

best guardians of the British power in the world and I hope that Canada will not be the only country where they will not prevail.

Do not forget, hon. gentlemen, the lessons of history; do not forget that a national injustice is a seed of discord and may be compared to a malicious cancer which may ultimately endanger the whole system. Is not to a great extent, the present war, the horrible conflict which terrifies the universe, the result of the cruel spoliation of the French territory?

We are proud of our country, we entertain a high opinion of its destinies, and it is our bounden duty to avoid all which may jeopardize its glorious future.

I do not feel inclined to consider now the question in its legal and constitutional aspect, although it has been established by eminent lawyers that the spirit and a reasonable interpretation of the treaty of 1763, of the Act of Quebec of 1774 and of the Federal Act of 1867 entitle the French Canadians of Ontario to the teaching of the French in the schools of that province. I prefer to remain in the limits of the resolution and to say that there is a law above all other laws: it is the law of nature, which makes a man, a people, love, cherish and keep as a sacred treasure all the characteristic elements of its nationality. Nobody will deny that the national language is one of those elements.

There is another law, a Divine law, which was edicted by Christ himself, when he said to His Apostles: "Love ye one another as I have loved you."

There was never a time when it was more proper to address and repeat those sublime words to Canadians and even to the citizens of the whole Empire and to apply that noble precept not only for charitable purposes, but also for patriotic purposes, in order that being united they be strong enough to do what the interest of Canada and of the whole Empire requires. If the union of the French and the English is now so beneficial to their influence in the world and useful to civilization and mankind it is not less necessary here for the welfare and prosperity of the country and for its glorious destinies.

Those who leave our country, be they English, Scotch, Irish or French, to go and fight side by side on the battlefields of Europe give us a lesson, an example which we ought to follow. If we are not called to shed our blood as they do, we ought at least to have enough patriotism to avoid national quarrels equally dangerous to Canada and to the British Empire.

Hon. Mr. DAVID.

Really the time is ill chosen to give to the world the spectacle of our divisions, when we are preparing to receive all the unfortunate people who after the war will seek a refuge on our shores—a place where they would find peace, justice and fair play and the respect due their religious and national traditions.

Do not you think, hon. gentlemen, that they will fear to enter into a country troubled by internal divisions and where they will have reason to think that they can not find the rest which they so much desire?

There are now millions of people who pray the God of war, let us in Canada pray the God of peace who has been so good to us; let us sacrifice on its altars our national and religious prejudices in order that we may continue to live and prosper in peace and harmony. I hope that the hon. members of this House will not hesitate to give patriotic evidence of their spirit of conciliation and fair play by voting for a resolution which embodies the views of all those who put the general interest and welfare of our country above all other considerations.

I hope that it will not be contended that the Senate should not intervene in such a matter, that it cannot appeal to the generosity, to the patriotism, to the noblest feelings of our people. It would be a bad precedent, a blow to the high opinion which we ought to have of the functions and of the noble mission of our Chamber.

A wish, a prayer, are always in order, and welcome to God and to man.

Hon. Mr. McHUGH—In seconding this resolution I do so on account of the broad and generous wording of it, and because of the confidence I have in the judgment and good sense of the mover to do and to say only that which makes for peace and harmony.

Let it be understood that this is not an attempt to invade provincial autonomy, but rather in the form of an appeal for full investigation by lawfully constituted authority in the hope that a solution of this disturbing question may be reached, a settlement that will let us hope commend itself to the good sense of the fair minded who on one side or the other feel interested in it.

The question is not insoluble, and if pressed home to our public men I have unbounded confidence in their ability to find a solution based on justice. Such a settlement may not satisfy the extremist on either side, but all reasonable people will I am sure welcome a settlement that will remove the present unrest.