

country for which they have fought, and will still fight?

What of those who fell? Do I hear someone say that for them we should fly the flag at half-mast, and not at the head? Not such is my conception, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that we shall best honour their memory also by flying at the head that flag for which they made the supreme sacrifice and which symbolizes the ideals of justice and liberty which Canada, in common with the whole Empire, maintains in this war. The memory of those who have fallen will always be a tender and revered but yet a proud memory in the hearts of Canadians, and for them, as well as for those who survive, I conceive this to be a fitting tribute by the people of Canada. So, I have the honour to propose the following resolution, seconded by Sir Wilfred Laurier:

Resolved that this House desires to place on record its admiration and pride in the valour and heroism displayed by the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the front and its profound appreciation of their service to Canada and to the Empire.

That the spirit which animates the Canadian people in this conflict has found its highest expression in the achievements of Canadians upon the battlefields of France and Belgium; and as the anniversary draws near of the first great test to which the Canadian troops were subjected and in which they so splendidly distinguished themselves, it is fitting that there should be a suitable commemoration throughout the Dominion of the service thus rendered to the Empire, to the allied nations and to the world.

That this House commends the proposal that on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of this month flags should be flown at the head on all public buildings throughout this Dominion and that the Canadian people be invited to commemorate thus the momentous events of a year ago in token of Canada's determination to do her part until the efforts of our Empire and the allied nations shall have been crowned by an honourable and lasting peace.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER: When our young volunteers crossed the ocean, to take their part and the part of Canada in the war, which was then and is still going on, and when we realize that alongside the French soldiers and the soldiers of Great Britain they would have to face the best-equipped troops in the world, troops which in the last half-century have ever been victorious, there was in many Canadian hearts apprehension at the thought that they were to encounter such dangers. It is a well-known fact in the history of nations that young soldiers, whatever be the stock from which they have sprung, have always undergone a severe

[Sir Robert Borden.]

ordeal at the first shock of battle. It would have been folly to have expected that our young soldiers would show the steadiness of veterans. But history has already recorded that, where we expected these young men to act like young and raw recruits, they really acted in a manner which was not excelled by the veterans of the British or of the French army. One with a Canadian heart could not but be thrilled at the news that came to us that these young soldiers on a certain day had beyond all doubt saved the honour of French and British arms, and not only that, but had saved the day for the cause of civilization. It has been established that on the occasion to which my right hon. friend has just referred, in the three days of the battle, when the lines had been lost to the French troops, after they had for the first time come in contact with the poisonous gases, it was the Canadian troops who came to the rescue, re-established the lines, and snatched victory from the very jaws of defeat.

The proposition of my right hon. friend that the Canadian people should remember that day is one that must commend itself to us all. What should be the form of that commemoration? In what manner should we Canadians express our testimony to the valour of our soldiers on that occasion? The proposal which has just been made by the Government, I think, must commend itself to every one. There are many ways in which this occasion might be commemorated, but the best way, I think, is that proposed by my right hon. friend: to unfurl upon the first anniversary of the battle the banner under which they fought on the soil of France for the cause of civilization. Let the banner rise, let it float at the top of every mast and at the top of every steeple throughout the length and the breadth of the land, there to be looked upon with pride by every Canadian, and with the knowledge that it is supremely the banner of freedom, of justice, and of power.

Motion agreed to.

COLONEL DAY.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The hon. member for Richmand (Mr. Kyte), inquired yesterday if Colonel Day is still in charge of the 185th Battalion at Broughton, N.S., where the regiment is at present training. The Adjutant General states that from re-