

contact with European parliamentarians who were striving towards a better understanding between nations. Most of them felt that Berlin was the main obstacle in the way to the attainment of that goal. It became quite plain that Germany intended to resort to force for the solution of international difficulties rather than to arbitration when it refused obstinately to consider the British offers of limitation of armaments. Germany had decided upon war when it refused to accept Great Britain's offer of mediation after Austria's ultimatum to Serbia, and the natural sequence to that refusal was Germany's declaration of war against Russia. This meant war all around and war it must be. My fervent hope is that this horrible drama will be the dawn of a better era. It is evident that Germany is paying the penalty for its utter disregard of the rights of nationalities. Other nations have been equal sinners at different times in history. Poland has been one of the victims of its powerful, greedy neighbours. We all hope that the day is near when it will be freed from the heel of its cruel oppressors.

The well-known Professor Bonn, of Munich University, gave, last week, as the prime cause for the present war the invincible determination of the French to retake the two lost provinces of Alsace-Lorraine, and he adds the following commentary:

As far as our antagonism to France is concerned, we have always looked upon it as a regrettable fact which time, perhaps, might do away with. We are just enough to understand that a country like France, with a glorious past, a gallant spirit and an undaunted courage, cannot forget the blow we dealt her forty-three years ago.

We think we have been right in retaking from her Alsace-Lorraine, belonging originally to the German empire. But we look with a kind of envy upon her who succeeded in denationalizing the people of those provinces to such a degree that we have not yet been able to make them Germans once more.

We have always regretted that the two most civilized nations in continental Europe should be rent asunder by an unforgetten past.

We hoped that the creation of a wonderful African empire might in the long run soothe French national feeling. We should have been always willing to come to an understanding in the existing state of affairs, but though there have been lucky statesmen in France who tried such a policy, public opinion was too strong for them. French people preferred to sacrifice the main ideas on which their republican government is based and made an alliance with Russia.

We realize that the gallant spirit of the French people has furnished the mainspring which has made this war possible.

We honour her for her courage. For we know

well enough that it is she alone amongst the partners who runs real risks. We know that she is not moved by sordid motives. But as we know her unforgiving attitude, as we know that she was helping Russia and egging her on against us; that she was instigating Britain and Belgium as well as Serb and Roumanian, we had to take her attitude as what it was; as the firm policy of a patriotic and passionate people, waiting for the moment when they could wipe out the memory of 1870, putting nationality to the front, sacrificing their own ideals of humanity.

This outrage upon the rights of people who were snatched away from the bosom of their national family was perpetrated in modern times, under our eyes, in the very centre of European civilization.

In Canada we will all pray for the success of Great Britain and her allies in the hope that this great conflict will be settled with a single eye to the inalienable rights of nations and the establishment of permanent peace among them.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I rise simply to say a few words on this historic occasion: I consider the moment opportune to re-echo and emphasize the most notable declaration made for centuries on the floor of the British Parliament by the Irish leader, John Redmond. When the Prime Minister of Great Britain rose in his seat and informed the House and the people of England that his Government had declared war against Germany, the first to rise and extend the hand of aid in the hour of peril and need was the chosen representative of the Irish race, John Redmond. Here in the Senate of Canada, and in the name and on behalf of the Irish Canadian people, I most heartily endorse the attitude taken by the Irish leader on that occasion—a leader who is to become, in a short time, the Prime Minister of Ireland, a nation able to take care of itself and allow England to take its soldiers to the front—a man who in all probability may be a future Prime Minister of the British Empire. War has its calamities, but war also has its blessings. This war already, in its initial stage, has given to the human race many blessings. In the first place it has restored the ancient kingdom of Poland to its place in the family of nations. In the second place, it has silenced the enemies of Home Rule for Ireland; thirdly, it gives back to the Chinese Empire the territory that was usurped by Germany. Again, it will return—and we all pray it will return—to dear old France, her two lost provinces, Alsace and Lorraine. This is what the war is doing and accom-