

Donald Sutherland, member for South Oxford, and seconded by Mr. M. D. O. L'Esperance, member for Montmagny, the former speaking in English and the latter in French. Both these gentlemen made able and patriotic speeches and the utterances of each were well received on both sides of the House. When they had concluded, Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose and was followed at the conclusion of his address by the Prime Minister.

Unanimity of Proceedings

In his opening remarks, Sir Wilfrid Laurier struck a note which was taken up, not alone by his own followers, but without exception by the followers of the Government as well. So much was this the case that the Liberal Leaders' remarks might almost be said to be an epitome of the proceedings of the entire session. Sir Wilfrid said:

"It is our duty, more pressing upon us than all other duties, at once, on this first day of this extraordinary session of the Canadian Parliament to let Great Britain know, and to let the friends and foes of Great Britain know, that there is in Canada but one mind and one heart, and that all Canadians stand behind the Mother Country, conscious and proud that she has engaged in this war, not from any selfish motive, for any purpose of aggrandizement, but to maintain untarnished the honour of her name, to fulfill her obligations to her allies, to maintain her treaty obligations, and to save civilization from the unbridled lust of conquest and power."

In keeping with the tenor of these utterances, and in reference to such measures as had already been taken by the Government, and such further measures as they might introduce, Sir Wilfrid set forth the attitude of the Opposition in the following words:

"Speaking for those who sit around me, speaking for the wide constituency which we represent in this House, I hasten to say that to all these measures we are prepared to give immediate assent. If in what has been done, or in what remains to be done there may be anything which in our judgment should not be done, or should be differently done, we raise no question, we take no exception, we offer no criticism, and we shall offer no criticism so long as there is danger at the front."

Excepting the ratification of the exceptional measures taken by the Governor-in-Council prior to the meeting of Parliament, its time was occupied chiefly with the voting of \$50,000,000, the amount regarded by the Government as necessary to provide for contingencies arising out of the war and with the consideration of the ways and means by which this amount was to be provided. There was also enacted a law making provision for the incorporation of a Canadian Patriotic Fund, and upon the Governor-in-Council were conferred exceptional and special powers to adopt such orders and regulations and to take such steps and proceedings as might be deemed necessary for the defence, security, peace, order, and welfare of Canada during the continuance of the war.

There was not from the beginning to the close of its proceedings a discordant note throughout the entire session of parliament. Party differences of the past, existing differences in matters of policy, and possible criticism of measures proposed were all unmentioned or forgotten. The Government was given a free hand in the matter of securing what-ever in the light of its information, and in its judgment, might appear to be necessary in the face of the crisis confronting Canada, and the British Empire, and with this free hand was placed an entire responsibility.

SPEECH OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

IN his address to the House of Commons, Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, the observations which I shall have to offer to the House are few and brief. In fact, apart from the usual compliments and congratulations to the mover and the secondor of the Address, which, I am glad to say, I have more than usual pleasure in extending to them, I have but one declaration to make. The gravity of the occasion which has called us together makes it incumbent upon us even to disregard the formalities and conventionalities which in ordinary times the rules of the House, written and unwritten, enjoin as a wise safeguard against precipitate action but which, on such an occasion as this, impede us in dealing with the momentous question before us.

A United Canada and a United Parliament.

"This session has been called for the purpose of giving the authority of Parliament and the sanction of law to such measures as have already been taken by the Government, and any further measures that may be needed, to insure the defence of Canada and to give what aid may be in our power to the mother country in the stupendous struggle which now confronts us. Speaking for those who sit around me, speaking for the wide constituency which we represent in this House, I hasten to say that to all these measures we are prepared to give immediate assent. If in what has been done or in what remains to be done there may be anything which in our judgment should not be done or should be differently done, we raise no question, we take no exception, we offer no criticism, and we shall offer no criticism so long as there is danger at the front. It is our duty, more pressing upon us than all other duties, at once, on this first day of this extraordinary session of the Canadian Parliament, to let Great Britain know, and to let the friends and foes of Great Britain know, that there is in Canada but one mind and one heart, and that all Canadians stand behind the mother country, conscious and proud that she has engaged in this war, not from any selfish motive, for any purpose of aggrandisement, but to maintain untarnished the honour of her name, to fulfil her obligations to her allies, to maintain her treaty obligations, and to save civilization from the unbridled lust of conquest and power.

Immediate Consequences to Canada of European war.

"We are British subjects, and to-day we are face to face with the consequences which are involved in that proud fact. Long we have enjoyed the benefit of our British citizenship; to-day it is our duty to accept its responsibilities and its sacrifices. We have long said that when Great Britain is at war we are at war; to-day we realize that Great Britain is at war and that Canada is at war also. Our territory is liable to attack and to invasion. So far as invasion is concerned, I do not see that there is any cause for apprehension, for it seems to me obvious that neither Austria nor Germany, our foes in this war, can command any force able to make an attack so far from their base.