

dinner as unique in the history of Toronto. It may be well to reproduce the editorial comment of the Toronto World, the writer of which was present:

The Empire and Its Ideals.

"Mr. Justice Riddell characterized the international dinner held on Tuesday evening as a unique and remarkable thing in the history of the world. Only two nations could have produced the material for such a gathering, the British and the American. He confessed that he was unable at a moment's notice to sum up all the significance of such an inspiring and unusual gathering. Speeches were given expressive of various Canadian and British views, and by a Norwegian, an Italian, an Austrian. Mr. Gould's address we have already commented upon as an expression of the good feeling of the United States towards the Allies.

"Even more significant was the speech, brief and effective, of Dr. Sundar Singh, the representative of the Sikh nation, of whom so many are now fighting in France. Dr. Singh did not express his consciousness of any distrust existing in Canada towards him or the race which he represents, but he showed that he was prepared to meet any formulated expression of such distrust wherever it may exist. It had existed in India in official circles, and his countrymen demanded as a right the opportunity to take their

place beside their fellow-Britons and help to fight the Empire's battles.

"Yet there was more than this, for it was the innate spirit of democracy stirring in India, as in Belgium and Poland and elsewhere, that brought these Indian troops into the field where democracy wrestled with despotism. India, said Dr. Singh, asked no more than that when the world had been delivered from the menace of German militarism she should be granted the rights purchased by the blood of the first-born, in accordance with the principles of democracy for which they had fought.

"It is clear that the end of the war will not see the end of all human problems, and these problems which arise with the progress of humanity can only be solved, as they have been in the past, by fidelity to the principles of human liberty and enlightenment. It is because Great Britain has been peculiarly loyal to those principles that she has had the honor of leading the van of human progress, and Britons will include the United States as bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh in making that claim.

"It was in the proclamation of the essential unity of democratic ideals in the British Empire and the republic, as Chairman Hawkes put it, and the acknowledgement of that unity by consenting nations in sympathy with the allies, that such occasions as the international dinner find their chief significance."

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The Chairman said: One sometimes wonders whether the Lord puts a dumb spirit into the prophets. No more deceptive fallacy was ever uttered than that which found favor with certain excellent men when the war broke out—that it was not a time for words; but for deeds only. There is no time for great deeds which is not also a time for great words. If a man think not, how shall he act? If he communicate not his thoughts to others how shall he inspire them to act?

This gathering is a testimony to the value of expressing ideas. It arose from a written article, which sprang from a sense of the deep need for expression of the convictions which were making men and women sore with regret that too little was being said about the mighty verities that the war is exposing afresh to human examination. We began to heed our duty to one another; particularly to those who do not dwell in our racial fold. So there