

of this House considered that he should be honoured. For a number of years he has done a great deal of work at the head of commissions, and has carried on this work with great satisfaction to the country and to those who have come in contact with him. I am sure that we are all prepared to congratulate him most heartily upon his new honour; but at the same time I hardly think we can congratulate him on the title by which he should be addressed—the honourable Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, which is a very long title; and although we know that he will fulfil thoroughly the duties of the office to which he has been appointed, at the same time we must commiserate with him upon the title selected. In view of the work which he has done in the past, and the excellent way in which he has carried it out, I think a better title would have been the Minister and Friend of the Soldiers. I am sure that he will do all he can to look after the interests of those men who have been doing such splendid work for the country, in helping them to take their place in the life of the country when they return from the front.

I wish to congratulate the honourable gentleman from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson) upon attaining the position of Privy Councillor. At the present time the honourable gentleman has not a portfolio; but I know that he has a great deal of work to do, and, although he has not been long a member of this Chamber, we all appreciate the way in which his worth and ability have been recognized by the Government.

The Speech from the Throne to which our attention is called to-day deals with a very large number of questions. I do not propose to take them all up in order. I wish to deal with only those which are perhaps the most important to consider at the present time. Since we last met in this Chamber the condition of things in Europe has, I regret, to say, not improved from the point of view of the Allies. I think it is unfortunate that the success of the Central Powers, owing to the regrettable situation that has arisen in Russia, has been such as to bring to the people of the Central Powers the hope that they may be able to retrieve the position in which they found themselves in the middle of last year. The situation in Russia is one that we must all regret sincerely. We had hoped that some effective organization would have been developed out of the circumstances that arose

when the revolution took place in Russia and that some strong man would be found, able to take charge of affairs in that country and organize the people to carry on the fight for liberty and democracy; but it seems, unfortunately that the forces which were behind the leaders were not of the right kind, and the men themselves had not received the training that is necessary for men occupying such positions. The result has been that the Russian people are to-day in a condition that every one who takes an interest in that country must very sincerely regret and unfortunately, the Central Powers of Europe are to-day able to a very great extent to force their will upon the Russian people and will be, I fear, able to recuperate and gain in strength from the supplies, the ammunition, and other resources which will be available to them. This whole situation will have a serious effect. It will mean that the allied nations must put forward greater efforts in order to accomplish their object, and to bring about the result for which we all fervently hope, the termination of this terrible struggle in which the world is now engaged. We realize to-day that the interests of every country in the world are bound up with the existing condition of things and that no country can afford to stand out of this terrible struggle; every country must make its decision and take its place on one side or the other. It behoves the people of every country to realize the situation and to bend every effort in their power to bring about a victorious conclusion of the struggle for liberty and the triumph of democracy throughout the world.

Since we last met in this Chamber we have had throughout Canada a general election and the people have decided that Union Government is in their opinion the best form in which the government of the country can be carried on, and the form in which for the present it ought to be carried on. As my honourable friend from the Gulf (Hon. Mr. L'Esperance) said in his speech, the only difference between those who were in favour of Union Government and those who opposed it was the question as to the best ways and means of carrying on the fight and providing assistance from this Dominion of Canada. The great question that has been before us all is the question of the best way to keep up the support of our men at the front, and at the same time to provide all the necessary food and produce that we can for the benefit of the allied countries that are so greatly in need of it. This question of ways