

cated and consecrated to the glorious memory of those who came there to fight and die so that she might be free and victorious. It will be a bit of Canadian fatherland in the greater fatherland of France, an everlasting pledge of the sacred union and close friendship which must always subsist between our two countries. Mr. Speaker, it was your acknowledged privilege to negotiate, in the name of Canada, this gratifying concession which was granted to us. On more than one score you were entitled to this honour and you were particularly qualified to make such a request. By granting it, France wished to pay you a personal homage whilst bestowing an honour on our country. I feel fully confident that the monument which will be erected on the historical ridge of Vimy will recall to future generations the great ideal for which our soldiers so valiantly battled. Sixty thousand Canadians had died so as to establish a reign of justice and peace; all fought to prevent any further war and it is our ultimate hope that the civilized nations of the world will respect their sacrifice by not rendering it fruitless and illusory.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Fort William and Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that perhaps someone much more worthy than myself would say a word in this connection as representing rather the men who were over there than the people of this country. However, as a returned soldier, as one of those who had the honour of being at Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917,—and let me assure the House that I say this with no thought whatever of self-glorification—I should like to say a word—although without the authority of the returned soldiers in the matter—by way of associating myself and them with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen), the leader of the Progressives (Mr. Forke) and the Minister of Marine (Mr. Lapointe), in the acceptance from France of the site for the erection of a monument by this country. I do not think that there has been exaggeration on the part of any of the speakers who have referred to the glorious deeds of the Canadian boys, and I doubt whether any situation could be chosen by the Canadian government, if the choice were left to them, that would be more emblematic of the deeds of the Canadian soldiers than the site which has been offered so generously by the French government to the government of Canada. May I also congratulate you, Sir, on the part you have played in this matter, and express the opinion that you deserve the thanks of this country both as its honourable representa-

tive and as one who has made very great personal sacrifices in the promotion of peace and good government in the world. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman through whom the French government made this offer, and I cherish the hope that the erection of this monument may help in some small way to bring about that "parliament of man, the federation of the world," which was so eloquently spoken of by an English poet many years ago.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance): The splendid gift of the French government, in the negotiation of which you, Mr. Speaker, had such a useful and honourable part, is evidence of the gratitude of the French nation—because I am sure that in this case the gratitude comes not only from the French government but from the people of France as well—for the service which Canada rendered the world in the great war. I rise now only that I may be permitted to mention another incident which illustrates the feeling of the French people. Of course, every Canadian who goes to France now makes if possible a pilgrimage to Vimy, and naturally I did so. And I recall the fact that on the way to Vimy we passed through the town of Cambrai. There the Canadian visitors were met by the mayor and town council of the town who desired to express in a very formal way their recollections of the services rendered by the Canadian soldiers in and about their town, and to give utterance to their gratitude, in order that the Canadian people might learn that the French people were not unmindful of what our soldiers had done. In terms of the warmest commendation they spoke of the service rendered by our men and of the great part they had played in the battles in that stormy region; and then, to mark their feelings in a more tangible way, they brought us a magnificent wreath of flowers that we might use it as expressing their sympathy. It was placed in one of the graveyards, which are too numerous, I am sorry to say, in the Vimy region. I do not know whether this incident was ever recorded in Canada, but it is one of the indications that the part played by the Canadian soldiers in that great drama is fully and gratefully remembered not only by the French government but by the French people as well.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): There will be no resolution introduced into this House at any time with which we shall be more proud to associate ourselves than the one which has just been moved. When we remember the circumstances under which the great war broke upon the world; when we remember