

clouds are disappearing an effort ought to be made to unite all the people. The great province of Quebec ought to be represented and speedily in the Government of this country. I hope the time is not far distant when our good friends from Quebec will see the reasonableness of the situation and realize the logic of events. Let them yield a point and let the people on this side yield a point in order that harmony and real union may prevail, and so that we may be able in this country to build up a great people.

We have wonderful, magnificent resources. All we have to do is to tickle the soil and tap those resources in order to make this country what it should be, the home of a united and happy people. Let the clouds roll by, let us have union, and if the Government is able to meet the wishes of the West, or reasonably so, on this tariff question, it will go a long way towards cementing East and West.

In conclusion I wish to say that it is my desire, as I believe it is the desire of the people of Canada, to see a great party built up in this country that will serve the public. The people are sick of the partisan cries and the partisan shibboleths. Let us go in for Service from now on. Surely a party like this, which was founded for the purpose of carrying on a great work, founded on a great principle, and sanctified, as one hon. member said the other day, by the blood of sixty thousand of the noblest sons of the Dominion, must and should develop into an agency which will be able to guard and protect the best interests of Canada.

Mr. F. J. PELLETIER (Matane) (translation): Mr. Speaker, when we were apprised of the fact that the most complete and most glorious victory had brought to the Allies the assurance of a peace founded on justice and right, our hearts were filled with deep joy and we said to ourselves that the session which was about to open would rank among the brightest and the most fruitful. Unfortunately, as hon. members have already remarked, in spite of universal jubilation, it was amidst most profound mourning and most sincere grief that this House did open, this year, just after the disappearance of one of the most brilliant men who ever were within these precincts. The voice of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a voice so eloquent, has been silenced forever, and it seems as though the walls of this House were yet resounding with its accents, so

closely was the life of that man identified with the life of the country.

However, notwithstanding the fact that our chief is no more and that, as a consequence of his sudden demise, our organization has been perturbed, it is by no means our intention to lose our interest in the affairs of the country; on the contrary, we shall follow the example of that illustrious man, trying to make up, to the full extent of our limited possibilities, for the great worth which he represented and to which the whole country did such a telling homage on the occasion of his demise; we shall try, in every possible way, to help the work of reconstruction which now lies at our door after the four years of warfare just elapsed, and we shall do so by our most earnest co-operation and our most practical suggestions, so that the Government may fulfil, if they wish so to do, the arduous task incumbent upon them, under the circumstances.

The measures outlined in the Speech from the Throne, this year, are numerous, but if they are to be realized to any advantage, they must be considered in their true light and be rightly interpreted, whatever the preferences of the majority and the settled views of certain elements.

Be the good will of the Government as it may, Mr. Speaker, all their efforts will be useless if they remain blind to the real conditions under which the country is now labouring and if they fancy that they can mould public opinion as they like, independently of the mighty currents apparent in every country since the evolutions, not to say the revolutions, which have taken place almost everywhere.

Conditions in the old countries of Europe are now being completely upset. A new power has asserted itself, and that power which has overturned everything in certain countries will soon make its influence felt in Canada. It would be an irretrievable mistake to believe that it may be possible to stop this rising tide, to dam this rushing stream. What we want is to guide this new power, to subdue it, to make it instrumental in doing great work for the reconstruction of the country and in view of the transition from war conditions to peace conditions.

This new power is that of the immense army of workmen and of the select battalion of farmers. Those two classes, upon which the prosperity and the future of every country are presumed to rest, realize the importance of the part they are now playing, and they have resolved on asserting their rights and enforcing respect of such rights.