

appeal, not a threat. I do not doubt that you are just as anxious in your desire to have a united Canada as I am. I know that we stand on common ground. I know that we are all loyal and patriotic to Canada, and it is because I know that the division between the races is deeper and wider than it ever has been that I appeal to you, the majority of this country, to see that this matter is righted. To my mind it is far more important, far more vital, far more urgent, than those after-the-war questions of trade, shipping, industries, transportation, employment of capital and labour, etc. What is the good of better shipping or transportation facilities and so on, if you are going to have constant and permanent bitter estrangement between the races and a war of races in this country—if you are going to have this festering sore constantly opened? What is the good of anything else? Is it not possible to get in this country some English-speaking people who are willing to go into this question, to study it, and not meet our assertions with mere denials? Is it not possible that an appeal in this House or elsewhere will induce some of them to go into this question and see whether we are telling the truth or not? When this question was up before, I abstained from speaking on it, but matters have come to such a pass that it would be criminal for any one who knows what I know not to express his mind clearly and frankly about it and not to utter a solemn warning.

With reference to the Bill, I am going to vote for the amendment, not because I am not in this war to the end, not because I believe Canada has done everything it can do, for Canada may do more yet; but because I think the method of continuing Canada's contribution to the war is not that proposed by the Government. If the people of Canada had approved of it, or if they approve of it when it is submitted to them, then I will do my level best, as I have done in the past, to get my French-Canadian friends to submit to the law and obey it and let it be put in force. I think the law is ill-conceived, ill-timed. I have not gone into a discussion on conscription, which would be purely academic. I do not know of any logical or constitutional ground against conscription, but I say that conscription at this hour and in this way and because what has already been done and said in this House and elsewhere on public platforms and in the Press is not the best means at our disposal. If I may repeat it without any offense to my

honourable friend, for whom, as he knows, I have the greatest respect, his manner of introducing this Bill and the words that we have heard in this House, and which have come to us from elsewhere are not going to make it very much more acceptable to Quebec than it is in itself. On the contrary, I think the things that have been said are going to make it impracticable, even if the situation were not as I have described it. These things make it impossible for my honourable friends from Stadacona, Montarville and De Salabery and others to go down to Quebec and ask the people to accept this Bill. How can we go and ask them to approve and accept the bill when we have such evidence as I have described directed against them? The only patriotic thing, the only truly loyal thing, the only efficacious thing to do would be for Sir Robert Borden to approach the leader of the Opposition with a view to making enlistment what it ought to be, and what it can be if it is dealt with in the proper fashion.

Let us stop at once and forever, this constant daily misrepresentation, this vilification of a whole race, two-thirds of the population of Canada, the descendants of the heroic founders and colonizers of Canada, the cousins of the heroes of the Marne and Verdun; the heroic participants in the valorous and heroic deeds of Courcellette, let us stop the cruel and senseless persecution to which they are subjected in the education of their children. Stop that useless and cruel attempt to proscriber their beautiful and immortal French speech. Remember that after this war and for all time French and English must live here side by side, and together work out a common destiny, for better or for worse. Let us remember that it is by no blind hazard nor fortuitous circumstances that the descendants of the two greatest and proudest races have been thrown together in this part of the New World, to live together and prosper, not to ostracise one another. Let us remember that it is in our combined power to establish and perpetuate, on this northern half of the North American Continent, probably the most perfect, as human things can be perfect—the most perfect christian democratic Commonwealth. Let us remember that we can make or forever mar such a glorious future. And inevitably we shall mar it and irrevocably, if we do not at once put an end to our religious and racial strifes. Let us fully realise that in this Canada of ours, God's country, we, you of British origin and