

is paying no compliment to the British Parliament; it is only the spirit of the constitution; it is only the spirit which has always been displayed by Great Britain. To say that the British Parliament would oppose this measure unless presented to it with full unanimous support as I have mentioned is simply rendering bare justice to the Imperial Parliament, to the King, to the Lords, and to the Commons of Great Britain. But, Sir, if this Parliament not unanimously but by a majority pass this resolution and if in England they refuse then to pass it, or if the resolution is withdrawn from Parliament in the face of opposition from this side of the House, what would be the consequence? The consequence would be that we should at once have an election--an election during the War; and that election would take place not upon the broad questions of the War, not upon the great ideas which have been suggested by the War, not upon the conduct of the War by the Government, not upon the problems which are facing us on account of the War, but upon the refusal of the Opposition in the Canadian Parliament to grant an extension of the term of Parliament. That would be a miserable incident to go to the country upon, and I say, therefore, that instead of having the country divided upon such an incident, better by far--not only for the greater reasons, but even for the narrowest reasons of all--that we should preserve the unanimity which we have had in this House up to the present time.

Will Not Oppose Resolution.

After all, what is it that is being sought of us. It is sought of us, not to do away with the control of the Canadian people over this Parliament, but simply to suspend for a short twelve months the verdict of the Canadian people upon the Administration, upon its policy, and upon the general questions arising out of the War. For all these reasons, Sir, in view of the responsibility which has been placed upon my shoulders by my hon. friends, in view of the rights of the people, and in view of what I think best for the country, after giving this question the best judgment that I could, I am not prepared to oppose the resolution, but will allow it to pass unanimously in this House. I am well aware that the question is an important one; but, important as it is, it pales before the great problems which are still before us; it pales before the magnitude of the duties which the Allies have still to discharge.

Let us for a moment consider the progress of the War. The campaign of 1914 went in the favour of the Allies. The battle of the River Marne shattered the plans which had been long prepared and premeditated by the German General Staff for an easy and a rapid victory, and the end of the year 1914 found the Kaiser and his staff piling up corpses by the hundreds of thousands in the marshes and swamps of Flanders, in a vain effort to reach Calais. On the eastern front the Russians had gone from victory