

"What will be the attitude of Canada on the Councils?" My answer was that it would be that of the thirteen other members. The matters confided to the Council are differences between countries, complaints from minorities that claim to have rights under treaties made after 1918, and which gives them some guarantee or some protection; and not only is it the duty of the Council to try to settle the difficulties that arise, but to prevent their taking an acute form.

This is not the time to enter into a detailed statement of the activities of the Council. We may have some occasion during the Session to speak of the doings of the Assembly at the time of its last sitting in September, 1917, and of the action of the Council in various matters. All I desire to say for the present is that the election of Canada to the Council was hailed with favour by most of the delegates present. Though the majority of Canada was small, I may say that, generally speaking, outside of those who were special rivals of Canada in this regard, Canada encountered no enmity, but found friends in every quarter of the Assembly.

My honourable friend, if he read again the Speech from the Throne, would find that there is considerable matter not only historical but relating to things that will need to be treated by this Parliament. He will have noticed the paragraph which speaks of the Conference between the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments. This was a very interesting meeting, and I may say that I was struck with the marked degree of broadening in the national outlook and spirit of the members constituting that Conference. Honourable gentlemen will remember some of the past Conferences in which every Province stood upon its rights and claimed that the compact of 1867 had as its basis a financial arrangement which constituted a contract, and that no one Province was entitled to an increase of its annual subsidies from the Federal Exchequer unless each and every Province obtained similar treatment. For instance, when in other conferences the question arose of the control by the Western Provinces of their natural resources there was a claim by the Eastern Provinces for compensation for those assets which would be given to the Western Provinces.

Up to this last conference there seemed to be a clear indication that each Province stood by its rights, and did not intend to allow any advantage to its neighbours without compensation to itself. It was a very great pleasure to me to see a totally different spirit permeating this conference, and I was quite proud to hear the representatives of the larger

provinces, Ontario and Quebec, declare that if the East needed a supplementary amount in order to maintain its administration, if there existed a just grievance because of the present situation, unforeseen at the time of Confederation, or if it was necessary to do something in the way of a return of natural resources to the West, then Ontario and Quebec were ready to agree to a re-adjustment of conditions, financial and other, and would make no claim for compensation.

This to me shows that we are growing; it bespeaks an evolution in our economic and material situation. Undoubtedly, it is easy to discover the cause of a reluctance to grant an advantage to a neighbour when one is himself in dire necessity; but the development of Canada, the enrichment of the larger provinces, the fact that for a greater number of years they have achieved financial success, allowed them to take a broader view of things and turn to the smaller or newer provinces and say: "We are ready to look with sympathy upon your needs, and we will not claim, as we were wont to do in times gone by, a compensation for whatever advantages you may derive from the generosity or the spirit of justice of the Federal power."

My honourable friend has spoken of the establishment of legations abroad. He has expressed his dissidence with regard to the exchange of ministers or ambassadors between this country and others. He sees some danger in our foreign representation. He gave as a reason for his fear the fact that we are not, like other countries, in possession of an army and a navy. Well, I confess that in seeing Canada develop its representation abroad I have felt no tremor because we were without an army or a navy. I would point out to the honourable gentleman that, to make a modest estimate, the position of two-thirds of the nations of the world in relation to the greater powers is similar to our own. Those nations of the world that are called the small powers may have a few ships and an army of some kind, but I would ask my honourable friend if that constitutes a defence and gives them security. If my honourable friend will look around the world he will see that two-thirds of the nations have no possible chance of defence in the event of a clash with one of the great powers. Therefore in examining international relations one must look at them from another point of view. Take for instance all the countries of South America and a number of other states throughout the world. I do not believe that any of those small nations have any kind of effective and material security in their dealings with the great powers