

Belcher to the men of Bruce county to enlist—he said that one area with four thousand men in it had not sent a single volunteer.

I venture to submit that it is not enough to say that so long as the Government's call for men is responded to in some part or parts of the country it does not matter where the men come from, or what their racial origin. What could be said of Canadian patriotism if all Canadian soldiers were born off Canadian soil?

Only One Supreme Test.

If the war is to be a unifier of all kinds of Canadians into a solid British nationality it can only be because all kinds of Canadians have contributed their meed to the crowning sacrifice. Look at it how you will, there is only one supreme test in this affair—it is the test of men at the front. We are putting a vast potential spirituality into our future in these winter days. When the toll is recorded, if too large a proportion of the next of kin of killed and wounded is found to be in lands across the sea, we shall be so much less fortified for bearing the load which the war will leave with us long after peace has come. If we bear not in our body, but rather in our pockets, the marks of this suffering we shall be tempted overmuch to turn away from the true nobility of our destiny.

From that logic there is no escape. But more than that—to insist upon the essentiality of the native-born to this fight is not to cast any sort of imputation, because they are not more numerous in the Canadian regiments. It is literally true that thousands who do not intend to cross the seas would leap to the defence of their native shores.

It may be that long removes from contact with fighting has put a peculiar handicap upon this generation, from which only a most intimate crisis would deliver them. But it is safe to declare that we are not less devoted to our native soil than our forbears were. The gravity of the situation lies in another possibility.

It is possible that, whether we like it or not, the Canadian mind has

grown farther away from inherent unity with old-world countries than the utterances of statesmen would lead one to suppose, and that the last man and last dollar idea expressed by men who are in steady contact with London over-represents the spirit-incorporate of Canada. It is even possible to find evidence that the professions of the statesmen have really been ahead of their convictions.

After trouble developed at Valcartier, the Prime Minister spent several days there straightening out difficulties that were caused, it was said, by the too rugged genius of the Minister of Militia. The contingent sailed away about the time the Premier issued a statement as to what the Government intended to do. It was that though the whole of the men assembled at Valcartier went to England, the original intention of making the contingent up to twenty-two thousand men would be adhered to, and that the ten thousand extra would be held as reinforcements, and that when those reinforcements were exhausted they would be made up as required.

More Men Needed.

The plain English of that statement was that the fighting Canadian army for the salvation of the Empire and the preservation of Canadian nationality as a free power within it, would consist of twenty-two thousand men. One is compelled to accept that as the limit of the Government's intention last October. It was only after representations poured in from all over the country that more men were needed, and after Sir Clifford Sifton had publicly declared the necessity for enlarging the programme in presence of the Minister of Finance, that a second contingent was promised by the Government.

It is pertinent to ask why the Government had limited its intention at that time—a time when Mr. Asquith had declared that the imperious urgency was to multiply many times our effective fighting forces. Somewhere there was a willingness to arrive speedily at the last man and the last