

Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament. He said:

Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the Address I desire to express my appreciation of the privilege afforded me of participating in the discussion of matters so vital as those which will be under review during the present session.

The speech from the Throne is memorable alike for its brevity and the special features which give it its real character and significance. We are gathered here in Special Session mainly to consider and to ratify, as the representatives of the Canadian people, the Treaty of Peace, the signing of which on June 28 last at Versailles brought to an end the most terrible and cruel war in history.

But before making any further reference to this duty which lies before us, I desire to refer to what has already been so appropriately brought to our attention, viz: the presence in this country of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. That he has already won the genuine esteem and affectionate regard of our people in those communities fortunately honoured by his visit, is so apparent that we are accepting it with unqualified satisfaction and delight.

That his coming is most timely all will agree. Following across the Atlantic many of those with whom he had been associated on the Western Front and by whom he was considered a most worthy comrade, his visit makes possible the further friendships and the maturing of the understandings which are mutually helpful and important at the present hour. The new world adventured forth in time of war and joined the old in common cause, and in doing so found across the seas common ideals, institutions and ruling sentiments; now the old land, by its representative, fares forth in time of peace, and there is soon discovered by him common ideals, institutions and sentiments among the people with whom for a time he associates himself. We were in reality but new-world Britons over there; he is in reality but an old-country Canadian here. It is probably not going too far to say that more than any other the present royal visitor has caught the Canadian spirit and so is best able to interpret to us the deeper meaning of the essential British spirit.

But there is something more than this. The Prince of Wales in Canada to-day is interpreting, perhaps unconsciously to him-

[Mr. Whidden.]

self, the significance and advantage of British traditions and institutions, and this comes at a time when Canadians are more conscious than ever before of their own nationhood and possible destiny. Significant indeed, is it not, that so full a response should be given by such democratic people to such a democratic Prince, himself the product of the most democratic Empire the world has ever known?

We in Canada do well not to forget that we are heirs as well as conquering pioneers and that to-morrow as well as yesterday we shall find a complete freedom and a complete national life most easily possible with an ever rejuvenated mother and constantly developing sisters in the great Britannic family of nations. The meaning for both stability and progress in our growing Canadian life of the debt we owe to the past, our connections in the present, and our possible alliances in the future, cannot be over valued. We do well to move with steady steps in all the advance that is made in the coming days.

This will doubtless be known in coming years as the "Peace Treaty Session." Copies of the Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany are now before us. It is for us to consider intelligently and with as broad an outlook as we can command the essential items in this great document. Already we have learned from the press its more important features. Making peace is a stern business, and of necessity there are in this Treaty stern requirements. When we recall the methods and the madness of the enemy we will not fail to realize that severe treatment is not only natural but right.

My task to-day does not include reference to special articles or sections. The Prime Minister will undoubtedly condense and interpret for us the outstanding parts of the Treaty.

However, I would like to emphasize in a general way the meaning of this Treaty for the world and for Canada. It marks the guaranteed end of the most terrible war the world has known. Devastation, destruction and death have been so common for five years that we can scarcely realize they are no longer with us. Freedom, Right, Civilization itself, were about to be destroyed. This document says they are to continue. The weak and the small were about to be thrown to the wolves; this Treaty says they will have a chance to survive among the fittest. The safety of the world is once more made secure. Permanent peace is made possible in this Treaty by the