

know what the extent of our obligations next year may be. Within another twelve months we may have 500,000 young Canadians fighting under the flag, and we do not yet know the amount that we shall be called upon to pay, not only in money, which is of secondary importance, but in blood and in the lives of the flower of our young men. This great circumstance calls for great action and great measures. For myself, I voted on the Dominion plebiscite against prohibition in the province of Quebec, but to-day I realize that I have a great duty to fulfil towards my constituents who have taken unanimous action in favour of prohibition, and when I consider the action taken by the various provinces throughout the Dominion, I feel justified in saying that we have to-day a mandate to act upon these questions and that it is our imperative duty to act promptly. We have taken it upon ourselves to assist England in the great struggle in which she is engaged and to vote millions of dollars without formally consulting the people, but we felt from the outset that we had the nation behind us. At the present time I feel equally sure that the people will support us on this question, and I speak freely, as a convert probably to the idea, but I speak in the interest of the country, feeling within me that I have the interest of Canada at heart. During the last fifteen years I have given many votes in this House; I have assisted, along with 150 or more gentlemen who now no longer sit in this House, in passing measures for the framing of new provinces, for the construction and development of transcontinental railways, for the formation of banks and insurance companies, for making the St. Lawrence and other waterways of Canada second to none in the world, and for doing all that we thought was in the interest of the welfare, commercial prosperity and happiness of the nation. But, Sir, I consider that the duty I am now undertaking is probably the most important that I have discharged during all that period. I realize that this is the greatest question that we have before us for solution at the present time, and that not only from its financial aspect, but more especially from its moral aspect. I am glad to know that I represent the feeling of my people, because in 1898 the province of Quebec gave a decided vote against prohibition, to which vote I will refer later on; but I am now in a position to show that there has been in my province a tremendous change

[Mr. Marcell.]

of sentiment in regard to this question, and I will produce evidence showing that on this question, as on all other questions relating to the welfare of Canada, Quebec is prepared to shoulder her share of responsibility. We have heard from seven or eight of the provinces of Canada; we shall hear more from the province of Quebec when the time comes.

I have accepted the honour of seconding this resolution on the invitation of members of the Dominion Alliance,\* which for years has been working for the cause of temperance throughout Canada. Canada, as we know, is inhabited by people of various creeds and various nationalities. We differ on many questions, but prohibition is one upon which we can all agree, because on the solution of this problem rests the efficiency of the nation.

I have been asked to second  
5 p.m. this resolution by men who belong to various walks of life, men who are of different nationalities and different creeds. The House will pardon me if I read the petition which they have placed in my hands, but it is well worth reading and its language explains the problem better than could any words of mine. This petition is signed by some of the leading citizens of Canada, by some of the great employers of labour, by members of the judiciary, by men who have given this important question years of study. It is a fortunate occurrence, now that the Dominion is brought face to face with this question, that it was in the city of Montreal in 1875 that the Dominion Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic was formed, and while Ontario and the other English-speaking provinces have since been taking the lead, it will be well to remember that this movement originated in Montreal.

This petition, which contains all the arguments necessary to impel this House and the Government to take action immediately, reads:

A Patriotic Appeal for Federal Prohibition.

To the Editor:

On the 4th December last a very instructive address was delivered at the Canadian Club, Ottawa, by Hon. R. H. Brand, C.M.G., of London, on "How England is paying for the war and how Canada can help."

The speaker explained the enormous financial burdens which Britain is carrying, and that only by rigid economy and by increasing the wealth-producing powers of the country, would Canada be able to help.