

The Address

But, Sir, we have another and greater work to perform. We cannot be great and rich, we cannot develop our resources, unless peace and concord dwell within our borders. National duty must never permit class selfishness to usurp its functions. We must build up in this country a democracy sound, and sane, and loyal to the core to Canada. We must have the fullest scope of liberty within our borders. Where liberty dwells license will not exist; license only follows upon the heels of tyranny. Sir, during the last few years democratic principles have had a rough time of it in our country. Perhaps we must make allowance for the consequences of war, and if we do probably some justification may be found for the curtailment of free institutions and the loss of a certain amount of liberty. But at the termination of war that restraint should have been lifted and we should have reverted at once to our old institutions. The condemnation of the late Government by the people of Canada at the last election, so decisive, so absolutely overwhelming, was the united protest—the united and indignant protest—of the people against political autocracy. The people, Sir, could not and would not forget government by Order in Council and specially constructed Election Acts. The status of the Canadian, Sir, as a citizen, in the last few years had sunk very low. May that time never come again. Under the new regime these conditions never will again obtain. Liberalism is associated absolutely with personal liberty. On personal liberty the British Empire was built. And, Sir, while it was not contained in the Speech from the Throne, I would like to see the last Act enacted by the late Parliament, the Election Act, which deprived a large portion of the electors of this country, particularly in my own constituency, from participating in the inalienable right of selecting and electing a Government—I would like to see that Act repealed and disappear from our statute books. As long as it continues in force it is an insult to these people, a degradation to ourselves, and a blot upon our statutes.

When we read the history of Europe and reflect upon its past wars and catastrophies, when we contemplate Europe to-day, with the decimation of its population by wars and famines, when we think of the tragic story of Ireland within our own Empire, with all its tale of sadness and of sorrow, and when we reflect that in this Canada of ours, two of the world's most virile races, high in courage and proud of lineage, but with a

difference in speech and religion, with the true spirit of democracy, with mutual toleration and forbearance, for upwards of a hundred years have lived together side by side, and developed the free institutions which we enjoy to-day; when we realize that these wars of Europe have largely been the result of race creed and race difference, Sir, the concord prevailing in Canada must be cause of great satisfaction to us. The same spirit that existed between the French and the English in this country we must exercise towards the new Canadian who is with us in many thousands in the West to-day, who will come to us more and more as time progresses. It was no statesman's hand that spread the weed seeds of dissension to the detriment and injury of his country.

We have occupational troubles in Canada, as other nations of the world have had, and as other members of the British Empire are experiencing. There are troubles between labour and capital in this country, and they must be dealt with. There must be a spirit of toleration, a spirit of reasonableness. With this, and under the guidance of the eminent gentleman, the Prime Minister of this country (Mr. Mackenzie King), with his deep theoretical knowledge and wide practical experience, and of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock), these problems should be easily and readily solved. There has grown up in this country, or is said to have grown up, a spirit of antagonism between the agricultural interest and the manufacturing interest. These interests are undoubtedly dependent one upon another. We must approach them in the same spirit that has worked out so successfully between our French-Canadian people and our English-speaking people. We must not deviate from the path of reasonableness and fairness in dealing with these questions, and must cast aside everything which is not in the common interest of our country. In a spirit of toleration we must deal with the great problems placed in our hands. We want Canadian people, in the words of Kipling, to realize that "there is no East, no West, border nor breed nor birth." And I recall the very appropriate words of one who in the years gone by sat in this House as a minister, who said, in the words of poetry:

What matter if at different shrines we
kneel unto one God,
What matter if at different times our
fathers won the sod,
One in name, one in fame,

—the Canadian should ever be.