

mer, Macdonald, Brown, Cartier, Tupper and others whose loyalty, determination, and courage laid the foundation of the present great Dominion, have been justified in their work by the growth, solidity and importance of this country. Confederation saw four provinces, with little common interest except loyalty to the Crown, brought into union; a half century has passed and the Canada of 1867 is now a mighty empire, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, one-half of North America, comprising all the British possessions on this continent except Newfoundland. And, Sir, I know I voice the desire of all, when I express the hope that that ancient colony, from union of fighting forces with us in the Empire's cause, will seriously consider complete union in government and thus make British North America one dominion. I believe even in this time of stress the fiftieth anniversary of Confederation should not be allowed to pass without some fitting commemoration of the event. The fathers of Confederation laid the foundation of a vaster country than they believed possible at the time. Then Canada was a colony of Great Britain; to-day she is a partner in world affairs, whether of peace or of war.

A little over fifty years ago representatives from the four provinces met in London to consummate Confederation. Then there were doubts as to the stability of the proposed union; even as to the worth of overseas Dominions to the Empire. What a change in fifty years. Within a few weeks there will be another conference in London, when representatives from the overseas dominions will sit in the councils of the Empire determining the best policy to pursue to win victory in the great world's war, and with that victory, the preservation and strengthening of the bonds of Empire. What imperial or colonial statesmen in 1867 would have even dreamed that within such a brief period the overseas dominions would have won a partnership in the great British Empire? I know that the Prime Minister can assure the representatives of the motherland and of the overseas dominions that Canada is prepared to assume the responsibility of Empire for the future, in the same or even to a greater degree than she has done during the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to quote the message of the respected leader of the Opposition as given to the public in the recent issue of the official publication of his party and reprinted in the Toronto

[Mr. G. C. Wilson.]

Globe of Friday last. The right hon. gentleman says:

Let us here and now sink passions, prejudices, vain and idle recriminations. Let us, when criticism is needed, criticise without bitterness, only by appeals to reason, and above all, let us bend all our energies toward making Canada an effective factor in the struggle.

Those, Sir, are the sentiments that have actuated the people of my constituency since the outbreak of the war, or they could not have given as freely of their manhood and wealth as they have. They have sunk party passions and prejudices; they have not indulged in vain and idle recriminations; they have had but one object—the winning of the war. And, Sir, the places where the people have been guided by these sentiments can easily be ascertained by an examination of the recruiting returns and the contributions to the various patriotic funds.

In conclusion, let me express my firm belief in the success of the allied cause. That success is assured; its early realization is dependent upon ourselves and the citizens of the allied countries. To make 1917 the year of decisive victory we must give freely of our resources, and co-ordinate our efforts to secure the best results. I can but speak of my own district, but in that part of Canada every one is working in harmony and has but one object—the victory that means a lasting peace. Anything that would tend to divert attention or divide efforts to secure this object would not meet the wishes of my constituents. We are united in this object; we will fight our private battles when we have won the victory for which we all are now striving. We are fighting for national existence; we are fighting against German aggression and militarism; we are fighting in the interests of humanity and civilization; we are fighting for a just cause; we are fighting for a lasting and abiding peace and until, in the Providence of God, we have secured the same, Nelson's historic message should be our's, namely, "England expects every man will do his duty."

Mr. J. A. DESCARRIES (Jacques-Cartier) (translation): Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion of my honourable colleague, the member for Wentworth (Mr. G. C. Wilson) who has moved that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency to a joint meeting of the members of the Senate and the House