

dark days of 1914-1918, the Canadian people put all their energy into war; they are happy now to be able to devote that energy to peace. We take this disarmament conference very seriously, because its success will provide an alternative to war and we have been forced to take war seriously.

His Majesty's Government in Canada is convinced that the time has now come for a general limitation and reduction of armaments, and we believe that for this purpose the draft convention now before the conference, though it includes details which require further examination, provides a suitable basis for discussion and consideration.

We appreciate, of course, the relation between armaments and national security, but our experience has taught us that reduction of armaments can itself be a source of security. The two are, indeed, inter-related and inter-dependent. Certainly, every page of history proves that no permanent security can be found in armaments alone, for every effort made to achieve that form of security means insecurity for some one else. Your security becomes your neighbour's insecurity, and he, inspired by considerations of fear and self-defence, builds up his own armaments. The vicious circle has begun, to which there is no end until sword cuts through.

Our own country is, we have the right to say, relatively without armaments. We are more than ten millions of people, and the fifth trading nation in the world, but our armaments, as the figures which we have published show, are calculated only for the preservation of internal order and for the performance of the obligations imposed on us by international law. In no conceivable sense could they be considered as a menace to any State. Nevertheless, we feel secure.

We admit that this security is in some measure the result of a happy combination of geographical, historical and political circumstances. Canada is one of the self-governing countries which compose the British Commonwealth of Nations. On the east and west, we face the ocean; on the north, the arctic seas. On the south, we have as our neighbour a great and friendly nation, with whom we have developed machinery for arbitration and conciliation, the successful functioning of which is causing the