

those of English, Irish, Scotch, and French descent are theirs as well, and they appreciate to the fullest extent British laws and institutions which guarantee to them freedom of speech and liberty of conscience. Should the German-Canadian, in Canada, be asked to forget the land of his forefathers, its traditions and past history? Let me ask him of Scotch descent, will he ever forget the land of the heather and the rugged scenery of the highlands immortalized in song and poetry by the beloved Scotch poet Burns? Does not the heart of him who boasts of Irish blood beat faster when he thinks of the land of the Shamrock, the "Emerald Isle," with its hallowed associations and pleasant memories? Would it not be too much to ask the French-Canadian to forget the history and glorious traditions of old France? Would an Englishman ever think for one moment of renouncing the land of Shakespeare, Milton and Bacon?

Sir, I would not give a snap of the fingers for the man who denies his ancestry and who is ashamed of the name his father and mother gave to him.

German-Canadians are proud of the race from which they spring; proud of the progress that country has made in science, in art, in music, in literature, in philosophy, in chemistry; gratefully remembering the splendid literary works of Schiller and Goethe; proud of the wonderful compositions of Mendelssohn, Mozart, Haydn, Bach, Liszt and Wagner. But, Sir, they are not proud of the violation of the neutrality of Belgium, of the burning of Louvain, nor of the destruction of the Rheims cathedral. German art, German music, German science, is one thing; but Prussian militarism is another; and the reason why so many people of German origin have left their old fatherland was to escape military domination; and to-day they are just as eager and anxious as you are for the obliteration of this curse which has been weighing so heavily on Europe for so many years.

Sir, it is easy to understand why Canadians of British breed answer the call. The French-Canadian to-day is a natural participant in the present conflict, and besides is grateful for liberty of religion and customs under British rule. But, Sir, is there not a fuller meaning in this spectacle of men going from the German communities of Waterloo, Huron, Bruce and Perth? For them the call is not of the blood; it is duty that calls, and gratitude to the

mother country for the many blessings they have enjoyed for so many years in this the land of their adoption. Shoulder to shoulder with all other Canadians, no matter of what nationality they may be, they will do their duty, realizing to the fullest extent that this is a fight for liberty and for future existence—and, let us hope, for the eradication of militarism from the world.

A few weeks ago, Sir, when the twin cities of Berlin and Waterloo responded so nobly to the Canadian patriotic fund, they esteemed it a high privilege to engage in a cause so just and praiseworthy. With them patriotism meant duty in the highest sense. At the same time, they felt keenly the privilege to do that duty, and by the inspiration of it they stand stronger to-day than ever before for the country's unity.

Imperial sentiment has been diffused amongst the people of the mother country during the past quarter of a century to a remarkable degree. Wherever the Union Jack floats security and justice prevail. Peace, order, security and liberty are safe as long as love of country burns in the hearts of the people. A great statesman once said that liberty is responsibility, and responsibility is duty, and that duty is to preserve the exceptional liberty we enjoy with the law, for the law, and by the law. India has made wonderful progress under British rule, and order, peace, and progress have been firmly established in that country. There is, thank God, no servitude under the Flag, and the native of Africa is guaranteed justice and security for his own person and for everything that he may have in his possession. Pillars of strength are Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and in this crisis during the past five months, our far-flung Empire has been welded together with bands of steels as never before.

When the call came the nation rose as one man. What mattered it whether differences of opinion about other issues existed? They realized that this was a battle of right against might, and all other questions of minor importance were laid aside, and perfect unity and harmony prevailed from one end of the Empire to the other.

Can the unity of the British Empire be better described than by the spectacle that is presented to us in South Africa to-day; only a few years ago our bitterest enemies, to-day joining hands with all the other parts of the Empire in maintaining that freedom under British institutions which