

they have been privileged to enjoy, and which has not been found wanting? General Botha is honoured to-day by all men who love to pay tribute to greatness, and his name will be recorded in history along with the many other illustrious names that have added to the Empire's prestige.

Sir, what would be our fate should France be beaten, Belgium put out of existence, and perhaps Holland and Denmark erased from the map? What stirred England to action? It was the moral issue that appealed to the British people, and they would not go back on their word to defend the neutrality of Belgium. As Prime Minister Asquith stated, "It was only when we were confronted with the choice between keeping and breaking solemn obligations—the discharging of a binding trust—that we threw away the scabbard; bound were we by obligations that we could not decline." The preservation of Belgium's national life was the object for which we strove; and how nobly the little kingdom acquitted herself will never be forgotten by the Allies who owe a great debt of gratitude to the heroic nation which can never be paid in its entirety.

Liberties that we have prized and that have been handed down from generation to generation will have to give way to a new doctrine that might be right should the teachings of Nietzsche, Treitschke and Bernhardi prevail; the very existence of the democratic institutions which we have learned to revere and love would be threatened. Mr. Bonar Law, the Opposition leader in the British House of Commons, spoke true words when he said: "We are fighting for our nation's existence—for everything which nations have always held dear. But we are fighting for something more: we are fighting for the moral forces of humanity; we are fighting for the respect of public law and for the right of public justice, which are the foundations of civilization; we are fighting for right against might." Frenzied armamentism and militarism cannot and should not have a place in the civilized world to-day. The tension in a country like Europe must be terrible, and the financial burden almost overpowering.

All right-thinking people regret that we are placed in this position to-day, and we shudder at the consequences entailed. The task, however, which we are called upon to perform is great and noble, and is intimately connected with the progress, prosperity and morality of mankind. One thing we are certain of: that the guilt for this war

[Mr. Weichel.]

does not lie at England's door. She stands to-day for freedom, for the rights of small states and for the sanctity of treaties. Yet I realize that in the distant future a great change will come over the nations of the world when the great principles for which we are fighting, liberty and true democracy, emerge victorious. Germany and all other countries in Europe, loosed from the galling yoke of militarism, will then be free to turn their thoughts to higher things than armaments and the principle that might is right. The whole world will long for peace, and woe to the man or nation that harbours thoughts of conquest. Sick and tired will the world be of the whole wretched business—of the slaughter of the bravest and best of its young men, and of the demolition and destruction of beautiful buildings and works of art that have been prized for centuries. The twentieth century should be devoted to the higher things of life. The whole world should be brought to the conception that war is an unnecessary evil, that it blights and destroys nations instead of building them up, and that we should foster the ideals of liberty and justice in the highest sense, that we should work and struggle for the elevation of the human race, and for the betterment of conditions of the masses of the people, this fulfilling the Master's message of peace on earth, good will towards men.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sorrow—and I am sure all the members of this Parliament will join me—in the loss we have sustained through the death of several of our esteemed members.

Yonder is a seat which for years was occupied by one of Canada's prominent business men. He was, like myself, of German descent, but a Canadian among Canadians, proud of his ancestry and prouder still of his own country. Optimistic regarding Canada's future, and a great admirer of British institutions, George A. Clare will be missed in this chamber—missed by his colleagues and friends, irrespective of party. Of him it may be truly said, in the words of Lessing: "The most agreeable of all companions is a simple, frank man, without any high pretensions to an oppressive greatness; one who loves life and understands the use of it, obliging alike at all times; above all of a golden temper and steadfast as an anchor. For such a one we gladly exchange the greatest genius, the most brilliant wit, the profoundest thinker."