


## THE CANADIAN POSITION ON DISARMAMENT\*

By RT. HON. SIR GEORGE H. PERLEY,

Leader of the *Canadian Delegation to the First World Disarmament Conference.*

HE Dominion of Canada, which has a deep and abiding interest in the reduction and limitation of armaments as a method of ensuring world peace, is united in urging with all power at her command, that something practical and concrete should be done toward this end at the present conference. Her delegation will be proud to carry out its instructions to give any assistance within its power in the achievement of this much to be desired result.

Canada is conscious of the fact that the solution of the problems before the conference is of direct and vital importance to her, as indeed it must be to every state, no matter what its position may be. There is no country which can escape the result of what this conference may do, or refuse to do at this time. On every country represented here, there is a solemn obligation taken to do what lies within its power to make that result one of benefit to humanity. Nowhere is this obligation taken more seriously, either by the government or by the people, than in the country which I and my colleagues have the honour to represent. In no country is the interest in this conference, or anxiety for its success, greater than in the Dominion of Canada. The presence here in our delegation of two ministers of the crown and the president of the National Council of Women of Canada is an indication of the importance that our government attaches to it. The Canadian petitions that have been laid before you are a witness to the intense interest of our people in your deliberations; and this morning I have a cable from Ottawa telling me that further signatures have now come in to those petitions, so that they now number over half a million out of a population of ten million. Those petitions are no meaningless lists of names, but the living expression of the public opinion of our Dominion on this question of disarmament. A half million of our citizens, no small proportion of our population, representing every class and every section, have made this declaration for peace through reduction of arms. In the

\*This is the complete statement which Sir George Perley delivered on behalf of Canada before the World Disarmament Conference on February 13, 1932.