

(November 12, 1919.)

His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire

Mr. Chairman, Your Honor and Gentlemen:—I was a little alarmed when the chairman began to go into my family history. I was rather afraid he was going to allude to a certain occasion on which one of my ancestors had a gamble between either having his head cut off or being made a Duke. I was going to say—fortunately for myself; and, I hope, not unfortunately for you,—the alternative of the Dukedom was successful.

Now, gentlemen, I think it was rather more than a year ago when I had the privilege of attending a meeting of The Canadian Club of Toronto; and I believe it was on that occasion when you were welcoming, and I had the privilege of attending the welcome, of that distinguished French General, General Pau, who has done so much for the French and for the Allies, and whose work and memory we are proud to recall. Since that time much has happened, and we are in the position to-day of celebrating the first day of the second year of peace.

A year ago yesterday we, throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, were welcoming with enthusiasm the return of peace and the cessation of hostilities. We are now in a position in which it is possible to throw our minds back and to take some account of the progress which has been made in the change from war conditions to those of peace.

I certainly do not wish to draw too rosy a picture, and I certainly do not wish to be too enthusiastic; but I frankly confess that, whether or not it is due to the general atmosphere of Canada and its citizens, unquestionably I take an optimistic view of the future. And I think that we are entitled to take an optimistic view. Many events have occurred and are occurring from day to day which mark the transition from war to peace. Perhaps one of the most notable, as far as Canada is concerned, has been the extraordinary triumph which has attended the visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. That visit has made a very profound

impression throughout Canada. It has not been merely the visit of a keen, enthusiastic, delightful personality; but it has given Canada an opportunity, which she wisely made the very utmost of, of proving its attachment to the British throne and British institutions.

It is satisfactory indeed to know that while the ancient thrones and dynasties of Europe have crashed to the ground, while their policy is proving a complete and total failure, that to-day the British throne rests upon a stronger and securer basis than ever it did in its long history. The history of Canada shows, as its development has proved, its loyalty to the old country and its loyalty to what the old country stands for and all that it means. The visit of His Royal Highness, coming as it did at the very right moment, gave the whole country exactly the opportunity which was wanted of demonstrating in the fullest degree that loyalty and attachment to His Majesty.

And what is true of the British throne is equally true of all other British institutions. They have stood the test of the greatest war ever known in history. They have stood shocks which have proved, have constantly proved in our past history, that British institutions are capable of adjusting themselves, of adapting themselves to changed needs of the moment. We can, I think, all look forward with confidence to the certainty that it will in the future, as it always has in the past, be able to adapt itself to the changed needs and requirements of each successive generation.

I often ask myself what it is that we mean when we talk of British institutions and what Britain has done. I should like, if I may, in endeavoring to find an answer to that question, to read you one very short quotation from an admirable book which I have had the pleasure of reading lately, a book entitled, "English Leadership." In the quotation I shall have to use the word "England" and "English". If I had been sitting at the right hand of the writer I think it is quite possible I should have suggested that "Britain" be inserted instead. But I cannot take the liberty of altering what was written. The book was written by Mr. Larned, librarian of Buffalo; and, while not definitely completed at his death, it has since been edited and is practically in the form in which he wrote it.

The book has an introduction by a gentleman whom we all recognize and know to be a very good friend of ours, ex-Pres-

ident Taft. The very foreground of Mr. Taft's introduction, the very first words, are:—"Representative popular government and all civil liberty are the benefits which England has conferred upon the world." And the introduction is the keynote to the whole book. In looking for some definite meaning of what British institutions and Britain stand for, I felt I could not do better than take that quotation from Mr. Larned's writing,—

"Conspicuously before everything else the English have been leaders in the political civilization of the world. Every notable feature of difference between the modern and ancient organizations and institutions of government bears the stamp of English origin and English shaping in its present practical form. All civilized nations to-day have accepted, or are accepting, English solutions of the problems of government by the will and with the consent of the governed. Popular government by representation, deputized democracy on constitutional lines throughout; these are almost universal in the social order of the present day because Englishmen found the way to successful employment and showed it to the rest of mankind."

These words, gentlemen, were written not by an Englishman. They were written by an American, to be read by American readers, and discussed from an American point of view. I think they do give very considerable food for reflection and thought to us, who are carrying on and who have to carry on that great tradition. We see in these pages the origin and the growth of British freedom and British liberty,—which has now been built afresh,—and the action, the courage, and devotion of our ancestors in former days to carry it practically to all parts of the world.

