

all the others: that of an unflinching resolve in the prosecution of the struggle against the common enemy. That is the supreme consideration of the present Government. All other cares—no matter how important they may appear—fall below it. And, in the course of this speech, the Union Government, under the respected leadership of the Right Honourable Sir Robert L. Borden, reminds each and every one of us that the freedom, the institutions and future of our country must be safeguarded. This is why we are asked through the voice of His Excellency, to remain steadfast in our resolve to win. On behalf of our agonizing country, those who are weighed down with the precious burden of her destiny beseech us to hold fast until the day of ultimate triumph and to consecrate ourselves to a cause which has already brought to Canada untold sacrifices and a resplendent harvest of glory.

Moreover, the main lines of appropriate legislation which conforms to our present aims have been submitted to the consideration of those whom the people have chosen as their representatives. Let us cast a rapid glance at a few aspects of this world conflict, and then briefly review the various measures set forth in the speech which we are discussing.

May I first be permitted, however, Mr. Speaker, before touching on what pertains to Canada's effort, to thank the hon. Prime Minister for the signal honour he has done the city of Ottawa in choosing the representative of this electoral college to second the motion of the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. But, great as that honour may be, I do not hesitate to affirm that those who made it possible had acquired a certain right to it.

Nigh onto four years ago, the British Empire—having exhausted all the resources of diplomatic conciliation—cast into the fray, where nations were already at each other's throats, a sword which from that instant has never been sheathed. In vain the formidable Albion had striven to spare the world this most bloody holocaust of history. Germany, a nation of prey, had torn to pieces all her treaties, had betrayed her given word. The invasion of Belgium was to point out to England her noble line of conduct. Then came the message from the Canadian Government, sent to the British authorities in the first days of August, 1914. The hon. Prime Minister imparted the hope that these international misunderstandings would be solved without bloodshed. On the other hand, the Mother

[Mr. Chabot.]

Country was assured of our most loyal assistance, in every shape and form, should war break out. The Empire was threatened; the greatest of Dominions declared herself ready, irrespective of political ties, to accept the most bitter sacrifices in the task of upholding the integrity and the honour of the British flag. What followed has shown that the promises made, in the first days of war, by certain elements, have been implemented by the Canadian people. And it is in my twofold capacity as a British subject and as a descendant of one of the pioneer races of the Canadian nation, that I wish to dwell a few moments upon this drama, so terrible and withal so glorious.

Is it necessary for me to recall to those who hear me the justice of the cause which our people are defending with their blood? Our case in this regard has been unassailably established. This cause for which you have seen your brothers, your friends, and those still nearer and dearer, leave our shores, this cause, I say, is just not only with regard to Great Britain and her colonies, but it is the very Cause itself of Light against Darkness. A victorious Germany would mean that everything which humanity holds sacred would be ground down into the dust. It would be the apotheosis of might against right, of error against truth. All the efforts of mankind, since the dawn of time, towards better things, would go for naught. But reassure yourselves; so much blood has not been shed in vain. So many tears, such universal mourning, will never end in a mere shadow of victory. England, France, the United States—that great republic, our neighbour, who has now entered the fray side by side with us, and whose soldiers are today almost our brothers—Belgium, Italy and the allied countries, will take good care that peace will mean the shattering of Prussia. And it is to render the annihilation of autocracy more decisive that, from the very inception of the war, and since, England and her sister nations have had but one single voice to loudly proclaim that we must either be the victors or wear the chains of slavery.

This solidarity betwixt England and Canada has been proven, and continues to be so every day, if we but stop to consider the effort put forth by our country. What need is there of insisting on the part played by the Canadians during more than forty months of war? We should have to retell the thousands of heroic feats performed by officers and by the humble rank and rifle alike. We should have to parade before