

mine has not been selected on this occasion. However, a refusal to accept the honour thus extended to me might have indicated that I was not grasping the full extent of my duty, when I believe that I am but the echo of the members of this honourable House, in expressing my appreciation of the policy of the Government as stated in the Speech now before us.

The sudden summoning of Parliament was no surprise to us, for, after the declarations of war by almost every country in Europe, and especially the active part being taken by the motherland, it was certainly the strict duty of the Government to adopt all urgent measures for the protection of our country.

England being at war, Canada could not escape its obligations, one of which was the immediate summoning of the Houses in special session, in order to obtain their sanction for measures already adopted, and authority for those to be taken in the future.

I may be permitted to offer my sincere congratulations to the Government for its prompt action. The task was a hard one, but our ministers were equal to it.

We learn from the Speech from the Throne that the Government has already mobilized a portion of the military forces in this country and has begun the recruiting of the volunteers to go and defend the motherland, over the seas.

We also know that important steps have been taken with a view to the protection of our seaports, as well as for the general safeguarding of the country. These measures, I feel sure, will meet with the unanimous approval of the honourable members of this House. We are also aware that, in order to meet the important obligations which befall us, we shall have to vote the necessary amounts to defray the expenditure already incurred and that which will necessarily follow. With that purpose in view, I also believe that the vote will be unanimous and that no dissenting voice shall be heard.

The war which has just broken out certainly threatens to be the most terrible, murderous and ruinous that has ever taken place.

The armies engaged in this struggle will, before many days, number twenty millions of men. One cannot contemplate, without a feeling of horror, the consequences of this monstrous war, started by a single individual who, we trust, shall dearly pay for his criminal venture.

The spark which seems to have caused

this conflict was not, whatever may be said, the outcome of the murder of the heir apparent of Austria, by a poor feeble-minded Servian.

To those who have followed European affairs for the last few years, there can be no doubt that one man only was looking forward to this war, and that man was William II, Emperor of Germany, whose criminal ambition is to become the Napoleon of the Twentieth Century.

What does he care if millions of men be sacrificed to his ambition, and lose their lives in this horrible war, and if millions of other men, women and children be exposed to die of starvation during the war or from the effects of it; what cares he if lead, steel and fire destroy the greater part of Europe; if his inordinate pride is satisfied? Nero, in his incendiaryism of Rome, was less of a criminal.

The first move of German policy was the crushing of Austria.

In 1870, the Prussian eagle, or rather the Prussian vulture, lighted on France, and, without any justifiable cause, snatched from it, in addition to a heavy indemnity, two of its most beautiful provinces.

Since 1870, we have seen Germany continually at work increasing its powerful army, having in view the domination of the whole of Europe at the first favourable opportunity, and quite decided to bring about this opportunity should it fail to arise promptly. England alone seemed to be outside of the scope of Germany's greed, but the autocrat had his objects, and if he had succeeded in gaining possession of every country in Europe, he would not have been slow in dictating his ambitious views to England. Fortunately, England had foresight, and had penetrated the schemes of perfidious William.

Every time Germany, by its numerous maritime constructions, attempted to secure the supremacy of the seas, England, watchful of her own defence, defeated the plans of her rival by more considerable armaments. This is the sole explanation of the friction between England and Germany for the last few years. The wisdom of the English statesmen set to naught the nefarious schemes of William; the wrath of the latter is thus explained.

We are all aware of the mellow utterances of William to England before the declaration of war, but the awakening of the impulsive Emperor must have been bitter, when England proudly replied that she would never be a party to the violation of Belgian neutrality nor to the molestation