

religiously or racially, and when we should unite in pursuing the one great common objective which we all have at heart—the successful prosecution of this war. Any man, no matter what his motive or impulse might be, who would seek to take advantage of the present occasion to discourage recruiting in our Province or recruiting elsewhere is not doing himself, his friends or his country any service, but is doing them a great disservice. We should all unite in this great hour of crisis in bending our undivided energies to the accomplishment of this great object. As we now approach the half-century mark of our Canadian confederation, has not the time arrived when we can co-operate, as they are trying to do in the United States, to banish the hyphen which distinguishes perhaps our racial origin, and let us go forward under the common name of Canadians?

Time to Quit Luxuries, Says Premier Hearst

Premier Hearst, who rose at ten minutes past four and had a rousing reception, said there was not now nor had there ever been room for difference of opinion as to the evil effects of intemperance or as to the fact that these evils existed in this Province, although happily to a much lesser degree than in most places. The only difference of opinion was as to the best method to adopt, as to the best laws and the most beneficial course to take. He deprecated the branding by temperance workers of men with whom they could not agree as foes of temperance. Notwithstanding the drastic legislation the Government was about to submit he was well aware there were many conscientious men who might disagree with the Government and who honestly thought that a prohibitory measure would not attain the end sought.

A Call for Sacrifice.

He commended the work of the Ontario License Board, saying that the regulations enacted by it had, in his opinion, not only been productive of great good from a temperance standpoint but had paved the way and made possible temperance legislation which, without these, would not have made the coming legislation so successful. The steady advance of local option, backed by strong public opinion, had, in his judgment, helped in a marked degree to prepare the ground for any further advance in temperance legislation. There were nearly two "dry" municipalities for every "wet" municipality in Ontario. If licenses existed in Ontario to-day in practically every city, town and hamlet as they did a number of years ago, an advanced measure would be very difficult to enforce.

Thrift Must be Practised.

"There is, I believe," said the Premier, "a call now—a most earnest and special one—for service and sacrifice by everyone in this Province and in every part of the Dominion, and every reasonable step should be taken at this time of stress and strain that will add to the strength of the country and conserve our resources in every way possible for the great task. It is surely a time for all of us to abstain from luxuries and extravagance in what we wear and what we eat as well as in what we drink.

"In view of the dangers which confront us, which perhaps we do not fully realize here, and after full consideration of the question from every standpoint, the Government has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived when further legislation might be enacted with advantage to the temperance cause and without introducing greater evils than those we are attempting to destroy.

Must Have Public Opinion.

"We recognize we must have public opinion, a strong public opinion, behind the Government to enforce a law of this kind as successfully as it should be enforced, and in order that public opinion should be solidified to my mind the question should be taken out of the domain of party politics and party controversies. So long as it is made a party football, so long as one party or another tries to take party advantage of the question, so long will it be impossible, in my opinion, to obtain the best results.

"This is not the time to speak of

the details of the bill, which I have stated will be submitted at an early stage of the session, when there will be ample time for discussion. The Province has no power to prohibit the manufacture or importation of intoxicants, but provision will be made for medicinal, scientific, sacramental and mechanical purposes."

War's Purifying Influence on People of Canada

The Premier declared no one could tell what conditions might exist after the war, but he believed the conflict through which we were now passing would have a purifying and ennobling influence on the life of the people, and he felt there would be a greater and more powerful feeling of brotherhood than before existed, a greater desire to serve and sacrifice, not only for the Empire, but for the common good of humanity. He trusted that the present Government would never turn a deaf ear to the call of duty, no matter from what quarter it came. Whatever the future might have in store for the Government, he could always look back with a clear conscience to the fact that, with the aid of the best light on the subject the Government could obtain, they did what they believed to be right, and discharged their duty as they saw it in this Christian Province of Ontario.

Tribute for Soldier Members.

The Premier paid a high tribute to members of the Legislature who are on active service. He mentioned Lieut.-Col. W. H. Price (Parkdale) and Capt. J. I. Hartt (East Simcoe), mover and seconder respectively of the Address to in reply to the speech from the Throne, saying he felt sure they would both do their duty at the front. "Both sides of the House, irrespective of politics, would wish them success," he said, amid applause. Then he spoke of the distinguished service rendered at the front by Lieut.-Col. A. E. Ross, M.P. P. for Kingston, who had been mentioned in despatches and honored by the King. Others who were in khaki were Mr. D. Hogarth (Port Arthur), Dr. A. W. Nixon (Halton), Mr. Thomas Magladery (Timiskaming), Lieut.-Col. A. G. Pratt (South Norfolk), Lieut.-Col. H. A. C. Machin (Kenora), Mr. A. F. Rykert (North Wentworth), Major Donald Sharpe (Welland), Lieut.-Col. T. Herb. Lennox (North York), Major J. C. Tolle (Windsor), Mr. Malcolm Lang (Cochrane). He was sure all would join him in wishing them success and a safe return.

Mr. Hearst felt that the Legislature should be united in order that everything possible might be done to help to accomplish the overthrow of a common enemy. "We do not ask our friends opposite to withhold criticism altogether," said he, "but we feel that this is a time when party differences and party strife should be forgotten. Let our watchword be 'None for a party and all for the State,' and let us endeavor to leave behind us a record which those who come after us will read with pleasure and pride."

Unemployment Question.

The Government had given much consideration to the material and moral welfare of the Province. He referred to the report recently presented by the Unemployment Commission and said the Government was giving the recommendations most careful consideration. Their thanks were due to Sir John Willison, Chairman, and to the other members of the Commission, who had given their services voluntarily.

To Aid Disabled Soldiers.

The speaker mentioned the work of the Soldiers' Aid Commission which had recently been formed, and paid a graceful tribute to Mr. W. D. McPherson, M.P.P., who, as Chairman of the Commission, gave practically the whole of his time to the work. He also mentioned by name the other members of the Commission, and said that a grateful country should back up their work and do everything possible for the men "who went to the front and fought and suffered for us in the trenches."

New Ontario Development.

Passing on to the question of the development of New Ontario, the Premier announced that it was the in-