

The most striking and significant feature of the situation in Canada arising out of the present war is the solidarity of the Canadian people. In face of the danger which threatens the Empire, Canadians are united from coast to coast. There are no longer any easterners or westerners, any French or English,—all are Britishers.

The remarkable street demonstrations which have been witnessed in Montreal since the outbreak of the war have furnished a striking object lesson. English and French-speaking Canadians have marched together through the streets by the thousands, and the British and French colors have been blended over a united people.

One of the most important results of the war, as far as Canada is concerned, will be the removal of all ill-feeling between any section of the French and English-speaking Canadians. It has already bound the people of the two great races in the Dominion as they were never bound before, and it will do more than thousands of speeches to make the two races realize that their interests are in common.

Canadians are enthusiastic in their support of the Empire in this war, not only because it is a question of self-protection, but because they realize that the Empire is fighting for justice and the right. An eminent French philosopher, M. Henri Gerson, has said that the war against Germany is a struggle of civilization against barbarism. That puts the case against Germany in a nutshell. The mass of the German people are all right, but they are the victims of a huge war machine and of a spirit of militarism emanating from the Kaiser and the Court party,—a spirit which, if successful, would convert Europe into a permanent war camp and turn back the wheels of civilization and of progress. Canada no more than any other portion of the Empire wanted war; all our interests are for peace. For years we preserved peace in the face of almost inconceivable provocation. But when the Empire is at war, Canada is at war, and in the face of the common danger Canadian manhood has asserted itself in splendid style.