

our troops at the front and see something of the courage and the achievements of these brave men. I would not be true to myself this afternoon if I did not as a layman pay my humble tribute to that great Canadian, and gallant soldier, Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Currie, under whose leadership the Canadian corps won such imperishable glory and struck great blows for liberty and peace. I shall not discuss the events of the past summer, but I want to say—and I am sure that my colleagues who were with me will join me in saying it,—that we never met a man who was more deeply concerned about the welfare of his men than was General Sir Arthur Currie. We never met a man who took greater precautions for the protection and safety of his troops. They were always expected to attain the objective that they were asked to attain, but he took all precautions to see that they did it with the least possible loss of life. This can be said for the Canadian corps under General Currie: They took every objective they were asked to take, and they took some of these objectives when others had failed. In August they drove through the German lines in front of Amiens and turned the Germans back toward the Rhine. The German High Command knew that they might be compelled to retire behind the Hindenburg line, but they were confident that once they were behind this system of defence no Allied force could break through and no Allied foot would stand within those impregnable defences. It was General Currie and his men who pierced the Drocourt-Queant switch of the Hindenburg line, and the Canadian soldiers stood upon the soil which Germany had considered inviolate. The piercing of this line gave to our war-weary humanity the hope that the war might really end this year, and that peace might speedily come to this war-cursed world. They fought their way through to Mons in a succession of victories unsurpassed in the history of the war.

The Canadian people will never be able to repay the lasting debt of gratitude that they owe to that brave Canadian soldier, untrained in the arts of war, who stood side by side with the best generals of Europe against the most powerful military machine that the human mind has conceived, or that the human hand has constructed, and under whose leadership the enemy were always driven back. We pay our tribute of respect to that gallant soldier, and we hope he may speedily finish the work committed to his care and return with his brave troops to Canada. The Canadian people eagerly

[Mr. Rowell.]

await their coming, and we will give them the whole-hearted welcome their courage, their sacrifice and their achievements so richly deserve.

Mr. WILLIAM D. EULER (North Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, although much has been said, and eloquently said, of the life and achievements of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, I desire to pay my modest tribute to the great Canadian. The outstanding feature of his remarkable personality was his ardent desire for national unity and his effort to weld the Canadian people together and to inspire in them a national consciousness that will have no regard for race or creed. Coming as I do from a constituency which is populated very largely by those who, like his own people, are not of the predominating majority in this country, I appreciate with peculiar feeling his broad tolerance and his generous conception of what constitutes Canadianism. That, I think, will be the most enduring monument to the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

I desire to congratulate the hon. gentleman who has been chosen to succeed him. Sir, I think that his Scottish parents must have had some prevision of the honour which was to come to their son when they named him, and I trust that he may prove another Daniel come to judgment.

I also desire to thank the ex-Minister of Militia for the kind words which he uttered of the German-Canadian boys who fought in the war. When he said that those lads fought just as courageously as did those of any other racial origin, I knew that what he said was true, but I received his words with a depth of gratitude which he perhaps cannot appreciate, and for this reason: A racial prejudice has been allowed to grow up amongst us in this country, which is not what we were accustomed to, and which is not consistent with the spirit of British fair play which always prevailed heretofore. I would further say with regard to the acts of the ex-Minister of Militia that whereas he has his faults, as we all have, and is perhaps not a diplomat, he did after all, at one time in this country, in the early history of the war provide the driving force which I think no other man could have displayed in the same degree as he did. I further say that if he had not been interfered with by the Prime Minister of this country in the matter of recruiting, conscription would never have been thought of.

I listened, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of interest to the address of the President of the Privy Council. It was a very learned discourse, and parts of it, perhaps, some