

I will, with your permission, say a few words in the language which is that of the majority in this House.

Honourable gentlemen, following a custom established since Confederation, I was proud to address the House, at such an important time, in my native tongue. But I am bound to say that it is somewhat depressing for one to feel that the language he speaks is not understood by the great majority of his hearers. I trust, however, that the policy of using alternately both of the official languages, for the moving and the seconding of the Address, will be strictly adhered to with only one possible alteration: that is, I hope that the use of the French language in the Parliament will not forever be restricted to members of French origin. Following the great and terrible war that has so closely bound together our immortal mother countries, France and England, is it too much to expect that the sweet language of France will become more popular and will hereafter be more universally taught in this country, so that we may better understand each other and realize that lasting and fruitful union dreamed of by the fathers of Confederation.

Hon. EDWARD MICHENER: Honourable gentlemen, I have the honour to second the resolution so ably presented by the honourable member who has just spoken. I desire to associate myself with the expression which he gave with respect to Mr. Speaker; also, to affirm our continued and sincerest loyalty to His Gracious Majesty and his representative in our Dominion, His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire. Western Canada had the honour of a visit from His Excellency last fall. We were especially pleased to learn of his keen interest in the agricultural possibilities and development of Canada.

I should like, before proceeding, to refer to one remark which was made by the honourable gentleman who moved the resolution, towards the close of his speech. He expressed the hope that the day would come when every member of the House would understand both languages. I regret exceedingly that I was not able to follow all that the honourable member said in his native tongue, but I stated to him, and wish to state to the House, that I am going to see to it that my sons shall not be handicapped in this way.

Hon. Mr. L'ESPERANCE.

When I see about me honourable gentlemen of long and distinguished parliamentary service and experience, when I recall the statesmen who have as members of this House contributed so much to the upbuilding of a greater Canada, I appreciate the honour of having a place in the counsels of the Senate of Canada. We who have recently been called to the Upper House can have no more worthy or impelling purpose than to emulate the example of the illustrious men who have given so unstintingly and loyally of their time and energies to the service of their country.

Not since Confederation has the Parliament of Canada been charged with such tremendous responsibilities as now confront them, in the prosecution of the struggle for the preservation of our liberties. Not only has the Government the mighty task of carrying on the war, but by reason of the war great social and economic questions are arising which must command the attention of Parliament.

We endorse with all our hearts the sentiment expressed in the Speech from the Throne, "that the effort which yet lies before us demands our sternest resolve, but we shall not shrink from it, if our hearts are as firm and our courage as undaunted as those of our countrymen who hold our battle line beyond the seas." If I interpret aright the spirit of the people of Canada, it is that the hearts of the people are with the men at the front, and they are prepared to back them up to the full strength of Canada's power. Men, munitions, and money are not enough for Canada to help win the war. We must put our full strength, our heart, our soul, into the struggle as a united people. We must be possessed of the same spirit of service and sacrifice as our gallant men who have placed their lives upon the altar of their country.

The Speech refers to the Canadian Expeditionary Force as still maintaining its unbroken record of distinguished achievement. Of this fact we as Canadians are justly proud. In all the strategical engagements of the war thus far our men have never failed to make the top. The enemy have recognized their daring and heroism by placing against the Canadian forces the best regiments of the Prussian Guards. Our forces at the battle line have shown such an unswerving purpose to live up to the highest traditions of soldiers and patriots that they have merited a lasting honour and glory for Canada among the allied nations. At no time during the war