

lution submitted by the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth), I may say that the hon. member was no doubt actuated by the best motives in proposing the motion that he did, although the effect has been different, perhaps, from what he expected. I have no intention of taking up any considerable time of the House in discussing this very important resolution. I rather regret a good deal of the language that was used by the mover in presenting his case—language that was unnecessary, arousing many strong feelings, harrowing our feelings, I might almost say, by recalling many of the things which happened in the past. The sufferings endured and sacrifices made by the people of Canada and many other countries in defence of their liberties are too recent to enable them with calmness to hear them lightly passed over at this time. When we think of the sacrifices that were made, when we remember some of the early scenes in 1914 and 1915 when Germany began her march across the plains of Belgium; when we remember the stories of atrocities and other accounts that appeared in the papers of that time, many of which we know to-day were true, we must realize that this is not the time to begin to say we must forget everything and be just as we were before. I do not think anything can be gained by keeping alive the smouldering fires of hatred; it would be as well for the world if we could forget some of these things, though it may be hard to do at this time, and look toward the future and toward a brighter and better and happier condition everywhere throughout the world.

I do not think any good purpose would be served by my speaking at length on this subject. I may say, however, that in many respects I am not exactly in sympathy with the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth). I have known that hon. gentleman for a great many years, but I believe that in this case his point of view is altogether wrong; the end he seeks will never be accomplished by the method he has taken. At the same time I believe him to be in earnest and, although mistaken, working in the best interests of the common people. I want to say that in justice to the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg. I know that the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) is very patriotic, and no doubt he meant all he said, but as he warmed up his patriotic sentiment got uppermost and he lashed the member for Centre Winnipeg in a very vicious manner. I am ever willing to forget and forgive, and I do not think any good pur-

pose is served by that kind of debate in this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, having made that statement, I can only say that I feel I must vote against the resolution; and I am sure I speak for a great many hon. members on this side when I say that we wish to dissociate ourselves from some of the sentiments that were expressed by the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to say anything on this resolution until I listened to the tremendous outburst of hysteria which took place on both sides of the House last evening, but having listened to that outburst with a good deal of sadness at heart—because I do not think it was creditable to the Parliament of Canada—I feel that I have to say a few words. I shall not enter into any prolonged debate upon the economic aspect of the question; that would be wasted effort. But I do wish to express a few opinions on the resolution itself and some of the arguments that were advanced. Hysterics in my opinion are the expression of argumentative penury. It gets us nowhere. It is an incentive to a spirit which leads away from truth rather than towards it. The Minister of Labour made a passionate plea which, to my mind harked back to the days of savagery.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER: What savagery?

Mr. IRVINE: I shall proceed to indicate what it was—"An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth", was the spirit of the hon. minister. This appeal was placed—and here is the tragic part of it—in the name of the fallen heroes of Canada. I think I shall have to mention here something which otherwise I should certainly hesitate to do. Among the names mentioned by the Prime Minister of Canada the other day that appeared among the missing I happened to have a brother and so if it is necessary, and I regret that such seems to be the case, that a man must speak from behind the blood of his relations before he can escape the imputed motives of the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) and the Minister of Labour—of course, I must do it. If then it is a matter of whether I want to sell my brother's blood for a few German marks—which we will never get,—or whether I am to sell my brother's blood for the world peace for which he died, then there is no argument, or there is only one thing, and that is leave the marks out of consideration. Mr. Speaker; to place falsely, in