

Is it to be wondered that prior to the war opinions differed on that point? But to-day, with the terrifying sight of nation rushing against nation in appalling battles that ruin the countries, decimate their manhood, and even reduce their population to serfdom; when military despotism aims at enslaving the liberty of nations; who dare remain indifferent and refuse to answer the call of our mother-countries for assistance? Before taking up arms in self-defence shall we then wait until we are in the fetters of the foe? To run to the aid of the Empire and France, must we wait until the power of those great countries has been shaken in its very foundations? No, Mr. Speaker, Canada stands unflinching in its determination. Victory alone will put a stop to our endeavours. His Majesty's loyal Opposition deserve our thanks for the support they have given in the past to all our war legislation. Following the example of His Excellency, who concluded his address by praying that the Divine blessing may attend our deliberations, allow me, Mr. Speaker, as I chose, to invoke the God of Hosts, the Divine Protector of Canada, France and the British Empire to bestow on our arms the strength that ensures victory, on Canada the blessing of prosperity and on the Canadian people continued happiness.

Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in seconding the motion of the honourable member for Wentworth, who moved that an address be adopted expressing to His Excellency the Governor General the thanks of this House for his Address at the opening of this session.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Mr. Speaker, in the two addresses to which it has been our privilege as well as our pleasure to listen, there was very little to which exception might be taken; and, if there were anything from which I might be tempted to differ, it is not my intention on this occasion to enter into controversy upon it. Occasions of controversy will arise in due course, when the measures of the Government come up for discussion. There was much, very much, in these addresses on which the House will be happy to express commendation and present its congratulations to the two hon. members. Particularly timely and well-conceived were the remarks of my hon. friend from Wentworth (Mr. G. C. Wilson) upon the departure of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. If the hon. gentleman will permit me to say so, I very much admire the tenor of his speech on that point; what

he said on the subject could not have been better said.

It has often been remarked, but not too often, that Canada has been particularly fortunate in the character of those who have been selected to be the representatives of the royal authority. They have all been men of great eminence, whether eminence by character or eminence by ability, and most of them have been eminent for both ability and character. It is due to those who have occupied that high office to say when they had fulfilled their term and the time came for them to sever their connection with us, they carried with them the gratitude, the esteem, the respect of all classes of the community. But, Sir, I think I am within the mark when I say that no Governor General who ever left our shores was followed with so much of the blessings and the affection of the people of Canada as was His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. Undoubtedly, the peculiar enthusiasm with which His Royal Highness was received by us when he came to preside over the destinies of Canada was due to the fact that he belonged to the royal family. But if he left the shores of Canada with a more than usual share of the gratitude and respect of the Canadian people, his connection with the royal family was not the only cause—the main cause was his own personal qualities; his devotion to duty; his high sense of honour; his simple, affable manners; and, if I may say so,—and I think I may say so rightly—his straightforward, democratic ways.

And if the whole truth is to be told, I believe everybody will agree with me that in the impression which he made in Canada he himself was not the sole factor; a great deal was due also to his gracious consort, a lady who, in her high station, gave, during the time she was with us, an example of those domestic virtues ever dear to the British heart. There had been a rumour prevalent for a long time that when the invitation from high quarters came to His Royal Highness to become Governor General of Canada he hesitated, as his personal interest would have kept him in England, and it was understood that he had accepted the office for a period of not more than two years. I do not know to what extent that rumour may be well founded, but it seems to have had some foundation, because, as will be remembered, announcement was made in the session of 1914 that His Royal Highness was to close his connection with the governorship of Canada during that year. On the day of prorogation in the Month of May, 1914, the two Houses