

which I represent. May I be permitted to tender to the honourable leader of this House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) my sincere thanks for having thus honoured me.

I also wish to express to him my great admiration and regard for his high moral qualities, his noble character and the prestige which emanates from his kindly person. I am happy to see him at his post, looking so well and fit, and to congratulate him on the cheery and courteous manner with which he greets the new recruits, as well as on the masterly fashion in which he conducts the debates of this House.

In this Chamber, in which everything betokens majesty and serenity and where political passions have been dulled by age, I feel quite at ease in paying a personal tribute to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Canada and telling him what everyone thinks—that he deserves well of his country.

Indeed, his enlightened patriotism, his respect for the Constitution, that spirit of unity which is so dear to him and which he has succeeded in instilling throughout the whole of Canada, make of him one of the most eminent statesmen in the history of this country. His indomitable confidence in the underlying forces of the country and his determination to conquer the difficulties of the present hour have generated courage and strength everywhere. It is not surprising, therefore, that the entire country should have rallied to his support in the battle to be fought for the common good and the preservation of humanity. As my young friend the distinguished son of the Right Honourable the Minister of Justice said on Friday last in another place, "The collective spirit of the Canadian nation found its expression in the recent vote and the Prime Minister's victory was the triumph of common sense."

Honourable senators, the more and more tragic events which are occurring each day, the violent emotions which we feel when reading the war bulletins, especially those of us who took part in the last war, make us realize what holocausts of human lives and what enormous sacrifices the Allied nations are making at this moment for the defence of right and the preservation of the British institutions under which we are living. And I cannot help thinking that while we sit here the fate of Europe, nay, the fate of all mankind, is at stake in the fertile plains of France and Belgium.

During the dark days of the French Revolution, Mirabeau said to the representatives of the people: "Bankruptcy is at your door, and you deliberate!" At this moment it is not hideous bankruptcy that is at our door; it is the conscience of humanity which is at stake.

It is all that we hold most dear and most sacred—our religious beliefs, our freedom, our homes, our country. All that is in the balance.

Will God permit such a terrible cataclysm to engulf the world? Will He allow victory to desert the camp of the Allied armies who are fighting for His glory and for the preservation of humanity? Will God permit brute strength to be exalted as a principle and to become predominant in future times? No, honourable senators. Saint George and Joan of Arc are now standing guard over the hallowed soil of France and they will not permit this modern Attila to advance with his Hunnish hosts and swoop down upon the ancient city of Lutetia. From her lofty tower, Saint Genevieve is watching and will once again shield Christian civilization from the assault of barbarians. Through the prayers of millions of Christians, the intercession of the Sovereign Pontiff, the gallantry and the heroic courage of the Allied armies, and the ability of their commanders, these blood-thirsty and butcherly Vandals will be halted on the shores of a new Marne and, once again, they will fail to pass.

You realize, honourable senators, that this is no time for speeches, or for bitter criticism; the hour has come for action, for a whole-hearted union of all energies toward the complete mobilization of the nation's vital forces, and I know how anxious the Government are to act promptly and to leave nothing undone to make victory a certainty.

Above all, let us not be deluded by the positive assurance and the comforting thought that our neighbours will help us if we are attacked.

The best way of defending our coasts consists in making victory a certainty on the soil of France. Besides, the neighbouring republic would perhaps prove no obstacle to a victorious Germany, for we cannot forget that the United States are harbouring ten million Germans who would not fail to hail their deified leader.

Even now, on the other side of the boundary, uneasiness is becoming manifest, and it is realized in well informed circles that at certain times neutrality may mean complicity.

The indifference shown by some democracies about the present conflict is truly amazing and almost disheartening. They have permitted entire nations to be butchered under their very eyes and they did not have the faintest thought of going to their rescue. They went no farther than to authorize the exportation of a certain amount of capital in order to alleviate the sufferings of those nations, and this they did in the name of the strictest neutrality.