

be no Chinese walls separating any parts of Canada. They do not give any guarantee of a healthy spirit actuating the body politic. Healthy rivalry as between province and province, east and west, always has its rightful place and will always continue. But sectionalism should give way to the advent of a truer national viewpoint and a sense of that dominion wide brotherhood which was so noticeable during the five years when we had a common foe to fight and a common cause to bind us together.

The problem of re-absorbing the returned soldier is not so much economic and social as it is ethical and national. What Canada needs to take seriously to-day is not so much the re-assimilation of the returned soldier as an assimilation of that ideal and spirit which lead our men to spring to the colours and to live or die for freedom and for the flag, that liberty might still be ours, to be preserved as the priceless legacy of generations yet unborn. We have been well told by some of the strongest of the leaders in our Canadian army on their return to us that we need not be afraid of the returned soldier. This is quite true. The returned soldiers, it is said, belonged to us and will very soon find their place once more in the land they call their own. I agree with that; but I believe that we should go even further and say: "Do not be afraid of that high spirit of devotion which took our soldiers overseas and carried them through all the privations and dangers and cruelties of the most frightful war ever fought." Let us make that spirit of devotion our own. We would do well to remember the words of Abraham Lincoln, which are applicable to us at present: "It is for us, the living, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced;" and I am satisfied, Sir, as I believe we all are, that it is in proportion as we take up the cause and incorporate in ourselves the spirit of those men who went and conquered the enemy, and whom we are proud to have back in our midst, that we shall attain a happy goal. When those who are returning join with us in the dedication of our national life to the making of a greater and better Canada than existed a decade ago, we shall achieve results that would not have been thought possible, at least in our lifetime. If the Canadian people will do this, all the sacrifices and all the cost will not have been in vain, and Canada, standing as she does to-day at the very gateway of her destiny, will enter

[Mr. Whidden.]

upon an era of real prosperity and achievement of which the greatest of our many great national fathers scarcely dared dream. I am sure that if Canadians will harken to the new watch cry and will accept the new challenge flung down by those who will never speak to us again in audible tones, and by those, also, who have returned to represent the fallen, as they represented all of us in their going, we shall see in the northern half of this continent a nation with a character, and one that in actual achievement will in the coming day shine conspicuously among the nations that have made this world great and good for all the peoples of the earth.

Mr. JOHN CHARLES McINTOSH (Nanaimo, B.C.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to second the motion of the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Whidden). To me the honour is somewhat onerous, lacking as I do experience in Parliamentary life, and I trust that the House will be patient with me in view of this circumstance. Since last session there have been several changes in the ministry. The House, I think, will join with me in expressing regret at the loss of the great and talented services as Minister of Finance, of Sir Thomas White. He gave his services freely to his country at great personal sacrifice to himself. The life of Sir Thomas White should be a model and an inspiration to the boyhood of Canada. Reared upon a farm with a widowed mother to support, and being charged with the responsibility in early life of the management of that farm, he had great difficulty in obtaining the education which is at the command of most boys. He worked, and worked hard to acquire the education which has enabled him to take such a brilliant part in the affairs of Canada. His success from the very beginning was mostly the result of personal effort; the money necessary to enable him to pursue his studies at the university and the law school was obtained by working as a newspaper man and in other capacities. Therefore, I repeat that the life of Sir Thomas White and the industry and perseverance with which he applied himself to the attainment of the objects before him should serve as a model to the boyhood of Canada.

His place in the Government has been taken by Sir Henry Drayton who has made such a brilliant record for himself as chairman of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners and I doubt not that the great ability which he has brought to the discharge of the important duties of that