

Mr. DANIEL McIVOR (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity of saying a word in this debate. I want to congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) upon the fine opening address he made. I do this because I respect his judgment and because what he said is in keeping with what he said in London, what he said before the labour congress in Toronto and what he has said on several occasions, that this is the beginning of a better day.

I also congratulate the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) upon the endeavour he made yesterday. I think he did pretty well with a most difficult job. He interjected a little politics into the debate, but I do not blame him for doing that because I am going to do the same thing. I do not agree with what the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) said about the places that would be suitable for the proposed house of peace. I think the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) will agree with me when I say that if the hon. member for Parry Sound would stand on the hill at Mirady park and look out over Thunder bay; if he could see Fort William sleeping quietly there; if he would see the sleeping giant away over yonder or the squaw looking for her husband coming home with his fishing boat; if he could stand on Mount McKay with all its majesty at the head of the lakes; if he could see Loch Lomond, from which that city gets its water eight hundred feet above Fort William; if he could see the background of Kakabeka falls with their one hundred and ninety foot head, he would then agree that the finest place in Canada for the peace house would be in the Thunder Bay district.

I was sorry the Prime Minister did not go further afield in his selection of the delegation. If he knew, and I hope he does, of the intelligent judgment, the practical common sense and the sweet influence of the fairer sex, both inside and outside the home, he would have then chosen representatives from both houses of parliament, from both sides of the house and from both sexes in the house. I say that the delegation will not be complete unless it contains one of the fairer sex to keep the men where they ought to be kept.

Knowing hon. members of this house as I do, I do not think that any member of this delegation will stoop to play politics, either on the way to the conference, while he is there or on the way home. I know they will all be big enough to get behind the scene and study the needs of the countries that are represented, especially Canada.

I was terribly disappointed at results after the last war. Nobody wanted war immediately after the last war. I sat on a school board at that time and I was criticized for advocating cadet training. It was said it was just the thin end of the wedge to bring back war. Women all over Canada, universities and high schools, labour and farmer organizations all passed resolutions condemning war, saying that it was all being done to satisfy the whims of the war lords of Europe and to supply cannon fodder.

What are we fighting for? The hon. member for Parry Sound said it was freedom, but I would go farther than that. You cannot have freedom without permanent peace. Before I am through I shall show you upon what permanent peace is based.

I expect that this will be the greatest conference that the world has ever known. There will be a sacred trust upon every one who represents us, every man or woman, and I am sure they will all measure up to that trust. This conference is to outlaw war. As someone said the other day, it will also put out of business the league of nations. I was disappointed with the league of nations. They did many fine things, but when they allowed Italy to sweep into Ethiopia and take over that country, when they allowed Japan to go into China, a large nation but one militarily helpless, I was disappointed.

I read that splendid book "One world" by Wendell Willkie. The hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Roebuck) is right when he says the small nations should be respected. When I think of the way the Prime Minister looks out for the little men, the people with low incomes, then I know he is not going to pass up the small nations. He will see that they get fair play. I know it is important for every man to have a job, but if every man in the country had a job there would not be heaven on earth just the same. I know that every nation should be free and enjoy security. I do know, too, that I was of the opinion that no nation taking part in this great war was going to seek territorial advantage. I remember that I stood up in this house, whether I was the first or not I do not know but I was first on the government side, to advocate that there be ambassadorial relations between Canada and Russia. Dear knows where we would be to-day were it not for Russia. She has kept us living. But I am not so optimistic when I find a big slice of Poland going to Russia. That is just a sign of the times, and I hope that Russia will be big enough to give that territory back to Poland.