly expressed on different occasions, have evoked the admiration and applause of the people of the British Empire, I say, Mr. Speaker, that I am willing to stand as proudly by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to-day as a good Canadian and British subject as a citizen of South Africa is proud to stand by General Jan Christian Smuts. I recognize in Sir Wilfrid Laurier the firm upholder of freedom, justice and equality in Canada. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has always been in Canada, in his vision of the future, in his conception of the high destiny of this country, in his aspirations for the welfare of Canada, and in his ambition to see British principles and British institutions established more firmly all over the world, what Jan Christian Smuts has been in South Africa.

In conclusion, permit me to ask pardon for having kept you so long. I had not expected to detain the House at such great length when I rose to speak. This is an occasion when sentiments have to be expressed, and I thought I should take advantage of the indulgence granted me to express the views which I hold on some of the questions which are engaging our attention to-day. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the House most cordially and I hope that it will not be necessary for me to again trespass at such length upon your time.

On the motion of Mr. A. K. Maclean the House adjourned at 12 o'clock midnight.

Wednesday, May 1, 1918.

The House met at Three o'clock.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Ninth annual report of the Commission of Conservation.—Hon. Mr. Rowell.

QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by asterisks.)

PURCHASE OF INCUBATORS.

Mr. PAPINEAU:

1. Has the Government bought from Chas. Hearson and Company, of London, three incubators for the price of \$157.93 and a hot-air sterilizer for the price of \$50.45, as mentioned in the Auditor General's Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916?