

consideration, and the speech from the throne certainly falls far short of indicating that the opportunity will be offered.

Now I come to a matter which is of some little personal interest. Last year during the debate on the speech from the throne I suggested that an economic conference be called at Ottawa. It is true that in the following speech by the right hon. Prime Minister my suggestion was not dignified with a reference, but now we are told that he called the conference. I do not know whether this is a case of mental telepathy in which I anticipated what was in his mind or whether he adopted my suggestion and acted upon it without now admitting it, but it is quite satisfactory as far as I am concerned.

There are just a few more words I desire to say before I resume my seat. One point to which I should like to refer is our position in the League of Nations. I, like all Canadians, rejoice that we have the position in that league which we occupy, and I trust that the permanent court may be successful. I listened to one of the most illuminating addresses which I ever heard, delivered by a former cabinet minister of the United States at a meeting of the American Bar Association, in respect to that matter, and certain it is that public opinion in the United States is to no inconsiderable extent supporting such a tribunal—an international court in which, while they are not members of the League of Nations, they will have representation.

While I am dealing with this matter I should like to ask the government and the Minister of Labour this question: There has come to my hand a draft bill with respect to regulation of eight 'hours' employment for those who work on public projects and undertakings. It was printed in English and French; it was widely circulated, after having been prepared by Mr. O. M. Biggar, K. C., and it gave effect to the conclusions of the Washington conference of 1919, which conference in turn owed its origin to the provisions of the treaty of Versailles with respect to labour. May I inquire why no reference is made to that matter here? If we are dealing with permanent courts of arbitration, with disarmament matters, with questions affecting our position in the league of nations, why do we not deal with that which is so vital to so many thousands of men throughout this country? It seems to me that is a very striking omission, which it may be somewhat difficult to explain.

With respect to the judgment of the privy council whereby it was provided that women

might be appointed to the Senate, I should like to point out that that question was taken to the privy council not by the government but by a body of women all of whom lived in western Canada. Those five women banded themselves together and took an appeal to the privy council from the judgment of the supreme court of Canada. The privy council decided that it was competent for His Excellency to call to the Senate on the advice of his responsible advisers, a woman as senator. The appointment which His Excellency on the advice of his ministers has been pleased to make is, I have no doubt, from every standpoint most desirable and in every way excellent, but there are two words in that paragraph which certainly are beside the facts; they are not correct. His Excellency is made to say that he has availed himself of the "earliest opportunity" to summon a woman to the Senate. I took the trouble to look up the Gazette and I find that on the 30th day of December Hon. Robert Forke, P. C., was appointed to be a member of the Senate and a senator for the province of Manitoba, and that on the 15th day of February, 1930, Mrs. Cairine MacKay Wilson was called to the Senate. Now, it follows that the statement that His Excellency availed himself of the earliest opportunity is hardly a fact, for the judgment of the Privy Council was given in the summer of 1929 and Senator Forke was called on December 30, 1929, so that the earliest opportunity was not taken to appoint a woman senator. I think it would have been a proper compliment to those who carried the appeal to the Privy Council if one of them had been accorded the honour which I think was justly theirs for having succeeded in their appeal. It would have been but fitting recognition of their efforts had the first woman senator been appointed from the province of Manitoba, being the only western province in which a vacancy existed. But that would have deprived us of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Crerar) and that is something not to be overlooked. It also has relieved the government of the former Minister of Immigration, which was also something to be desired.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BENNETT: I say it was something to be desired. I will not repeat what I have said so often with reference to the high regard in which I hold the former minister, but in the public interest the Prime Minister must have