

PROUD OF GERMAN ART, MUSIC; NOT OF SACK OF BELGIAN CITIES

Mr. W. G. Wetchel, of North Waterloo, who opened the debate, began by expressing the thanks of the country to T. R. H. the Duke and Duchess for the services which they had rendered since the war broke out. His official Highness, he said, had given the Government advice of inestimable value and the participation of the Duchess in the Red Cross work was deeply and sincerely appreciated.

The present war, proceeded Mr. Wetchel, had ruthlessly awakened us from a false security. It had been characterized by ruthless carnage and ruthless disregard of the rights of others. Our existence was at stake. We had been trusting in arbitration and the warnings of those who now had been held up to ridicule. On the day war was declared we had realized that Lord Roberts was right. The British navy had won for us a silent victory on the sea. Never was the truth so clear as to-day that the strength of the British Empire was in her sea power. This war had not been desired by Great Britain. British statesmen had tried by every means to avoid armed conflict. We knew that we had a just cause and there would be no faltering throughout the Empire.

Mr. Wetchel discussed briefly the business depression from which the whole world was suffering, and remarked that it had merely been hastened, not produced, by the war. To-day, he said, the agricultural position of Canada was very satisfactory. Europe would not be able this season to produce her customary harvest, and the wise Canadian farmer was he who was increasing his acreage. The motto for to-day was production and more production. The great remedy for present conditions was to buy goods made in Canada. If we could not get a Canadian-made article we should then ask for one that was made within the Empire. Patriotism and loyalty were essential to-day in these times as in the graver times of the war. Mr. Wetchel

named a number of articles in regard to which the Canadian people should be careful to get Canadian-made goods. Among these he mentioned shoes, at which there was ironical Liberal laughter.

Strong for Home Business.

"I am a strong advocate of getting after export trade," he said, "but I am stronger than ever for getting after home business."

The member for North Waterloo then proceeded to discuss the part played in this war by the German-Canadians.

"I am thankful," he said, "for the freedom that I enjoy and for the free institutions of Canada and all that they mean to me. (Cheers.) I am proud of the fact that I am a Canadian. I believe that to be a good subject is a good asset and I consider it to be a great privilege."

He referred to the fact that he was of German origin and paid a tribute to the thrift and energy of the German settlers in Canada. Very few of them, he said, would now leave Canada for any other part of the world. Since he war had broken out a few, he thanked God very few, had been trying to cast discredit on the name of German-Canadians. But the great body of German-Canadians had made it abundantly clear that they were loyal to their King and country. He said that he did not apologize for the German-Canadians. Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen, appreciated liberty of speech. Should the German-Canadian be asked to forget the land of his forefathers? Had the Irishmen or Englishmen or Scotchmen or French-Canadians forgotten theirs? The German-Canadian was proud of the contribution which Germany had made to science and art, to literature and music, but he was not proud of the violation of the neutrality of Belgium or of the destruction of Louvain. German art and science were one thing, but Prussian militarism was another. One reason why many Germans had left their country of origin was to escape military domination. In this war the Prussian-Canadian had heard the call of their own countrymen. The German-Canadian

adians had gone to the front at the call of duty and in gratitude for the liberty which they had been given. Let us hope, he said, that this war would be the end of militarism in the world.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—"Here, here."

Newsday Spoke in French.

Mr. Weichel said that the manner in which Canadians had volunteered and were being sent to the front

was an object lesson to those who predicted the disintegration of the Empire. In closing he paid a warm tribute to the late Hon. George Clare. He was a simple, kindly and obliging man, whose memory would always remain green in the hearts of his friends.

H. Schim of, Labelle seconded the address in French. He said it was the duty of Canada to come to the aid of the Empire in this time of stress. It was our duty not only because of our loyalty but because in doing so we were looking toward our own future safety. What had been accomplished and what was likely to be accomplished would amount to little in comparison with the debt of gratitude which we owe to the Mother Country. The Government, he said, should not spare anything either in men, money or resources to aid the Mother Country in the present struggle.