We have seen during the past five years how the Empire realized its responsibilities and fought on behalf of liberty and liberty's institutions. It is for us to see in our turn that that great story is handed down to future generations with even greater success than ever it has been before.

We sometimes hear it stated that we may be standing at the parting of the ways. I refuse to believe that there is going to be any parting of the ways. We have got a long, distinguished history to which we can refer. We know that modern development, science, knowledge, education, will turn out still greater inventions for us and for those who are coming after us. But I believe the surest and the safest way

in which we can proceed is by adhering to those recognized powers which have been found to be so successful before, and which are quite capable of adapting themselves to new and better conditions, and are able to carry the spirit of the old with the requirements of the new. It is for us, every one of us, to see that we make the very best of our opportunities to-day.

We look around and see the civilized world in a state of considerable unrest, and many anxious problems to be faced. The surprising thing is not that there is unrest, but I believe the most surprising thing is that there is not a great deal more than what there is at the moment. It is only natural that when the best brains in the world, when all scientific knowledge, scientific appliances, have unfortunately been adapting themselves solely and entirely to the purposes of destruction, that there should be social, political and economic unrest. As I said just now, I think it is not surprising that we should see that condition of affairs. The surprising thing is that it is not one hundredfold worse than what it is at the present moment.

We know that after five years of wastage it is bound to take much anxiety, much thought, to reproduce normal conditions again. Many palliatives may be found, many suggestions may be made; but, speaking to an audience of this nature, I will venture to repeat what everyone knows and what it is almost useless for me to say. There are only two ways in which we are going to repair this damage that has been created by the wastage of war—by industry and economy.

Looking around in the broadest way, there is no part of the world which is capable of contributing more to the re-settlement and readjustment and bringing back to normal conditions than what Canada can do. You have the proof of that going on at this very moment. It is only a few moments ago that I had the privilege of presenting to the mayor of the city the Honour Flag which the city has won for having obtained its objective in the great loan which is now being floated. It is only another proof of the ability of the country to make good the damage, and the confidence which its people have for the future. If, after five years of war, a country of something like eight millions of people is capable of raising within a fortnight something over five hundred millions of dollars, it speaks indeed well for the financial ability and the confidence of the country. That is only another proof of the part which Canada is taking and will be able to take in the future.

It is impossible for anyone to travel through this great country without realizing that Canada is, even now, only at the very beginning of her history. She has got immense areas to open up; she has most valuable resources of every kind. But, after all, all those resources are of no value unless there is a population which is proud of its citizenship, and which has the character and the ideals to make the very highest use which it can of those great resources. And it is when one looks around and reflects upon what Canada has done in the past, what she has done in the war, and what she is doing to-day—that is the reason why I as an individual at any rate am optimistic; and I believe we are all justified in being equally optimistic. But this work is not to be accomplished merely by making speeches. It means every one of us has to realize that he has his own part to play; and I am quite confident that with the sound growth of public opinion, with the work which is being done now by all classes and by all schools of thought in the community, that we can look forward to a Canada infinitely greater even than she has been in the past.

We often, I think, are inclined to be a little skeptical as to our own capacities. I believe, on a very celebrated occasion, Mr. Balfour made the statement in New York that sometimes Englishmen and people of the British Empire were inclined to unduly practice the virtues of self-depreciation, that sometimes perhaps we did not and do not realize what we are capable of accomplishing. Well, to a certain extent, as an onlooker—and I hope, during the three years that I have been here, an intelligent one, and certainly a very sympathetic and cordial one,—I think I have seen what you have done in the past and feel impressed with what I know you can do in the future.

We won this war by bringing all our energies together. We sank differences of opinion. We all worked heart and soul with one object and one intention only. We were successful. We were able to achieve the greatest victory ever known in history. Now, equally well, if we work together, if we all strive to attain that one object—and that is the increased happiness and prosperity of all sections and all classes of the community—we shall be able to achieve equally as great results in times of peace as we did in times of war. It is in our hands at the present moment. The more one reflects on the enormous possibilities of the great Dominion, the more confidence one feels in looking into the future.

No institution is capable of exercising a stronger influence

on that public opinion which is necessary than the great Canadian Clubs which extend right across the continent. And in venturing to address you to-day, I can only say that I wish you all every prosperity. You have great opportunities and I am quite sure you will be ready to take them. Great as Canada has been in the past, if we all work together with a single purpose in view we can look forward to a Canada still greater and yet more prosperous.