

population. So far as Canada is concerned, what would be the result of the humiliation of France or the defeat of Great Britain? One of the first acts of the German Empire would be to acquire this Dominion, which has always been looked upon as the brightest gem in Britain's crown. I say, therefore—I have repeated this time and again in my own province—that the aim of the German Empire is not only the domination of the world, but the acquiring of colonies as well, and that this war is not only the war of Great Britain, the war of France, the war of Russia and the war of Italy, but it is the war of Canada. It is Canada's war; it is the war of free men who cherish the free institutions under which they live and prosper. If Canada became a German colony, what would befall the province of Quebec? To answer that question, I point to what befell Poland, and to what befell Alsace and Lorraine when they became German provinces. When we are told that we do not enjoy a full measure of liberty in this country, we ought to remember that if we ever became a dependency of Germany—which God forbid—the fight which we had to make for the liberties we now enjoy would have to be fought over again. Do we not remember the terrible struggle which took place in Alsace and Lorraine, and in Germany itself after the war of 1870? Hon. gentlemen who are old enough to remember will recall the kulturkampf which was inaugurated in Germany: the terrible fight against the Roman Catholic Church in Germany; the exile and imprisonment of its priests, bishops, even its cardinals. Everybody knows that in Alsace and Lorraine the use of the French language has been prohibited; it has even been erased from the crosses and monuments in the cemeteries. In the Danish provinces of Holstein and Schleswig no public meetings can to-day be held where anything but the German tongue is spoken. This is a picture, Mr. Speaker, of what would happen to the province of Quebec if it ever became a German possession.

It seems to me, Sir, that the province of Quebec has had its full share of constitutional controversy, and that it is about time to take measures which will prevent the occurring of such controversies in the near future. From some quarters we are confronted by what was said in years past by Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper and others as to the participation of Canada in the wars of the Empire. We

are confronted by what Sir John A. Macdonald said at one time as to Canada's participation in the Soudan campaign. But can any parallel be drawn between the wars of those days and the war which is going on to-day? It is sufficient merely to call attention to the differences which exist between the circumstances connected with the campaigns to which Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper and other leaders referred and this world war. Does any one doubt that if Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper were in this House to-day they would not be strong advocates of Canada's participation in this conflict?

But, Sir, this is putting the matter on a wrong basis. It is not England's war that we are asked to participate in; it is not the war of Great Britain, it is the war of Canada. It is a war in which every patriotic Canadian is bound to do his duty.

So much for the interest of Canada in the war, and so much for the interest especially of the province of Quebec in this great struggle. But what about sentiment? What do we owe to England? Is it not a fact that we owe her our free institutions, our autonomous government, the privileges which, I have no hesitation in saying, make us the freest people in the world? Is it not true, I say, that we owe these institutions and privileges to England? We have truly a government of the people by the people. Our Government is a democratic government in the truest and the widest sense. If sometimes we do not act wisely, we alone are to blame, not the mother country, who gave us the means wherewith to make good laws and to administer them wisely. It surpasses my comprehension how people can be so obdurate as to say that we should hold England responsible for what is said in some parts of this country simply because the words which are used are said and written by men speaking the same language as that which is spoken by the majority of the people in Great Britain.

What do we owe to France? We owe to France what the child owes to the mother: our greatest love and our fondest admiration. What an example France is giving us to-day! what an example France is giving to the province of Quebec! Everybody knows that before this great struggle began, France was divided and torn by factions. Everybody knows also that since the first day of August, 1914, France has given an admirable spectacle to the entire