

and fair discussion, it will end in a settlement that will unite the Anglo-Saxon nations in a peace that we can feel is going to be permanent and will make for the betterment of the world, and that the League of Nations may become the very citadel of peace and good will among mankind.

Sir Robert Borden, as soon as he arrived in England, after the signing of the armistice, stated:

The problems that lie before our country, in common with other Britannic nations, are quite as momentous as those which we faced during the war, and I believe even more difficult. Our people will face them with the same courage, resolve, and confidence as sustained them during the weary years of war.

Honourable gentlemen, I think we have already shown that this country has been prepared and is prepared to face all problems, and that we intend to be true to ourselves and to deal fairly with every section of the community. During last session, since the armistice was proclaimed, many legislative enactments have been passed, to some of which I may refer; for instance, the Pensions Act amendment, which provides that the pensions granted by Canada shall rank highest amongst those of the nations who fought during the war; the War Service Gratuity Act, which provides a generous gratuity according to length of service; the Soldiers' Land Settlement Act, which makes provision for extending financial aid to soldiers who desire to settle upon the land; the creation of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, which is entrusted with the care of the returned soldier from the time he is discharged until he is re-established in civil life; the creation of the Board of Commerce for the investigation and restraint of monopolies and undue enhancement of the prices of commodities; and many other enactments of greater or lesser importance.

We have given evidence during the war, and since the war, in many ways, of our ability to shoulder the burden when our own integrity and the integrity of the empire were at stake. We all know that the Government has borrowed from our own people, in round figures, a billion and a half of dollars; but notwithstanding this fact we have taken home to ourselves the motto of Lloyd George: "Save and serve." The savings in our chartered banks have increased to one and three-quarter billions of dollars. Our farmers have obeyed the injunction, "Save and serve," and, according to the latest figures which I have, which are merely approximate, the total wheat

yield of the Dominion for the current year will be about 230,000,000 bushels, valued at about \$500,000,000.

Our balance of trade still runs in our favour, and some of you may be astonished to learn that during the last fiscal year our exports per capita amounted to \$195, as against \$70 for the United States and \$55 for Great Britain. We are being accused of extravagance, and perhaps with more or less justification; but, honourable gentlemen, the State is like an individual: unless we have confidence in ourselves, we shall not be able to carry on our government and at the same time take care of the requirements of our people. And at this time it is, I think, just as well to pay attention, not to our disadvantages, but to our great advantages and to the wonderful resources which we have within ourselves and which the will of our people will see developed in proper time.

Parliament has assembled in special session, as I stated before, to consider what in my judgment is the greatest document that has ever been produced since the world began—the Treaty of Peace. There are a great many advantages in it, with possibly some disadvantages; but we must consider that if we are going to enter into an undertaking which is for the purpose of assuring us eternal peace, we cannot assure this to ourselves without assuming some responsibilities. I believe, honourable gentlemen, that after this Treaty of Peace has been discussed and ratified, after this Parliament has prorogued and we settle down to attend to all our material affairs, which have been neglected during the stress of war, we shall find that Canada will advance much more rapidly in the future than it has advanced in the past. We in Canada are not looking for any monetary recompense as a result of the war; but we have done something for the sake of freedom and humanity.

A very brief perusal of the terms of the Treaty of Peace, and of other literature that I have been able to gather together, leads me to disagree with those who think that the terms of peace are severe against Germany. One should remember that Germany has not been devastated. Her factories are all intact, not ravaged like those of France and Belgium, which it will take many years to reconstruct in order that they may compete with the other nations of the world. But, serious as those terms may be, we in this House shall have to give them consideration, and I have jotted down