

effort of the nations included within the British Commonwealth is still unabated and will so continue to the end. Equally earnest and resolute is the spirit of all the allied nations and especially of the great neighbouring and kindred Commonwealth, whose enormous power and vast resources are now beginning to make themselves felt in the determination of the issue.

I commend your deliberations to the Divine guidance in the confident expectation that they will be worthy of the supreme purpose to which our national endeavour is dedicated.

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): I beg to move that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration to-day. I would suggest to my right hon. friend that it would probably suit the convenience of hon. members if the mover and seconder were to proceed with their addresses to-day, at the conclusion of which it might be more convenient to adjourn the debate, to be proceeded with to-morrow. As the speech of His Excellency has only just been delivered, I would not desire to go on with the debate to-day unless my hon. friends on both sides of the House prefer that course. For my part, I think it would be better to adjourn the debate until to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Sir Robert Borden, it was ordered that the Order for the consideration of the motion for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session have precedence over all other business except introduction of Bills, until disposed of.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the speech of His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. HERBERT M. MOWAT (Parkdale) rose to move that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, offering the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament. He said:

Mr. Speaker, any speech by His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, even though he may have had the assistance of others in its details, must now have a personal character because of the regard in which he is held in ever-increasing measure in the hearts of Canadians. He has now been

with us nearly two years, and his public utterances, and patronage of that which is good, as well as his domestic example and devotion to duty, are such as commend themselves to all. For many years there have been Cavendishes who have been eminent public servants, and our Governor General maintains the family tradition.

I would like to pause here for a moment to extend—at any rate on behalf of the new members of the House—felicitations upon your re-election as Chief Commoner, and to say that we concur in the true and proper things which were said of you by the right honourable leaders this morning.

This first session of the thirteenth Parliament of Canada is held under unusual circumstances; circumstances agreeable in that a new and fresh mandate of the people has been given which clears many difficulties in war-time government, and not so agreeable in that in the obtaining of the judgment of the people some political adherences have suffered a severance for the time, owing to divergence of opinion as to the sternness of the demands of war. Strong men have strong opinions, and cross currents of political thought arose which made excisions in party alignments. The last Government and the present Government said that a case had arisen to compel young men to serve as soldiers. Their opponents said, "No. You go too fast. You break traditions. We are voluntaries. You will do better by making another appeal for service first. We want a vote on the specific question. We have principles which are immutable in time of peace and must not be forsaken in time of war. One of these principles is our dislike of compulsion." There were some who presented pleas on perhaps a lower plain and which were less attractive. They said: "We have done enough. No one had the right to offer 500,000 men. The war is three thousand miles away. Let our American neighbours do it now." These arguments, on the other hand, were resisted as being inadequate. "We entered the war," said the other party, "for the sake of liberty and civilization which are in peril, as well as because we were of the British Empire. Volunteering has ceased. Honour requires us to support the men who have gone out for us and whose ranks have sadly diminished. War changes minds and relieves from adherence to principles held in time of peace and of philosophic reasoning. War is ruthless. We must hurry or we shall be too late. Besides, there are the dead of all the provinces.