

war was first declared, we heard her ruthless statement as to why she had undertaken it. It was openly confessed that it was a war of aggression, that it was undertaken as a national and profitable business enterprise, and that Germany would achieve her ends. Later on, the tune was somewhat changed, but in these later days the old tone of domination has been resumed, and we know that Germany does indeed seek to dominate the world. We are far removed from the theatre of war, and perhaps we do not quite adequately realize what the issue of this war means to us. I said to some gentlemen who came to speak to me a few days ago about some fiscal question, "Production of food in Canada is more vital to you than any other matter that is of concern to you at the present time. Upon the production of food in this country may depend the issue of this war, and upon the issue of this war depends the question whether you shall not come under such an economic domination as would render your industries of little value to you, if not absolutely valueless and worthless." Perhaps we in Canada, far removed as we are from the scene of active operations, do not quite comprehend at all times how closely the issue of this war does concern us. Notwithstanding any disappointments that have met us in the Eastern theatre, I am as profoundly convinced as ever that the Allied cause must triumph, for in it is involved the future of the whole world, the future of civilization, of liberty and democracy. There is much talk of peace in these days.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Too much.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: But I should consider all our sacrifice in vain if we did not achieve such a peace as would assure the world against intolerable and ruthless aggression in the future. May I not quote once more the well-known words of the great American, President Lincoln. "We accepted this war for an object, a worthy object, and the war will end when that object is attained. Under God, I hope it never will end until that time." That I believe to be the feeling of the people of Canada from Atlantic to Pacific.

So in the face of disappointments, however severe, let there be no faint hearts among us. Among our men at the front there is absolutely no doubt as to the issue. Among them one encounters a spirit of determination and confidence

which may well serve as an example to us. Like them, let us look ahead and not behind us. Let us confront the issue with steady resolve. Let us undertake our duty and carry on our work in the same spirit and with the same unselfish devotion as our heroic countrymen who hold Canada's battle-line beyond the Atlantic.

At six o'clock, the House took recess.

### After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Hon. CHARLES MURPHY (Russell): Mr. Speaker, in the last Parliament it was my privilege to congratulate you, Sir, when you were first chosen to fill the position of Speaker of this House. To-night it is again my privilege to offer you my felicitations on having been selected for a second time to preside over the deliberations of this assembly, and in doing so I feel that I may avail myself of the opportunity to say that you can at all times count upon the hearty co-operation of my fellow-members on both sides of this House to assist you in the discharge of the important duties attaching to you high office.

By way of expediting the business of the House, and in order to facilitate the work of the Government in pressing forward Canada's part in the war, I have a suggestion to make, which, if adopted, will, I am convinced, attain both those ends. My suggestion is that the hour for the meeting of Parliament should be changed, and that, instead of assembling at three o'clock in the afternoon, this House should meet at one o'clock, and sit continuously until six o'clock, or later, if necessary, and that night sessions should become the exception rather than the rule.

I have given this suggestion a good deal of thought, and I have discussed it with others who have had fairly extended experience in the work of Parliament. Their belief coincides with my own, that if the suggested change were made the members of Parliament would bring to the consideration of public business a capacity, both mental and physical, for sustained work that, under our present procedure, grows increasingly less as the session advances and night sittings multiply. The public business itself would be more expeditiously and more satisfactorily disposed of, the members of the Government would have more time to devote to the work of their respective departments, and those who, either in an official capacity, or as members of the press gallery, are obliged to report the daily proceedings of