

field battery, and many French Canadians disseminated among the various English battalions, especially in the Engineering and Forestry battalion. And, moreover, Laval University has furnished an Ambulance corps, one of the finest in the Allies' service—so say the despatches—and a corps of dental-surgeons.

I refrain, Mr. Speaker, from going through this list which makes us really understand what this impartial Englishman says of the province of Quebec.

On the other side, on your right, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be two parties who differ in their ways, but whose efforts have the same object. They want to weaken the country in order to reign. One of them tries to weaken the country by splitting it; it has set the English race against the French race. A gale of abuse coming from there has blown over the province of Quebec, a storm of hatred has fallen upon us. Those who compose it believe they are the greatest men of their race, greater than the British Empire, truer than history, mightier than right, more patriotic than the French and English struggling together shoulder to shoulder in the most terrible war the world has ever seen. They are blending their blood for the defence of a grand idea, for the triumph of a holy cause: Liberty. That should certainly be enough to force strong roots and wide branches to sprout from the tree of concord in the fertile soil watered by French blood and by English blood, and in its shade the Canadian nation could find a safe shelter.

The other party wants to weaken the people by impoverishing them. It shouts for poverty; it will soon shout for misery. It has given a free hand to speculation, to monopoly, to stock-jobbing, to such an extent that the old den of the Forty Thieves would be too small to shelter all the public embezzlers and squanderers. They have hoarded up fortunes. Gold is powerful, I know it, powerful for an individual, for a family, for a caste. However, open the history of nations, and you will have to admit that there still is a greater power, which has overthrown institutions which had braved storms for centuries. Beware! the people are patient, because they are strong. Beware! you have sown the wind; very soon, harvest time will be with you, and you will gather the storm. For my part, I deny myself the right to coercion. Following my leader's example, I recognize only one master in the country, it is the one who pays, it is the one who suffers, who prays,

[Mr. Bourassa.]

who supplies the blood and the flesh for cannon. It is him I want to consult and I will bend before his supreme will.

We are now threatened with civil war and I cannot see wherein the Allies could get any benefit from it. For my part, I ask the Government to well consider the scope of their Act; it is an extreme and destructive measure, which may give results far contrary to those expected. I recall what stand was taken in 1911 to impose an appeal on the people. It was then alleged that the Liberal government had not the right to modify our commercial relations with the United States without consulting the Canadian people. How much more important is the legislation now before us, since it actually amends our own constitution to quite an extent?

Mr. OVIDE BROUILLARD (Drummond-Arthabaska): Mr. Speaker, no doubt the Prime Minister of Canada does to-day realize to what extent the autocratic character of his measure is unseasonable. We are under the threat of a calamity which, from the Canadian point of view, shall be irreparable. Civil war is at our very doors. I regret, Mr. Speaker, that I should have to declare that the reasons put forward by the Premier do not have, as I can see them, the merit of sincerity. I have come to the point of asking myself what kind of sickness attacks the Government leader, every time he comes back to us from England. When he first returned, in 1913, he raised quite a storm in this country by telling us that England did not know what to do. The Empire was on the point of foundering if Canada did not immediately vote thirty-five million dollars in order to ensure the building of three dreadnoughts to increase the British naval forces. The people as well as the Parliament of this country were put under the impression that the voting of such a sum would meet the British government's objects and wishes. Well, since then the very facts have demonstrated that England had never asked us a single dollar. The Prime Minister's reputation must necessarily suffer from this, even to-day, a severe counter-blow, and he can have no fault to find if his hysterical imperialism leaves us quite unconcerned.

This is not, however, the only time that the Premier has allowed his word to falter. Every one in this House remembers that when he introduced the Bill demanding the grant of thirty-five millions to England, the Prime Minister stated that if such legislation were not passed, he would immediately make an appeal to the people.