

departs from any precedent in announcing the intention of the Government to extend to women the franchise. In this I heartily concur. Why should not women, who live under the law and are subject to the law, have a voice as to who should make the law, and what the law should be? The two twin provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were the first, not only to extend to women the right to exercise their franchise, but to accord them the fullest privilege of citizenship. In the province of Alberta two women are members of the Legislature, and in British Columbia there is one. When we consider what the women of Canada have done in heroic service and sacrifice, no less than the men at the front—for when the man is killed his suffering is over, but the mother or the wife lives on, suffers on, and dies a living death—when we consider what our nurses and Red Cross women have contributed to the war, who would deny them the fullest rights of citizenship? When we remember that the best Sovereign that ever sat upon the British Throne was a woman, the noble and revered Queen Victoria, who would say that women should not be free to fill the highest positions in the gift of the people?

The proposed prohibition enactment under the War Measures Act, 1914, is not only essential for the conservation of food, but also as enabling legislation to make workable and enforceable provincial prohibitive enactments.

The conservation of food and increased production are commanding the keenest interest and co-operation by the people of Canada to-day. Much has been done. Much more will be done. In 1917 Alberta and Saskatchewan produced \$1,000,000,000 worth of farm products—Alberta a trifle less than \$400,000,000, and Saskatchewan a trifle more than \$600,000,000. Granted as favourable a year during 1918 as last year, even the production will be much greater. The favourable balance of trade for Canada, by conservation on the one hand, and by increased production on the other, will be greatly increased.

Honourable gentlemen, the impelling and fixed determination of Canada to bend every energy and to conserve every interest to the one great purpose of realizing our war aims must possess us as a people until victory is won and the future security of the world made sure. Better had we not been born than fail in the challenge to our generation to preserve and pass on to those who come after us those priceless liberties and blessings of a free civilization which have been

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handed down to us as our heritage. Whatever the sacrifice has been or may be, we can conceive of nothing more disastrous than to fail in our high purpose to defend those principles of democracy which have come to us from the past at so great a price. Human progress is always by way of human sacrifice, but in the light of history we learn that with every such sacrifice for human freedom blessings commensurate with the sacrifice accrue to the human race.

For God from evil still educes good,
And freedom's course still grows,
Though steeped in blood.

Honourable gentlemen, the people of Canada have expressed their confidence in the present Administration to accomplish the one supreme purpose of doing Canada's utmost to bring this appalling struggle to a successful conclusion. The honourable members of the Senate may differ upon many questions of legislation or of administration, but upon the one great issue at the greatest crisis of the greatest war of human history, when the destiny of our country and our liberties tremble in the balance, shall we not give our united support to the Government, charged with this gigantic task, until the war is over and victory is achieved?

Hon. HEWITT BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, I have listened with great interest to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the Address. I wish to congratulate the mover of the Address upon the very excellent speech which he made, and only regret that I am not able to thoroughly understand the language in which he spoke. I wish that we could all share with him in the ability to address this House in both languages. I wish also to congratulate my honourable friend the seconder of the Address (Hon. Mr. Michener) upon his first effort in this Chamber, and to assure him that we appreciate his remarks and the fact that he has come here to assist us in our deliberations.

I wish also to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon continuing to occupy the Chair in this Chamber. I am sure that we all appreciate the way in which you have presided over our deliberations in the past, and that we look forward to your continuance in office for some years to come.

Since we met last session, the honourable the leader of this House (Hon. Sir James Leugheed) has had the distinction conferred upon him of being placed in charge of a portfolio. We have many times referred to the fact that the Government had not seen fit to honour the honourable leader of this House in such a way as the members