

ning of the war have gathered into its fold all shades of opinion—Liberal, Radical, Labour, and Nationalist. But, as is well known, nothing of that kind was done, and this country was administered as heretofore by a party government in all its branches. The Opposition was even threatened, more than once, with a sudden dissolution of Parliament.

The question has often been asked: what are the sentiments of Canadians of French descent towards their old mother country, France? Colonel Lafèche, who enlisted early and was gloriously wounded on the field of battle, answered fairly that question. He spoke lately for the returned soldiers of French descent on the occasion of the visit of General Pau to Montreal. He said in part:

General: After the victory of the Marne, we were all convinced that France, Great Britain, and Russia would easily defeat the enemy. Canada did not appear to us to be menaced or in danger, and yet, speaking for my compatriots of French descent, let me tell you that we enlisted to go and defend France. We defended at the same time the rights of humanity; we fought for the noblest cause ever offered to a man to defend.

While all the belligerents were fighting for their own country, we went to the rescue of our old mother country, whose traditions and language we have retained.

It is for France that thousands of my compatriots have given their lives and have found their last resting place in the soil of your glorious country.

Col. Lafèche says truly that while every other belligerent was fighting for his country, for a cause special to himself, that is, for himself, the Canadian of French descent alone in the world was fighting with disinterestedness, not for Canada, his own country, but for France, from whom he had been separated for nearly 300 years.

The mover of this resolution (Hon. Mr. Pope) claims to be an exception to the general rule; he states that his own contribution to the war was in the direction of protecting old France. Of course, all of the Allies happened to be working for France while working for themselves; but I very much doubt that many Anglo-Canadians would have crossed the ocean to offer their lives in the cause of France if Great Britain had remained neutral. I would draw the attention of the honourable gentleman to the fact that there can be no comparison between the Canadian of French descent and the Anglo-Canadian as to their action during the great war.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Yes, that is right.
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Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No comparison. I am glad that I have the ear of my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Oh, you have it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My opinion is that the comparison should be made rather between the Canadians of French descent and the Americans of English descent, because it would place those two groups on an equality in relation to their respective former mother countries. How many Anglo-Americans who claim to have pure English blood flowing in their veins enlisted voluntarily for the sake of their old mother country, England, even among the intellectuals? I venture to say that there are 25,000,000 Americans who claim to have pure English blood in their veins. Their ancestors did not all come over in the Mayflower; but we know that that boat was pretty full, judging by the number of the descendants. Their history connects them closely—I am speaking rather of the intellectuals—with their old mother country, Great Britain. Their history is but the continuation of English history. Their literature, their common law come from England; they speak the same language, and there is a considerable interchange between them. Now, how many of those 25,000,000 Anglo-Americans answered the call of the blood and went forward to enlist to defend their old mother country, England? I am quite sure that I should be quite extravagant in my statement if I said 5,000 at the utmost. Well, there are not 25,000,000 of us of French descent; we are hardly 2,000,000, and we gave over 25,000 volunteers to the cause of our old mother country, France. Twenty-five thousand may seem a small number compared with what others have done; but when one considers the situation of that small group on the shores of the St. Lawrence that figure looms quite large: We all know how France succeeded in winning the everlasting gratitude of the United States for the intervention of Rochambeau and Lafayette in their war of Independence. Did Rochambeau and Lafayette bring with them 25,000 men? No, honourable gentlemen, only 6,500 French soldiers crossed the Atlantic. That is the figure representing the intervention of France in the United States' fight for independence.

In 1824 France had a population of, I think, some 28,000,000. She was still filled with the enthusiasm and the glory of the Imperial epoch. Greece had rebelled against the Turk, and the young men of