

ing and self-contained. Our surplus of wheat offers an outstanding example of how badly we need foreign trade. In view of world conditions as I see them to-day, I am frank to say to honourable members of this House that my opinions are very much changed with respect to tariffs and arrangements of that kind. I believe that our future is tied up with the British Empire, and, although Great Britain has not yet come to that way of thinking, that the future of Great Britain is tied up with that of the Dominions. If it were possible for us to secure protection against the rest of the world and to obtain free entry into Great Britain and the Dominions, subject only to such tariffs as might be necessary to maintain the different standards of living, I am free to say that I should be disposed to try free trade within the Empire.

I come now to a subject upon which there has been some discussion in this House. I refer to the League of Nations. I quite appreciate that what I am going to say will not be popular; that it may be resented, criticized and objected to by men who know very much more about the League of Nations than I do. Nevertheless, my observations, and such confirmation as I was able to get from Continental and British sources during my short sojourn abroad, have impressed upon me once more the fact that the Versailles Treaty, which tore up the map of Europe and placed the various races in units by themselves, walled around by tariffs and other barriers, has given rise to racial ambitions and racial hatreds and distracts that are greater than have existed in Europe for fifty years, and certainly greater than ever before in the last twenty years. I met and talked and lunched with no fewer than twenty-five prominent men in France, Germany and Austria. Invariably I asked them some time during the conversation whether I was right in believing that racial ambitions, hatreds and struggles were more rampant in Europe to-day than they had been twenty years ago, and invariably I received the answer that that was correct. As I see it, Europe is rapidly becoming an armed camp. There is more talk about war in Europe to-day than there was in the early part of 1914. In my judgment a European war is a certainty, and probably it will occur within five years.

When I refer to the League of Nations and criticize its work I am not overlooking the many good things it has done. I am not unmindful of the splendid work it did with regard to narcotics, the white slave traffic and many other things. But, as has been said in this House, the League, probably

quite unavoidably, has failed in its main objective—international peace. The brotherhood of man, for which the League stands, has certainly made no progress in Europe since the War. Our great Imperial statesmen, Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Baldwin, whose idealistic speeches quicken the blood of every man who loves peace, are proving as impractical as they are idealistic.

I remember reading a speech made by Mr. Baldwin in London when I was there. He said that Germany should be allowed to arm to the same extent that France was armed. That sounds reasonable. The Germans are a great nation, and probably we should say that that was just. But picture to yourself the position of the Frenchman. I confess that if I lived in France and were sure that war was going to happen, I should want France to go to war right away to clean up the up the Germans while I was sure it could be done. Sooner or later there will be war between France and Germany; and you may depend upon it that when Germany admits she is as strong as France, she will be stronger. You are all so familiar with the foundation that Hitler is laying that I need say nothing about it, except that it is thorough and extreme. You can read about it in the papers.

When we find great nations like Germany and Italy, already overpopulated, paying bonuses for large families, are we too cynical in saying that this is to provide cannon fodder for the future?

We are a small nation—ten and a half million people—to be taking part in this European embroglio. We are far away from the continent of Europe. With the certainty of war before us, I want to call the attention of this honourable House and of the country to the opportunity that we have at this time to withdraw with honour from the League of Nations—an opportunity which subsequent developments may not afford. I appreciate the seriousness of the statement that I am about to make to this honourable House, but I am giving my considered, definite opinion when I say that I cannot conceive of any developments which would justify this country in sacrificing the blood of one single Canadian on the future battle-fields of Europe.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Let us look ahead! We must! We generally get into trouble by not taking the long view. Let us act in such a way that we can honourably decline to participate when the hour arrives.