

We are the dead."

"Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you with failing hands we throw
The torch. Be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep tho' poppies grow
In Flanders fields."

With contrary thoughts such as these, tenaciously held and raging, it was inevitable that the banks of the party streams should break, and that new streams of like thought and impulse should meet and mingle and unite. The strongest and deepest united stream as the result of the general election proved to be that called Union Government, which is now to be given a fair trial. But, thank God, there are signs that no factious efforts are to be made to keep alive the disputes which separated us in the contest. As the turmoil subsides and the accusations cease and the charges of desertion grow less robust, we can unite at least for war purposes in this hour of our greatest national danger. We have a common love for a common country. We may see its beauties and its possibilities from different viewpoints, but all will be resolved not to let any domestic brawling militate against our dignity, and our right eventually to take a proud position in the world. It may be that we are not old enough or not yet national enough to have the devotion to country of some other peoples. Recently a soldier of France about to die on the field wrote some lines in the last hour of his expiring life, which were found:

France my country I love you.
I have given my life for you.
Would that I could kiss away the blood from
your wound.
I love you France,
Take me forever to your bosom.

It is scarcely likely that a Canadian would show such intensity of feeling, but in a less fervent way we are all of the mind to do for our country in one way or other all we can each in his own time to make her honest and righteous and strong.

Maybe the House will bear with me if I relate an instance of the dissolution of party lines in the case of the constituency of Parkdale which sent me here. This riding is probably the most populous in the Dominion, and, judging from past contests, the dominant party had absolutely no cause for anxiety as to the result. But in view of the importance of the main principle at stake in the election, they spontaneously decided to make their candidate me, known always to have been a political opponent, because they believed in the sincerity of my support of the idea of

[Mr. Mowat.]

Union. Chivalry and self-denial could go no further than this, and it is in recognition of these qualities, no doubt, that their member was asked to occupy this post of honour of addressing the House at this moment.

The Speech naturally alludes to measures calculated to improve the capacity of the country to prosecute the Great War. Under this head comes the obtaining of reinforcements under the Military Service Act, 1917. We will, no doubt, soon receive detailed information as to what extent the measures now in force have so far produced the men. It has been rumoured that the opposition of certain classes of employers and producers before the tribunals, and severe medical fitness tests, have cut down the selection below what was expected. If that is so, I am sure there will be no shrinking in this House from extending the call or speeding it up after all combing efforts have been taken. Yet young men and unmarried are the ideal class because of their physical fitness and greater freedom from domestic responsibilities.

The proposed legislation to endorse the new department for the care of returned disabled men and their training for vocations is of great interest and will, no doubt, be willingly passed. We must be patient with the men and persist in kind treatment of them.

The announcement of regulations for the registration of the man and woman power of the Dominion was received with marked approval by those who know, or who think they know, the vast importance of this delayed measure. It is gratifying to learn also that the superintendence and carrying out of the measure has been largely undertaken by the representatives of the Labour interests. The attempted registration of every grown person, male and female, if loyally agreed to and efficiently carried out, will solve or lessen many difficulties; those of the recruiter, the food controller, the fuel controller and those of manufacturers and munition makers. There has been guess-work and rule-of-thumb when efforts to correlate work and production so as to prevent overlapping and waste, have been undertaken. It is no disgrace for the rich and powerful to be under obligation to show papers on demand proving position, status and nationality any more than it is for the humble and lowly. The day of the slacker and no-account man and drone should be numbered if the work is well carried out. In addition to those advantages, it will add to the sense of citizenship of both men and women when it