

if we do not take advantage of both. Let us not be dismayed: this war has not been won yet; but the empire remains solid, and our armies are undaunted, and we will fight on until victory is ours.

In this war we are fighting because it is a war of principles, and we believe in the principles that the Allies are fighting for. There are two principles which underlie our Government which are very dear to the people who live under this flag. One is that the primary sovereign power of the state lies in the people, and the second is that no tax shall be taken from any section of these people without the consent of the people themselves. Mr. Speaker, neither of these principles has been lightly won; they have cost much blood and much treasure. It took centuries to bring them to their fulfilment under our governmental institutions. But they are ours. It is only within the last one hundred and fifty years that the second of these principles was firmly planted as a part of the British constitution. It was only after the thirteen New England colonies had become the United States of America that the principle "No taxation without representation" became a part of the British constitution. Search the records of mankind, from the caves of prehistoric man to the pyramids and obelisks of Egypt, down through the centuries, and you will find in these records one continuous story of government by one man or by a few men, but never do you find a record of government by the whole people. The British people were the first among the peoples of the earth to evolve the idea that the power of the state resided in the people themselves. We had republics in ancient times: the cities of Greece were republics, but they were not democracies. Rome was a republic, but not a democracy. And Rome, at Caesar's death, became an empire. And all the countries that are warring to-day in Europe were within that empire, except parts of Russia. The Roman Empire became so great that it required two emperors and two capitals, one at Rome and one at Constantinople. After a varied history both these capitals fell and the Roman Empire was dissolved; and from the fragments of that great empire were erected the world-states of Europe. But of all those world-states, the British people were the one people to evolve the idea of representative governmental institutions. They planted colonies, and the colonists took the same

[Mr. A. Thompson.]

idea with them. To-day, belting this globe, are the colonies and dominions of Great Britain, and the underlying principle in the government of each: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, is, that the people are supreme. We are fighting for this principle; we are fighting because we believe that right is more powerful than might, that the moral sense of a nation is but the aggregate of the moral sense of the individuals of that nation, and that the same moral law which our state expects its citizens to observe shall not be transgressed by the state itself, that there is the same law for the state that there is for the citizen. We do not subscribe to the doctrine that the state is a law unto itself.

Why are we fighting? Because we are a part of the British Empire, and because the Empire as a whole is threatened. Do the people of Canada realize what would happen if the British navy were defeated to-night? Do they realize that they would have to think and think quickly? One of the Roman Emperors, when Rome was at its zenith, said that the people who drank of the Orontes and the Rhone were the same people both belonging to the Roman Empire. The distance between the St. John and the Yukon is vastly greater than the distance between the Orontes and the Rhone, yet we are still the same people. The possibilities of this part of our Empire are wonderful. I was travelling once with Sir Charles Tupper, of revered memory, and I asked him what he thought of our western provinces, and he answered, "My boy, I believe they are to be the home of the race." Bryce, in The American Commonwealth, says that the quadrangle bounded by Hudson's Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, the Alleghenies and the Rocky Mountains is to be the future home of the race. And, judging by the intensive way in which farming is carried on in the older states of Europe, the possibilities of these western provinces of ours as the home of the people of the future, are enormous, for, with our wealth of forest, farm, fisheries and mines, it is possible for a huge population to live within this great Canada of ours.

We are fighting not only for these principles which I have enunciated, but also because we abhor the method of warfare which our enemies pursue. Their philosophers and historians have taught them to make war more terrible by the torch, the gibbet and the misuse of the sword. Our civilization abhors that. I was much struck by the speech recently made by