

rank and standing of a nation (loud applause). Now I must be very careful, as this is a very delicate and debatable question and I see sitting close by Mr. Henri Bourassa, (laughter and applause). The distinguished Irish-Canadian who sits at the Chairman's right (applause) and who was one of the Dominion's representatives at the Peace Conference, Mr. Doherty, referring to Canada's status has said — I quote his exact words —

"Canada's admission to the League of Nations constitutes the most formal recognition of her national status. Through it she takes her place in the International family as one of the group of independent nations that make up that League of Nations that the British Empire has grown to be." (applause).

Such, it is interesting to note, is Mr. Doherty's view of what the Dominion's status is. Now, as I said, this whole question is a very debatable one and this is neither the time nor the place to enter upon its controversial aspects. But at least there is one thing upon which, I am sure, we will all agree and that is that Canada has now the right to demand before the world recognition of national status and that Canadians will never countenance anything that in the slightest degree will interfere with the Dominion's absolute autonomy. (loud applause). Fault has sometimes been found with me for being too strong a Canadian, as if such a thing were possible, but I trust that the day will never come when I shall cease to take my chief pride in Canada as a nation and in the still greater future that awaits her as such. (applause).

NO ROOM FOR PESSIMISM

We have, as I said, been taught by our heroic dead how to "carry on" and we shall "carry on" in justice to their memories and for our own sake. True we have many serious problems to face. But what of that? Other countries, less virile than Canada, have been confronted by even more serious problems and have met them successfully, as we shall meet them. (applause).

Let me say that I have not the slightest patience with those who are preaching pessimism in our midst, those who are bemoaning prevailing conditions and painting the future in the darkest colors. (hear, hear). There is, it seems to me, nothing alarming in the present unrest: on the contrary, it is a sign that we are living and not dead. Movement and activity are always preferable to stagnation and repose. A cemetery is a very calm, restful and peaceful spot, but I do not know that any of us are very anxious to be permanently located there until it becomes absolutely necessary. (laughter). As long as there are reforms to be secured, unrest, criticism, and agitation, as long as it is kept within constitutional bounds, are very good and very neces-