

anything that goes to show that a parliament in any part of the British commonwealth of nations is not united in support of its fighting men, and in its determination to do the utmost that can be done in helping to make a great war effort a complete success.

My hon. friend has said that men who have been standing by comrades and seen them fall, who themselves are standing not knowing whether they may not be the next to fall, will look to-morrow with anxious eyes to see what this Canadian House of Commons has done to-night. They will scan carefully the figures which will disclose what has been the division in this house. They will be either uplifted in spirit and strengthened in might by a strong vote in support of their need in this House of Commons to-night, or they will be weakened in their power; they will become dispirited if they find, as my young friend and gallant soldier, the son of the truest friend I have ever had in this House of Commons, told this house the other night, that while they are united and can stand side by side, French and English, Catholic and Protestant, of whatever kin or race they may be, that while they are fighting to preserve our liberties we cannot be equally united here in their support in this terrible war.

I ask all hon. members of this house to think of the men who are fighting for them. Think of them as fighting for your homes. Think of them as fighting for our country and its future. Then ask yourselves if at this time you are going to encourage them by giving them all the aid that it is possible for this parliament of Canada to give. You may find it difficult to explain some situations. Some of you may and no doubt will find it difficult by yourselves or others going into the past—I am going to have a word to say on that in a moment—and recalling things that have been said, promises that have been made, to explain the present situation to the electors in your constituencies, as I hear different members saying they will have. I have more faith than some who have spoken in the intelligence of your electors and in their hearts. Is there any man in this house who will say, if the situation is properly explained, that they will not be the first to recognize what it means to them, and will mean through years to come, that at this time of war their member stood up in the House of Commons of Canada and supported the men who are fighting to defend them and their homes? Will they say that he is not doing the noblest thing for his own constituents and for our country that could possibly be done?

Take this larger vision. May I say to hon. members of this house that we have passed the day, and it is long past, when questions of purely local concern can mean anything relatively in the future of our country. The world has moved far during the past five years, five years of war against the most powerful enemy that has ever sought to oppress other nations, against a group of powerful enemies who have sought to dominate the world. These five years of war have brought into being possibilities for future destruction beyond the imagination of any of us here in this parliament. I say to my fellow members in this house and to my fellow Canadians, beware, beware of doing anything or letting anything be done that may give those enemies or the people of any land cause to believe that the democracies are weakening, that within and between themselves they are becoming divided with the consequence that in their own eyes the power our enemies, present or future, may possess or come to possess may come to loom much greater than anything they behold elsewhere. We, as I say, have passed the day when local issues or provincial issues—I might almost say the issues in any one country itself—can be separated from the larger question of how this world is going to hold together in the next few years in a way which will enable men to enjoy liberty, and to preserve their lives and their homes.

All of that is at stake at this present time. And so, Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. friend the leader of the C.C.F. party (Mr. Coldwell) for helping to join in making as nearly possible as can be a unanimous vote in this house on the resolution before us. I thank, too, my hon. friend the leader of the Social Credit party (Mr. Blackmore) for what he has done in the same direction. I thank hon. members around me, here, for the support that I know they are going to give to this resolution.

In my heart, I am profoundly sorry that I cannot thank the leader of the opposition, or the followers who are behind him.

At this late hour I do not wish to detain the house many minutes longer. I do, however, before concluding, desire to add a word or two respecting what has been said in the course of this debate about broken promises, and faith in public men. Much has been said about those two things in the course of this debate, and they should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. Perhaps in referring to them I may be able the better to make my own position clear, and to make clear to the house what is before it in respect of the resolution on which we are now about to vote.