

teach new duties" and the world would not progress at all if our statesmen were in all cases to cast the future in the inflexible molds of the day.

The Statesmen of Confederation, as we now see, builded better than they knew. Unwittingly in high cabal with Destiny, they founded a nation which is playing in this great crisis a worthy, ennobling part, and which may yet, as we hope, play a greater and supreme part in the world drama of the future as a member of the league of nations, which when this great sacrifice of blood is made, will impose a world peace. To them, for the great service to our country they performed, we pay our tribute of appreciation, appreciation which will be enhanced as the years pass, for the nation in the making of which they performed such a fundamental service will ever hold them in grateful remembrance. O, would that now the import of our tributes in this Jubilee year were borne to them across the Gulf of Silence!

With the commencement of her second half century of existence Canada begins a new age which the war has inaugurated. This new age is not for Canada alone, for the war has made for the human race an almost complete break with the past. The world will never be the same as it was in the old care-free days when it was dreamt that savagery was washed out of the human mind and that we would never again see a resort to the brutality of prehistoric warfare or to the type of it represented in the Thirty Years' War, which is exemplified in the conduct of the German military power in this war. The past with all its hopes and defeats of civilization is secure, but what of the future?

Mankind to-day, as a result of this war, has parted with some fondly cherished illusions. Four years ago he who would have predicted the occurrence of such a catastrophe would have been deemed mad. No one did, indeed, foresee its character and extent. Now, the appalling toll in human life that it has exacted, the degradation of human character to that of the brute beast that the enemy in emergencies exhibits, and the fact that mankind is undergoing a gigantic struggle to save all that is worth while in civilization, have reacted on the minds of all who look before and after, and the result is, if not blank pessimism, at least, a greatly diminished optimism regarding the present and the future of the human race. It is not too much to say that for the next one hundred years less reliance will be placed on the forces that make for sanity in determining right action amongst the masses of mankind than was done in the past, and, accordingly, less will be taken for granted in forecasting the action of races in