

(November 24, 1930)

Address

BY PRINCE TOKUGAWA

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, I know we are all deeply sensitive of the honor that is being conferred on us today in having as our guest Prince Tokugawa from Japan. For over two hundred years the name of Tokugawa was a ruling name in Japan and the ancestors of our guest made a great contribution to that wonderful nation in the east. We are not particularly interested in his ancestors today. We are more interested in the individual that is to pay us a visit. He has himself contributed a great deal to the betterment of mankind in Japan and all over the world and we welcome him here today particularly on that account. With all his activities in civil life he has found time to be President of the House of Peers of Japan for the last twenty-seven years. He is also President of the Japanese Red Cross and is now on his way home from Brussels after representing Japan at the conference there. He is President of the League of Nations Association of Japan, Vice-President of the British-Japanese Society, and President and Vice-President of many other similar Japanese organizations. You would think with all this list of activities that the Prince would have no time outside of his own country, but he is very much interested in this country of ours, so much so that he has sent his son over here, and we are glad now to welcome him to our luncheon today. Gentlemen, without taking more of your time it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Prince Tokugawa of Japan.

PRINCE TOKUGAWA:—Mr. President and Gentlemen, on the eve of my departure from Canada, it gives me very much pleasure to be a guest of the Canadian Club of Toronto. This is my first visit to this city, but when I am

addressing this representative gathering to-day, I am delivering a farewell message to this most hospitable country, and I am grateful for the opportunity thus given me.

I was in Canada in June and July last, and, after spending a little more than four months in Europe and the United States, came back to Canada on the Armistice Day. I may be allowed this afternoon to speak about certain impressions which I have formed during my travel.

I may tell you at once that, from what I have seen and heard, I am particularly impressed with four major facts. In the first place, my observations on both sides of the Atlantic have served to confirm my belief in international interdependence and solidarity of nations. Since the League of Nations was formed, I have been fully aware of the merit of its activities. I have not been blind to the usefulness of the Permanent Court of International Justice. I have never failed to realize the importance of the agreement for the renunciation of war. But I have never been so strongly impressed with the fact that all the nations of the civilized world are dependent on one another and that no country in the world can do anything without affecting the interests of other countries. In this world of interdependence, what used to be purely a national problem is now bound to have its international aspect. The national policy of one country in solving a problem which is originally of an internal nature, has now to be considered also from the international angle. From this point of view, I am fully convinced that international co-operation is desirable on as many questions as possible and, for that purpose, I urge more strongly than ever the necessity of personal contacts between the peoples of the world. In other words, I desire to emphasize the importance of cultivating a mutual knowledge among nations.

From this consideration I turn to the growing desire in the civilized world for permanent peace. The agreement outlawing war, to which I have referred, and the result of the recent London Conference are a great contribution to this cause. In the matter of disarmament, the Treaty of London is only a step forward and we must look forward to the conclusion of a more comprehensive agreement. On

the other hand, the far-reaching effects of the Great War are so keenly felt in every part of the world, and though it is disheartening to go through such hardship, we might have to be contented, if a more general desire for renouncing war would thus be cultivated. However, we must be very careful. Future generations who have not seen the devastating effects of the war or who have not passed through these difficult times, may not be so apprehensive of the result of armed conflicts. It is for this reason, among many others, that I believe that every early opportunity must be seized to approach the final goal of permanent peace. Not only must an opportunity be seized, but I believe it must be created. I am able to say in this regard that the Japanese people are always ready to participate in any attempt in that direction.

I, as a man from a country bordering on the Pacific Ocean, am convinced of the increasing significance of that ocean, and in that respect, my earnest belief that the British nations, the United States and Japan must co-operate has been more than strengthened during my trip. Certainly I do not ignore any other Pacific country, but it cannot be denied that the three nations I have mentioned are in reality the chief guardians of that region. It is pleasant to think that those are the nations whose co-operation at the recent Conference in London brought about the result which it did. You will also remember that the Four Power Pacific Pact, to which I had the honour of affixing my signature at Washington in 1922, still serves as a guarantee for the maintenance of peace and order in the Pacific. I may remind you of the two main articles of that Pact.

(i.) The High Contracting Parties agree as between themselves to respect their rights in relation to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific Ocean.

If there should develop between any of the High Contracting Parties a controversy arising out of any Pacific question and involving their said rights which is not satisfactorily settled by diplomacy and is likely to affect the harmonious accord now happily subsisting between them, they shall invite the other High Contract-

ing Parties to a joint conference to which the whole subject will be referred for consideration and adjustment.

- (ii.) If the said rights are threatened by the aggressive action of any other Power, the High Contracting Parties shall communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken, jointly or separately, to meet the exigencies of the particular situation.

To this Pact France is also a party and that of course is an additional advantage.

Speaking in Canada about the Pacific Ocean, my attention is naturally drawn to the relations between this country and mine. I have spent a very enjoyable and profitable time in Canada, and everywhere I visited I was accorded a very warm and cordial reception. This has been a source of very great pleasure to me, for I realize that it is also an expression of the friendly feeling of the Canadian people toward my country. I need hardly tell you this sentiment is sincerely reciprocated by the Japanese people. I am very pleased to hear from our Minister that the relations between our two countries are nothing but cordial. The two nations are young, but both of them have traditional backgrounds of old races. Canada and Japan have their own requirements, economic and otherwise, and they are destined to co-operate for the mutual benefit. I sincerely trust that Canada and Japan will have a great future. When I return to Japan I shall tell our people what I have just told you and impress on them the importance of the promotion of friendly relations with this country.

In conclusion, let me thank you once more for your hospitality and kind attention, and in doing so, I desire to express my most sincere wish for the continued success and prosperity of the Canadian Club of Toronto.

THE PRESIDENT:—Sir, as chairman of this meeting it is my privilege to extend to you a vote of thanks from the members of the Canadian Club of Toronto. Before doing that, however, you mentioned permanent peace. To me and to us all that is a very, very close thing to our hearts. I think we had something this last week that was particularly

significant in the City of Toronto. There were four German officers who fought against us overseas; they were entertained in a military mess here in Toronto. I think we all had great satisfaction and great gladness of heart to hear of that affair taking place. If that is possible certainly permanent peace is well on its way. Another thing that helps toward permanent peace are these visits of distinguished people from foreign countries. We have deeply appreciated, sir, your coming to speak to us today, and on behalf of the members of the Canadian Club may I tender to you their most sincere thanks for your very enlightening remarks and kind salutations.