

of the peoples of the world and instead of recognition the League of Nations seals its fate and confirms its thralldom. With these thoughts in mind, with the memory of this rank injustice fresh before us, we cannot, we should not, acquiesce in the League of Nations.

There is one more reason for rejecting the Covenant which I cannot pass over. Some hon. gentlemen may call me a little Canadian, I may state in advance of this objection that I am proud to be a Canadian whether it be little or whether it be big. We as Canadians have our destiny before us not in continental Europe but here on the free soil of America. Our policy for the next hundred years should be that laid down by George Washington in the United States for the guidance of his countrymen—absolute renunciation of interference in European affairs—and that laid down by the other great father of his country in Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier—"freedom from the vortex of European militarism." I believe this policy to be the true expression of a Greater Canadianism. I believe the people of Canada will approve of this policy, namely, to let Europe be the arbiter of its own destiny while we in Canada, turning our energies to our own affairs, undertake our own peaceful development strong in the faith that we have within our national boundaries and within ourselves the material to become a great and powerful nation.

I am convinced that our soldiers have returned from overseas more proud than ever before of that "Canada" badge which they bore so proudly on their shoulders; convinced, too, that they are as good men in peace and war as the poilu and Tommy Atkins, their Allies in many a desperate conflict, their comrades on many a blood-sodden field. They have learned nothing from European culture or continental civilization. The eagerness with which they demanded demobilization, their happy faces when they reached their native shores, were proof positive that above all they longed for their loved Canada, their home.

In conclusion, may I quote a paragraph which, I think, sums up the situation and admirably expresses the thoughts which I have had so much difficulty in conveying, and which I think should summarize our national aspirations:

Nationality is our first great object—the nationality which inflames and purifies our people with the lofty and heroic love of country—the nationality of the spirit as well as of the letter—a nationality which may come to be stamped upon our manners, our character and our deeds

[Mr. Power ]

—a nationality which will embrace the Protestant, Catholic, Dissenter, French, Canadian, Irish, Scotch, English, the Canadian of twenty generations and the stranger who has arrived within our gates—not a nationality which would prelude civil war, but one which would establish internal union and external independence—a nationality which will be recognized by the world, and sanctified by wisdom, justice and prudence.

Mr. GEORGE PARENT (West Quebec): Mr. Speaker, the debate on this matter has already taken a certain amount of valuable time, but for once I have noticed, the members who have spoken have presented various views in different ways. It is an acknowledgment that the subject is extensive in its nature and could well have afforded a more thorough discussion. It seems therefore regrettable that only three days have been allotted for the study of a question which, as far as I can judge, means a radical change in the status of Canada. This change comes in such a way and appears so extraordinary that after giving some thought to the subject, the whole scheme appears to me a mere evolution towards complete surrender of Canadian autonomy. In other words, Imperialism is coming; imperialism has come!

If this sudden change means imperialism, and I think it does, I do not hesitate to say that I am afraid of its consequences and that for this reason, the Treaty and particularly the Covenant of the League of Nations, as submitted to this Parliament for approval, should not be accepted without reservations.

If Canada were a nation, I would have nothing but words of praise for those who framed this Treaty and who frankly admit that after days and months of strenuous study and work, they have not obtained all that they desired but have secured all they could. But Canada is not a nation. It has many of the elements that constitute a nation, but it has not them all. We are a colony. True, we have been told over and over again that in this country we enjoy such privileges, such independence in various ways that most of our statesmen, Cartier, Macdonald, Laurier and the present Prime Minister, have often repeated "Canada is a nation!" But these words are only words, they have been said in a way of appreciation of British institutions, they were good enough for the purposes that these men had in mind but they have no effect on the real "status" of Canada.

If we were a nation we would have in this country no Governor General to represent the King or the authority of another country to which we belong. If we