

have come or can come—a faith that this world-wide Commonwealth of free nations, founded upon the aspiration, effort, and the sacrifice of a thousand years, was not born to be destroyed or dominated by the brutal force of the Hun.

**A SPEECH BEFORE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE CANADIAN PRESS AT LONDON,
ENGLAND, JULY 12, 1918. (1)**

It is an honour to be called upon to propose this toast, especially to an audience gathered to so large an extent from the sun-kissed land beyond the Atlantic which we Canadians love so well. I feel the responsibility of proposing it all the more when I recall the words of a Scottish poet, "a chiel's amang ye takin' notes, an' faith, he'll prent them." We have not one "chief" here, but about twenty-five "chiefs takin' notes," and they are all likely to print them, so one has to be discreet in his utterances.

I should like to add a word to what the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has said as to the great services that the Press of the Empire as a whole has rendered to the common cause throughout this war. In this I speak more particularly of the Press of Canada, with which I am naturally more familiar. There have been sharp differences of opinion among journalists, as among public men in Canada, during the past; but it is only a just tribute to the Press of Canada to affirm that throughout this war they have lent their support to the Empire's cause without regard to differences of political opinion or divergences arising from local considerations. To affirm this is a tribute not only to the Press but to the spirit of our people, which is necessarily reflected in the attitude of the Press. Perhaps no democracy in the world ever underwent a sharper or sterner test than the democracy of Canada during the past year. We had been at war for more than three years. Our people were far removed from the actual scene of the conflict. There had been untold sorrow and sacrifice and burdens altogether undreamt of; yet in the

(1) On July 12, 1918, Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Information in the Government of the United Kingdom, gave a dinner at the Savoy Hotel to welcome the representatives of the Canadian Press who were visiting the United Kingdom and the theatre of war in France as the guests of His Majesty's Government. The Right Honourable David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, proposed the toast "Our Guests," which was responded to by Mr. J. H. Woods. Sir Robert Borden proposed the toast "The Canadian Expeditionary Force," to which Lieutenant General Sir Richard Turner, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., responded. Sir Robert Borden spoke as above.