

matter of re-education, in refitting them to earn a livelihood and in other things.

As to the Bill which aims to give to our Canadian women the right to vote, I hold that a more just measure could not be brought to the attention of this House. Without wishing to pose as a champion of the feminist movement, I shall not hesitate to say that these women who are carrying on the work of the country, that these women who are—very often—more devoted than we are ourselves to the great interests of our homeland, deserve respect for the intelligence of their endeavour and a reward for the magnanimity of their sacrifice.

A few words more, Mr. Speaker, and I have done. My last words will be an appeal for the union of all minds and all hearts; a call for the unity of will and energy so that Canada may accomplish to the very end the heroic task which she has taken upon herself. Thanks to his unwavering devotion to the public welfare a man who sits in this House has made it possible to confer upon the country the inestimable boon of union. But this spirit of union must penetrate to every quarter, and it must be founded on generosity and on patriotism. Majorities must be magnanimous enough not to judge too hastily, or perhaps with some bitterness, minorities who have equally at heart the greater welfare of the nation but whom various causes appear to incline towards other methods of action.

After all, why is it that in the face of the enemy, whose prying eyes are forever upon us, should we cast about for causes of disension? Why, for instance, try to measure or weigh, so to speak, the quantities of such and such blood that has been shed, in comparison to the rivers of such and such other blood that have flowed. Why raise the cry: here less French-Canadian blood was spilt, and there more Anglo-Saxon blood, or Scotch, or Irish? Why take the futile care to indite long pages of statistics proving that such and such a province has to its credit more blood or more sacrifices than such and such another? One thousand times No! This is not the time for such figuring. Glory to those—be they where they may—who have done more! They constitute a noble example for those ethnic groups whom certain conditions, peculiar to their temperament or to their social function,—or perhaps whom pernicious influences—have rendered less sprightly to answer the first blasts of the bugle. Let us call a halt today to these matters of the census: posterity will see to them. Rather let us

[Mr. Chabot.]

remember that those who have died have mingled their blood—their Canadian blood—on the soil of France or of Belgium, and that this heroic soil has drained it without distinction.

Let us mass ourselves in serried ranks behind these heroes, our models, and tomorrow our eye will behold the blessed dawn of victory.

Mr. Chabot continuing in English:

Before resuming my seat, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words in English in deference to my English-speaking constituents in Ottawa. In the first place I desire to express my feeling of sincere gratitude to the right hon. leader of the Government for the honour he has conferred upon me and the constituency which I represent in this House, in asking me to second the address of thanks to His Excellency the Governor General for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both houses of Parliament, so eloquently proposed by the hon. member from Parkdale (Mr. Mowat).

I appreciate the distinction all the more because of the fact that this is the first session of the Thirteenth Parliament, called at a time when the political situation in this country has undergone a marked and decided change; when our fair Canada is confronting the most momentous issue, and passing through the most critical period in her national history; at a time when some of the most able men on both sides of politics—men who have fought one another politically, through the press, and even in Parliament, in answer to the call of duty have sunk their deep-rooted political feelings and convictions, prepared to combine their very best efforts and put forth their strongest endeavours, with a view of carrying on legislation and following out a policy intended to prosecute the war more vigorously, and more effectively; and at the moment when Unionism and what it stands for are paramount in the eyes, and are strongly entrenched in the hearts of a large portion of the Canadian people.

Since the beginning of this terrible world's war, our Canadian soldiers on the battlefields of France and Flanders have by their valour and their courage, and particularly by their resourcefulness, covered themselves with glory, and have been a source of pride to their country. They have proven themselves to be as good soldiers as the very best, and have struck terror into the hearts of the enemy, who, I am told, would just