

du plus grand empire que le monde ait jamais vu.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR (in English)—I must first congratulate the mover of this address, the hon. member for Tignish, upon the able and eloquent speech which he has just delivered. It is a remarkable fact that two ancient enemies are to-day engaged as allies fighting shoulder to shoulder in a cause which involves the liberty of the nations and the triumph of justice throughout the entire world. Never before in any conflict that the world has seen were the issues so great. Never before was there a greater certainty of victory. England and France have in their day done more for civilization than all the world besides, and need we wonder when solemn covenants are broken, hallowed places desecrated, and the ruthless invader would efface at one fell stroke in the fields of industry and learning, the results of centuries of toil and care, that the call to arms resounds in every spot where waves the Union Jack of England and the tricolour of France. To those of us in whose veins flow the blood of old France it is comforting to know that we can glory in the victories of the land of our ancestors without for one moment lessening our loyalty to the great British Empire to which we belong and of which we are all so proud. The French Canadian shed his blood for this empire on many a well-fought field, and none need doubt but that he will fight as bravely for her on the battlefields of Europe as he did at Chateauguay and on the veldt of South Africa. We hope, yes, we believe, that among the brave French Canadian youths who flock beneath the banner of their country another De Salaberry will arise, under whose leadership they will hurl back the enemies of the greatest empire the world has ever seen.

We have been wont to speak with pride of this great empire of the wonderful extent of her territory on which the sun never sets, and of the mighty deeds of her soldiers and sailors who have won and colonized and civilized the world over, of her splendid institutions, her parliament, the oldest of parliaments, of her courts, her great institutions of learning and her great financial institutions. The world has seen great empires rise and fall but none so great as she. The student of history almost stood aghast at her gates that she yet lived on. The summit they thought had long since been reached, and she could not go forward she must go back. Within the last few

years signs were not wanting to bear them out in this. There was the rebellion in South Africa, unrest in India; ah! India, it was there they said it would begin. Hindus, lawful subjects of the Empire were clamouring for entrance into Canada and it was denied them. Ireland in the very heart of the Empire was armed to the teeth. Orangemen and Nationalists were at each others throats, defiance was hurled at government and the decrees of the mother of parliaments were flouted. Surely they said the end has come. She had no great central government control of all these lands which fly her flag. Each has its own distinct system of government, each an empire within itself has its parliament, its courts and its armies, all that is necessary for nationhood. They have grown strong and virile, they will break away and set up for themselves. And scarcely had they thought thus when Germany and Austria challenged her right as the world power to insist on the observance of solemn treaties to demand that the law of right rather than that of might should govern the nations. And in an instant she arises greater by far and nobler than ever before. Nationalists and Orangemen, Hindu and South African, Canadian, New Zealander and Australian and from the four corners of the earth they hear her call and arise as one man to conquer or to die.

The Australian and New Zealander are fighting her battles in the shadow of the pyramids, the Hindu shouts her battle-cry on the hills of sunny France, and the German line bends under the charge of the Patricians.

In Nova Scotia in the counties of Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness, Cape Breton and Victoria we can raise ten thousand brave Scotch Highlanders, as brave as Wallace and Bruce. In Antigonish, Guysborough, Richmond, Inverness, Digby, and Yarmouth, there are 40,000 French Acadians as loyal and true to the Empire as one born in London could be. They cherish their language and their customs, as people of spirit should, and would as willingly lay down their lives for the Empire on the Nile as on the shores of Halifax.

It is a fact worth mentioning that the first death among the Canadian soldiers who volunteered for the front was that of a French Acadian named Gallant. He died at Valcartier, not as he would have wished on the battlefield, but just as truly for the Empire. We know he has not died in vain. England has won the love and affection and