

in the meantime, I have said all that I propose to say at this time. I have been a strong party man. I believe yet in the principles upon which my public life has been spent; but I believe that other men, espousing other principles, are as honest and as earnest as I am in their good citizenship. I am sorry to see so many of them under the shadow of misapprehension and misdirection. If anything that I have said will have a tendency to turn on the light and to bring them out from the shadow and help them to ignore past theories and past burnishments of glory and renown in party feuds, then I shall feel that I have accomplished something, and that we as citizens of Canada can co-operate in the best policies, whatever they may be, for the advancement and development of our country.

Hon. N. A. BELCOURT: Honourable gentlemen, at the outset I join with my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) in his expression of great satisfaction and joy at the news which he announced to us a few moments ago, that the Government of the United States and the Government of France have come to an understanding for the purpose of outlawing war, which of course implies the adoption of measures and means to carry out that decision. As a co-worker, under the leadership of the right honourable gentleman, in the exertions of the Canadian Branch of the League of Nations, I feel that this action on the part of France augurs well for the early and cordial co-operation of the great republic to the south of us in the general work of the League of Nations. It seems to me that the government of that great State, in order to be consistent with the action that they have just now taken, must finally realize that its participation in the work of the League of Nations is essential. May we not believe that before long the republic will take its full share in the accomplishment of the duty to which all the great nations over the world owe special attention and assistance.

May I also, not merely because it is the tradition to do so, be permitted to extend my congratulations to the mover (Hon. Mr. Little) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Lacasse) of the Address? The experience acquired by those two new colleagues of ours in their respective fields of activity will, I am sure, be of very great advantage to us in our deliberations.

I desire to express my sense of gratitude to the Government of the day, inasmuch as it has, by the elevation of my friend and colleague from Essex (Hon. Mr. Lacasse), given recognition to the growing share taken by French Canadians in the public affairs of

Canada, particularly in the Province of Ontario. It is a recognition of the increased and very successful effort on the part of the minority in this Province towards the development of the Province, especially in the northern part.

My compatriots who, more than any other people of this country, have special facility or faculty for opening up the land, and who still preserve the spirit of adventure and the desire of the pioneer to substitute for the forests fertile fields, have been very much in evidence within recent years, perhaps to an even greater degree than most people of this Province or of Canada realize. Let me mention but one instance. Shortly after the war, at a place called Kapuskasing, on the Transcontinental railway, there were settled about three hundred returned soldiers. They were given land for almost nothing; buildings were erected for them, considerable sums of money were loaned to them, all with the view of establishing a happy and permanent rural community in that part of our country. Notwithstanding all this aid, within a very short time the settlement turned out to be a complete failure. Within three years practically every man had abandoned the place. Immediately my compatriots took possession of that territory, and without any aid of any kind, relying solely on the strength of their arms, and their goodwill and determination, they set to work and established a permanent and most prosperous and happy community. I doubt whether anywhere in Canada there is any other class of people who would be willing to assume the risks, or who, having assumed them, would so successfully profit by such an opportunity.

While I am offering compliments, I want most cordially to congratulate the Government of Canada upon the ceremonies of the Diamond Jubilee celebration. I think it is the verdict of everyone who has been able to get more or less complete information with regard to the manner in which the celebrations were prepared and carried out—certainly it is the opinion of those whose great privilege it was to witness them—that everything was done in most admirable fashion, in such a way as to create an imperishable memory not only of the main features but of the whole proceedings. My right honourable friend who sits next to our leader (Right Hon. George P. Graham) took a very prominent part in the celebration. He received the other day a testimony of the great services he has rendered, and I wish to unite in the expression of congratulations to our honourable friend. He, perhaps, will