

those people to whom only peoples of antiquity can furnish a parallel.

While extending a friendly welcome to all those who are disposed to come here, I wish to proclaim to the whole nation that we are just as anxious as they are themselves to see the day when her soil will be rid of the German hordes and when Belgium, bleeding and mutilated, but by no means conquered, shall once more lift her head, made younger by the consciousness of her glorious and immortal deeds.

That expected triumph, the termination of that war which we are longing for, will in a large measure no doubt, be due to our land forces, but even in a greater degree to the allied fleets of France and England. As new developments come to light, it is more and more apparent that the main factor in the final result will be the navy.

As a matter of fact, all strategists, all economists agree that the final result will not depend on particularly striking and brilliant achievements, but on the power of holding out possessed by the armies in presence, a quality which is inseparable from the possession of large means of revictualing.

Of course, I am not unmindful of the brilliant victories of the British fleet off the coast of South America or in the North sea; but I say that the greatest service our seamen did in that war was in ridding the seas of the German ships which infested them, and in carrying out with lightning rapidity that blockade which, by isolating Germany, has secured for us a new ally, famine, which will decimate the enemy more effectively than the sword or the gun.

That is why I see in the navy a token of victory, and let every British subject cry out with pride and confidence: "Britannia (still) rules the waves."

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, in common with every member of this House, I certainly commend very highly the tone of the addresses to which it has been our privilege to listen from the members for Waterloo (Mr. Weichel) and Labelle (Mr. Achim). I concur in every word that has been said in grateful tribute to their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, in the trying times in which we are living. Certainly the conduct of both their Royal Highnesses has been such as to gain our admiration for their devotion to the Empire and to Canada.

I wish to associate myself with the mover of the address (Mr. Weichel) in his touching tribute to our colleagues who have been called away by death, Messrs. Emmerson, Clare and Beattie. They were men whose memories will be green in this House for many years to come.

The hon. member for Labelle supplied what I am sure had been an omission on the part of the hon. member for Waterloo by referring to the absence from this House of the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland). We all regret his absence from this House, but we are sure that he is fulfilling a great duty at the seat of war. Reference was also made to the absence of other members who are to-day at the front, fighting for their country, and whom we hope to see in their seats again at no distant date, with the tokens of victory.

But, Sir, to my mind the one thing remarkable in the debate to-day is that the motion for an Address in reply to a speech from the Throne devoted altogether to the proposition that the war must be continued, should come from one of His Majesty's subjects of German origin. If there be anything significant, anything which justifies the very eloquent periods of my hon. friend from North Waterloo, it is the very fact that he, a British subject of German origin, should speak as he speaks and occupy the place which he does. There could be no better justification, if justification were needed, of British institutions. In the trying times in which we live the situation of our German fellow-citizens must certainly be a trying and painful one. "Blood is thicker than water," is an English proverb of universal application, and people of British origin certainly apply it to others as they claim it for themselves. No one in this country would think of claiming from our fellow-subjects of German origin the same measure of sacrifice which we expect from others; but all that could be expected from our German fellow-citizens towards the end which we all have at heart has been done by them, and well done and cheerfully done.

It is some six months since His Royal Highness called the Canadian Parliament in extra session in order to consider and to enact such legislation as might be required on account of the terrible war which had just broken out in Europe, and the effect of which is felt to-day over the whole world. Again we meet, this time according to a process ordered by the constitution, to transact the regular business of the