

Westminster. We shall continue ceaselessly to proclaim that our leaders must devote all their energies to life-giving projects and not to death-dealing ones.

To give to our youth the employment that ennobles and enriches existence, must be the ideal of those who govern the destiny of this country. To do otherwise would be to place in jeopardy all national life, pride and unity. The Canadian people have only one fatherland to defend, and that is Canada. This country must survive the slaughter of war by refraining from all intervention in European conflicts and in the military undertakings of any nation whatsoever. Armed with a strong national spirit and with the calm and peaceful courage which fosters happiness and prosperity, Canada owes it to her glorious past, to her present and to her future to devote all her resources to the better management of the country, the advancement of her people and the exclusive defence of her territory.

I suggested to the Prime Minister, a few moments ago, that he advise the governor general to dissolve parliament with the object of holding a plebiscite. In such a plebiscite, every young man who is liable to be called to the colours, though he be not yet of age, should be given a right to cast his ballot. Indeed, have they not a prior right to decide what shall be the position taken by Canada in the present conflict who will be called upon to lay down their lives to atone for the irreparable mistake? They who feel secure against any calamity possess a lesser right than youth when it comes to demanding the supreme sacrifice. That is my reason, while maintaining an unshakable opposition to any participation by Canada in extraterritorial wars, for urging that the youth of my country be granted this measure of justice.

Just a closing word. They who will knowingly or unwittingly lead the country to ruin shall bear through the ages the appalling responsibility for having sacrificed once more the life blood of a nation which is in no way concerned with European quarrels. Future generations shall brand as they deserve such as shall have refused our disabled, bruised, and exhausted land, feeling yet the painful effects, even after more than twenty years, from its participation in the last war, a complete abstention from any further participation in foreign wars and the boon of neutrality.

In closing my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to move, seconded by the

hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Lacroix):

That the following words be added to the address:

That this house regrets that the government did not deem it fitting to advise His Excellency the Governor General that Canada should refrain from participating in war outside of Canada.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I propose to occupy only a very few minutes of the time of the house. In fact I did not intend to take part in this debate, as I took part in the debate on this question on the motion to go into supply on March 21 last, when I predicted the very grave trouble and danger that the British Empire is in to-day. I do not wish to reply to the remarks of the hon. member (Mr. Lacombe) who has just spoken; he is entitled to his views. He is a university man; if I remember rightly, he entered the university about 1914 and came out in 1918. Representing a city which sent 60,000 people to the war, and in which there are 7,000 homes to which the soldiers did not come back, I can say to him in all kindness, that I owe a duty to those men who lie buried in France and Flanders. To my hon. friend who urges non-participation on behalf of the people of his province I say that in my view he does not represent all the people of his province. I say to him that the students of McGill, Queens, Toronto, Western and other Canadian universities enlisted almost as one man, with the result that the universities were almost closed for lack of regular students.

I would not have spoken in this debate but for the challenge that a vote of this house is necessary in this situation which confronts the world to-day, the greatest peril and danger that the world has ever known. No vote is necessary, because it is well known that when Britain is at war Canada is at war. That has always been the doctrine and policy of this country, but now we have to have a vote on the matter to please the fancy and imagination of our friends the new status people. Changing status is one of the causes of this trouble in this country. They wanted to have written down in black and white the constitution of our empire. What has been the result? We have seen the result in South Africa, in southern Ireland, and in this country. They now want to take a vote of this house before Canada declares war. In 1914 Sir Robert Borden decided the policy of the