

boia, and seconded by Mr. Wm. Chisholm, representing Antigonish. Previously the custom had not been deviated from since 1896, when Mr. Powell of Westmorland moved the Address and Mr. McGillivray of North Ontario seconded it. Nevertheless, I greatly regret that owing to my limited knowledge of French I cannot permit myself to mutilate the beautiful language of Moliere and Racine in a laboured attempt to live up to tradition. I express these regrets in all sincerity, for I should greatly have desired, as a compliment to the French-speaking members of this House, and also as a small offering in the cause of unity, to have performed this duty in French. I hope that the wish may be accepted for the deed, for I am deeply convinced that the establishment of a real entente cordiale in this country should be the desire of all true lovers of Canada. The man, Sir, whether he be a French-speaking Canadian or an English-speaking Canadian, whether he be a Catholic or a Protestant, who wilfully fosters antagonisms of race and creed in this country is neither a true friend nor a loyal citizen of the land we love.

This brings me to say a few words regarding the late lamented leader of the Opposition, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, one whose greatest desire was the promoting of harmony between the two races in Canada. After the eloquent tributes paid here to-day to his memory I feel that anything said by me will be almost superfluous. I think I may say that I had the honour of being a friend of his for some years, but for many more years I had the honour of being an admirer and a follower of his. My command of the English language is too poor for me to express adequately my deep feelings of sympathy for his widow, and my regrets that Canada has lost so distinguished a son. What we say of him here to-day will not long be remembered, but his great statesmanship cannot soon be forgotten. Intellectually, socially, morally, and politically, his was a personality that might well serve as an ideal for the ambitious youth of our land for generations to come. Because of his matchless qualities of heart and mind, Canada has lost in him one of her most illustrious leaders. It is my privilege to-day to join that vast multitude of Canadian people of all religions, nationalities and political creeds who are bowing their heads in reverence to the memory of a departed but still beloved leader.

As set forth so simply in the speech of His Excellency, Canada has much to

[Mr. Manion.]

be grateful for to-day. During the last session of this Parliament there were anxious days when the hordes of Attila seemed to be sweeping all before them, and victory for us seemed at least in the dim and distant future. But suddenly, to both our amazement and our joy, the tide of battle turned, due no doubt in great part to the unified command under Marshall Foch, the valorous armies of the Allies swept the enemy toward the Rhine, and almost before the realization could dawn fully upon our minds, the war had been won. That military genius, Napoleon, on one occasion made an epigram to the effect that the gods fight on the side of the stronger armies; but, Sir, over long periods of time the God of truth and justice usually takes sides, as He did in this case, and sees that the cause of right, not might, is victorious.

The armies of the Allies had for over four years withstood tremendous losses; they had sustained immense reverses; they had encountered the cruel atrocities, poison gases, and unfair tactics of their barbarian opponents, yet they always came up smiling with their faces toward the foe, until at last overwhelming victory crowned their courage, their tenacity, their cheerfulness. And among all those noble armies of the Allies no corps has gained greater renown, no men have brought greater glory or fame to the land of their birth, than the Canadian corps has brought to Canada. Their achievements are inscribed on the most glorious pages of the history of mankind. It is not necessary that I should enumerate the many battles fought and won by the Canadians. It is sufficient to say that, on every occasion on which they were called upon to accomplish a task, even when opposed to overwhelming numbers of the flower of the Prussian army, the citizen soldiers of Canada were victorious. They have placed Canada proudly among the nations of the world, and that should be the epitaph of those of them who lie out there in Flanders fields. It is due to their valour that to-day at that august body, the Peace Conference at Paris, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden sits in equality, as he should sit, with the representatives of the other nations of the Empire and of the world. It is due to them, Sir, that to-day Canada and the other Dominions have taken the position of being nations within the Empire, nations absolutely independent in every detail, bound together alone by the ties of sentiment, by common aspirations and ideals. And that is the surest and most lasting foundation upon which the Empire can be built.