

May I say to my hon. friend that with practically all of what he said I am in most hearty accord. He and I, as leaders of political parties, have opposing political doctrines. At times there has been sharp and considerable difference of opinion between us on debatable points. But I have never doubted for one moment that, if the time ever came when the world should again be threatened, as it was in 1914, by a war the end of which no one at the time could see, my hon. friend and myself would be found instantly side by side in an endeavour to unite this country as completely as it can be united, so as to enable it to put forth a supreme effort to preserve and defend its own liberties and institutions and to preserve and defend the liberties of mankind.

I feel it to be significant, not only that the mover and the seconder of the address, and my hon. friend opposite should all be war veterans, but that the two who have had the great responsibility of being the first to speak in the house and thereby to direct in some measure the thought of the people as they consider the mighty issue which is now before them, should be representative of the two great races of which this country is so largely composed. Although the hon. members differ in racial origin, differ also in some particulars in their religious views, they too have stood side by side, representing French and English, representing Protestant and Catholic, in declaring as far as they are concerned that the preservation of the liberty and security of this land alone makes possible the practice of any faith, the accomplishment of any worthy end, the enjoyment of life itself.

I think, sir, it is very significant indeed, that these two hon. gentlemen in their origin should also be representative of those two countries, Britain and France, which to-day have laid their all upon the altar of service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom. For my part, I cannot find words to express the admiration I feel for England and the stand that she in this hour is making for freedom, and for France and the stand which she is again taking to preserve her liberties and the liberties of the world.

Where did our liberties and freedom come from? I ask hon. members of this house to reflect upon that before they utter a word against full participation by this country in the great conflict which is now raging in Europe. Where did we get our constitutional rights and liberties? Where did we get our freedom of religion? We got our many freedoms as an inheritance from those men of Britain and France who never hesitated to lay down their lives for freedom and those of their

descent who followed their example on the soil of Canada itself.

May I say that I was greatly pleased to hear my hon. friend, at an early moment in the course of his speech, make a plea for toleration and moderation. Never is such a plea more necessary than at a time like the present. It is necessary in this House of Commons; it is necessary in this parliament; it is even more necessary in different parts of the country where there are men whose minds may not be trained to restraint as are those of many members here, many who are driven almost to desperation in anguish of mind with respect to those they love and what may become of them, may utter many bitter things and express words the like of which they would never express save under the provocation of the hour. I hope that throughout this country our citizens will be as tolerant as they can of differences of view and belief that are honestly held. There may of course be some things said which none of us would tolerate, and none of us will; but I ask above all else for a broad toleration. I was glad to hear my hon. friend make that plea, not only on behalf of citizens here in our own country who belong to the two great races, but as well on behalf of those of German descent who also are citizens of our country. May I go a step further—although I think my hon. friend also went that far—and make a plea for toleration on behalf of the German people themselves?

No more fatal error could be made with respect to the issue at stake in this great conflict than to believe that it is the German people who have plunged Europe into war. Europe has been plunged into war because of a hateful and tyrannical regime which cherishes and is seeking to perpetuate policies which would rob mankind of everything that is dear to the human heart and the human soul. That regime has brought its own people under its iron heel. For the most part the people of Germany to-day are slaves, enslaved by a government, so-called, a dictatorship which holds a rifle at the head of every one of its citizens unless he is prepared to do its bidding. I pity with all my heart the German people in this country and in the old world. I know something of the German people. I was born in Berlin, Ontario, as it was called at that time; Kitchener it is called now. I lived there until I was sixteen years of age. The county of Waterloo in which the town which was then called Berlin is located, has many other communities made up very largely of German settlers, some of whom came to this country to get away from forms of oppression for long all too prevalent in the old world. No better class of citizens is to be found in any country.