

respect him. He was perfectly inoffensive, agreeable, and though strong in his party views was never offensive or aggressive towards other people, and his private life was just as admirable as his public life. In the late hon. gentleman from Montarville the Senate lost a man who could truly be described as a Christian gentleman.

In reference to the speech of the hon. leader of the Government, I quite agree in his concluding observations. This war is Canada's war just as much as it is the war of England; and it is our duty to exert ourselves just as much as it is the duty of the people of England to exert themselves.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear,

Hon. Mr. POWER—His Royal Highness speaks of the valour of the sailors and soldiers of the various parts of the Empire that have gone to the front in splendid loyalty and unflinching devotion. Then His Royal Highness says:

The call to service has evoked a widespread and notable response in Canada. Already 120,000 men have crossed the seas, an equal number is now being actively trained and equipped for service abroad, and a call extending the authorized enlistment to half a million men has been received with warm enthusiasm.

Now, hon. gentlemen, it is true that the call to service has evoked a widespread and notable response in Canada; and I assume that there is no doubt that 120,000 men have crossed the seas; but there is just one point that I do not feel quite satisfied about: if 120,000 men have crossed the seas—and within the last few weeks I think ten thousand have crossed—I understand only 50,000 or thereabouts are actually on the field of action. Now, I really do not see that so long a period of training in this country is required for our soldiers; at any rate if they are trained for six months here, it does not seem to me that they should require three or more months training after they go to England. I do not profess to be an expert in this matter; but it does seem to me that of the 120,000 men who crossed the seas a larger number should be at the front. Our men have a capacity for adapting themselves to circumstances which, I may say, is greater than that of the average Englishman, and perhaps it might have been possible to have got a larger proportion of them to the field of action. While I do not quarrel with the substance of the declaration quoted, that the call extending the authorized enlistment to half a million men "has

Hon. Mr. POWER.

been received with warm enthusiasm," I do rather question the wisdom of its form. What I think we might very well say is that we have fixed the figure now at 250,000 men, and we are prepared to supply such further number of men as occasion may require. Although it may be the fact that we desire to raise half a million men, the language used in the paragraph is more or less wide and I think it is more than wide—it is a little extreme. I do not mean to say we should not raise that number of men, but we should undertake to raise whatever number is found necessary. Suppose that a collapse should occur on the side of Germany and Austria and Turkey after we had got 300,000 or 400,000 men in the field; you see we would have considerable trouble in absorbing them again. Then His Royal Highness says:

At the front our gallant soldiers have met the enemy in repeated contests, and by their pre-eminent courage and heroic endurance have shed lustre upon their country and upheld its highest traditions.

We are quite in accord with that. The men of Canada, both those of French origin and those of English origin, have shown that the breed has not deteriorated. No men have fought better in the Old Country than our men have fought, and further, it shows that the breed of Canadians has not deteriorated since the war of 1812. The men at the front to-day are worthy successors of the men who fought at Chateauguay and Chrysler's Farm.

Then again it indicates that what might have been regarded as only an exceptional thing—the way in which the Canadians distinguished themselves at Paardeberg—was not an exception, and that the men at Paardeberg were only fair samples of the men whom Canada is now sending to the front.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The next paragraph is the one which deals with the extension of the life of this Parliament for the period of one year. That is a question as to which, as the hon. leader of the Government has said, there is very considerable difference of opinion through the country. The hon. gentleman now seems to think that it is absolutely essential that the life of this Parliament should be prolonged for a year from next October; and though I do not know just what attitude the hon.