

recurrence of such mistakes or offences. I refer to the matter now in order that our men who are already at the front—and some of whom have already given up their lives on the fields of France for the Empire—may be enabled to give their whole energy and vigour to the noble cause they are fighting to uphold.

I do not say this in any carping spirit. I do not want to make any political capital out of it. I am as much a party man as any man in this House, but I should despise myself if I were to attempt to make political capital when the country is in such danger as it is in at the present time. The desire is simply to have everything done that can be done in order that the men whom we send to the front may discharge their duties with the greatest credit to themselves and the greatest benefit to the country and to the whole Empire. This is the spirit which animates those who sit around me here. As I stated a moment ago, so I repeat, we ask for nothing but information, and we hope that upon this and all points the information to which we are entitled will be abundantly afforded.

Right Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I desire to associate myself with what has been so well and so eloquently said by my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), with regard to the great service rendered by His Royal Highness the Governor General to this country and to the whole Empire by his presence in Canada, by his occupancy of that high position and by the very keen, unflinching, indefatigable interest which he has taken in everything that concerns Canada's part in this war, the proper equipment of our troops and their despatch to the front under proper conditions. I have more reason and better opportunity to know of the interest which His Royal Highness the Governor General has thus taken than have most hon. members of this House, and it was with peculiar pleasure that I listened to the observations of my right hon. friend as well as to the remarks of the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Weichel) in that regard.

I desire also to associate myself with what my right hon. friend has said as to the speeches delivered by the mover and seconder of the motion now under consideration. The presence of these gentlemen in this Assembly and the duty they

[Sir Wilfrid Laurier.]

have been called upon to discharge to-day, and which they have so worthily and eloquently discharged, is at once an exemplification of the principles upon which our Empire is based and of the appreciation of those principles by those in whose countries they are applied. The fact that we have listened to such eloquent and patriotic speeches as those of the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Weichel) and the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Achim) is of itself a great tribute to those principles. My hon. friend from North Waterloo has spoken of the part which has been taken by the citizens of German descent in the upbuilding of this Empire and particularly in the upbuilding of this Dominion. We have had good reason to know and understand, especially since the outbreak of this war, the patriotism, the loyalty, the devotion of the citizens of German origin to this country. As my hon. friend has well said their position was not free from embarrassment, but their appreciation of the land from which they came, of its institutions and of all it represents in the world, has been wholly consistent with their loyalty to the land of their adoption and the institutions of our Empire. We have those in Canada who although of German descent, were born in Canada and are Canadians as we are ourselves, understanding as we do with perfect appreciation the liberties which are ours of

5 p.m. right. We have also in this country those who were born in Germany or in Austria-Hungary, who have been asked to come to Canada as immigrants and to join with us in the task of upbuilding this Dominion. So far as the first-named are concerned, not a word need be said; the earnestness and the zeal with which they have joined in all that appertains to the welfare of the Dominion and of the Empire in this war speak for themselves. So far as the others are concerned, I repeat what I said in August last when we were considering matters connected with the war, that those of German birth and those born in the Empire of Austria-Hungary who have come to this country to be citizens of Canada have with very few exceptions borne themselves worthily and well. I believe that I can speak with peculiar knowledge as to this because it has been part of my public duty to make myself acquainted with their sentiments and with the part which they are taking at this juncture of our affairs.

My hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Achim)