

hitherto not existed, and that every member of the League will realize the necessity of bringing Germany as quickly as possible into such a position as to make her eligible for inclusion in its membership. I trust that the League of Nations will soon become an effective organization, and I will gladly support it because it is the beginning of a combination of civilized peoples which we hope will grow in influence from day to day, and which it is the universal desire will make war in the future a thing of remote possibility. Let us not make light of the inclusion of Germany and Russia; for we must realize that with a discontented Germany and Russia and other nations around them we shall have not a League of Nations, but another balance of power which will keep the League busy manufacturing munitions in the future as in the past. An amendment has been introduced by the member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding). It is merely an assertion of the independence of Canada and our love for the constitution of our country, and I will vote for it because it maintains intact that constitution. Before I resume my seat, Mr. Speaker, I beg to repeat my hope that before very long the League of Nations will be the means of establishing the peace of the world on a lasting foundation.

Mr. JEAN J. DENIS (Joliette): It is not without great concern and a sense of deep responsibility that I would have risen to-night if the opportunity had been offered me to express myself upon the motion now before the House for approval by Parliament of the Treaty of Peace. I say, if I had been given the opportunity, because I fully realize that the opportunity is not being given to me any more than to many other hon. members at this late hour. However, let me assure you at once that I will not inflict upon the House a speech of any length; I will take the few minutes at my disposal to enter a protest against the manner in which this debate has been conducted and against the impropriety of having a discussion of this importance closed in the way in which it is going to be closed to-night. This session of Parliament has been convened for the sole purpose of ratifying the Peace Treaty. The speech from the Throne says that we are called together for that purpose. It says that we are to ratify the Treaty of Peace, which implies, of course, that we shall not be given much latitude upon the point of deciding whether or not we should ratify. We are simply called upon to ratify the Treaty, and the Prime Minister has conducted the procedure of

the House in such a manner as to give every hon. member distinctly to understand that we are here for the purpose of ratification and nothing else.

The speech from the Throne was delivered on the first day of the month. When we were convened here to ratify this Treaty we expected at least to be able to read the Treaty before giving it our ratification. The Government should have been in a position to place the Treaty in the hands of the members upon the first day of the session. This was not done. It seems that there was some misunderstanding, but at all events it was not done. On the following day, Tuesday, the Prime Minister moved the resolution that we are now discussing, made a speech, sat down and waited. What was he waiting for? He was waiting for the House to begin this debate. In the forenoon of Tuesday, the 2nd of September, I went to the distribution office and could not get a copy of this Treaty; yet the Prime Minister stood up at three o'clock in the afternoon, made a speech and asked the House to adjudge upon and discuss this Treaty of Peace of which we had had so far no opportunity of taking communication. This is a challenge to this House, it is a deliberate challenge not only to the House but to every well-disposed man in this country who wants the country to be administered by men who know what they are doing. We are called here to examine, ratify, approve or disapprove of the most important measure that has ever been submitted to the Canadian Parliament since Confederation, and here is the Prime Minister pressing a resolution for the approval of a Peace Treaty the drafting of which took seven months of the time of the best men in Europe. Yet, we were called upon to discuss this Treaty on the very same day that the Treaty was distributed.

My leader (Mr. McKenzie) was lucky enough to be able to have the debate on this measure postponed, for how long? Forty-eight hours. The Prime Minister in his kindness granted us forty-eight hours to read the Treaty; that is to say, from Tuesday till Thursday, and on that day we had to begin the discussion of the Treaty itself. What happened on Thursday? It appeared that some correspondence was exchanged between the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition. The measure was postponed until Monday of this week, but we have to vote to-night. I dare to say, even although I am the most humble member of this House, that I have something to