

fend our Empire, we also were conscious of an influence and an emotion infinitely more commanding and compelling than that of the material interests which had so closely absorbed our attention. Wherever the peril was most truly realized there the response to the call was most clearly manifest.

We happily have been spared the tempest of death and fire and destruction which has devastated Belgium, but we have seen and we shall still see our best and bravest go forth to battle in a righteous cause for which some shall yield up their lives. With the searching of spirit which has come to us in these solemn days we have seen and felt the soul of the nation profoundly moved; stirred as never before in all our history.

The events of the past six months mark a new stage in our nationhood; a new chapter in the book of our destiny has been opened. The strength of our Empire bound by the ties of liberty and autonomous self-government, has been tested and it has held firm and true. In no respect have the expectations of the Prussian autocracy been more utterly disappointed and falsified than in this. From these great Dominions have gone and will still go forth the free manhood of a great Empire to fight for a cause which involves not alone our institutions, our freedom and our destiny, but those of the world. Fighting in such a cause we do not, we dare not, doubt the issue.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to keep the House for any lengthy period in debating the Address; but if I abstain from lengthy speech it is not because I consider that the Empire being in a state of war at all puts upon Parliament the duty of abdicating its proper functions. The duty of Parliament in regard to the Address is to debate that Address with a view to helpfulness in the matters to which it refers, and I should think myself lacking in my duty if I left unsaid anything I ought to say because the Empire is in a state of war.

I wish to endorse very emphatically the remark made by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister to the effect that in the fact that the Address has been moved by a member of German extraction and seconded

by a member of French extraction we have a remarkable evidence of the greatness of the flag under which we live and of all that flag stands for. I wish that the fact of what has happened in this House this afternoon could be brought to the attention and careful thought of those who dictate the policies of the great German Empire. I certainly believe that if the thinkers of that nation brought unbiased minds to the consideration of the facts it would shed a flood of light upon them which probably they will not get from any other source until the Allies have finished the lesson they are giving them along rather different lines.

I wish also to join in the congratulations offered by my right hon. friends on both sides of the House to the mover and the seconder of the Address. If I dwell particularly upon the speech of the mover, it is because I am more familiar with the language in which he spoke than with the language of the seconder. My hon. friend from Waterloo (Mr. Weichel) discharged a task of very great delicacy and difficulty with very great ability. I wish to congratulate him upon the courage and the adroitness with which he discharged that task. He need not have apologized, I am sure, in a free country such as this, for anything that he said. He seems to feel it a little, having to speak in favour of the great German people from whom he derives his origin. Well, for his encouragement, I would like to tell him that the men I most admire in the last hundred years of British politics are men who opposed their nation when at war, even speaking from within that nation. The greatest men in British politics within that period, in my opinion, were Richard Cobden and John Bright, and I think the events of the present war go far to justify my opinion. It is the happy position of our Empire today that we are engaged in a war in which there is practically no difference of opinion throughout the whole length and breadth of that Empire. It is no small part of our strength that we know and believe we are right and that the whole moral and material force of the Empire is behind the army and navy of His Majesty King George. There have been wars in which that was by no means the state of things even in the old land. One of these wars was the Crimean and it seems to me to be not only a legitimate but a most helpful advantage to be derived from a debate such