

nothing of the sacrifices which have been made by the population of Quebec in particular and of Canada in general.

We have given millions and millions, over and above what the country could well afford. We do not regret it, for a good deed should never cause regret—that may perhaps bring us good luck later on; but I must say that the millions which have been given were paid generously, and no one could demand any more.

All the provinces of the country, from North to South, from East to West, all the provinces have been anxious to subscribe most generously, very willingly, millions and millions which have been sent oversea. The province of Quebec, Mr. Speaker, has not been the last one. From the very outset, our province has generously done it seems to me, her full duty, be it said to the praise of the Prime Minister of the province of Quebec who has been in power for many years past. We surely have nothing to find fault with him; to the contrary, we should congratulate him for his generous acts towards the Allies.

Many associations have been organized. In every corner of the country, societies have been formed, all collecting and working night and day in order to increase the subscriptions solicited, and they have certainly succeeded.

A large number of nurses, most generous women, most distinguished ladies, entered the fray and led the movement; we have seen nurses leave our country to go to the front; they left their families, their homes, their relatives; they left their country and crossed the seas to go and care for the soldiers on the battle fields. Those women deserve our sincere gratitude and our heartiest thanks for the devotion and the patriotism they displayed in the Allies' interests.

There have been organized in Montreal, among other cities, and throughout the country, concerts, theatrical representations, meetings of all kinds, shows, tombolas, receptions, afternoon teas, soirees, matinées, levees, excursions, picnics, races, public and political gatherings. In fine, Mr. Speaker, every kind of things was done, all sorts of means were taken in order to relieve the soldiers at the front, thus it was that large sums of money were collected by all sorts of legitimate means; thus it was, I say, that they succeeded in raising very large amounts.

Work competitions were also organized. In my village, in my town and in the neighbouring parishes, they held sewing competitions to fit and clothe the soldiers on the battlefields. Bundles of clothing were sent overseas by the thousands. It was a consolation to see those devoted women, working day in and day out for the brave soldiers whose comfort was their sole inspiration.

I must say, in praise of all those ladies I know in my own town of Saint-Laurent, that their zeal was indefatigable. They worked in the evening, whole nights at a time, to sew and make all sorts of goods which could be useful to the boys at the front. Collections were made in the streets, from door to door, and even in the churches.

I must add here, Mr. Speaker, that our clergy answered the call most eagerly. When I see a certain press print and publish unpleasant articles against these gentlemen of the clergy, I have no hesitation in saying that those who so speak or write do not know our clergy, that they do not know the mentality of the province of Quebec. To say such things is evidence of the most complete ignorance of our clergy, for if there ever were people devoted to charitable works, to deeds of relief and protection, these are certainly the members of the clergy of Quebec. Yes, we have done all that was possible in the Allies' interest and, more especially for the Canadians fighting in France.

And if we consider the sacrifices made by Canada, is it necessary to add, Mr. Speaker, that the labour done in the munition shops, although the workmen were paid good wages for it, occupies a high standing on this list of honour? I have just said it the working men quickly left their regular occupations to devote themselves to the making of munitions and I do not hesitate to say, Mr. Speaker, that in so doing, they were moved by patriotism, by the hope of aiding the Allied armies and very few of them by the fact that their new wages were a little higher than those they were previously receiving.

As early as 1912, scarcely a year after the advent of the present Government into power, a serious crisis began to prevail; the working men complained of lack of work and I understand there was some reason for alarm. Every one wondered what was going to happen. Would these unemployed have to go to the United States for the bread and protection Canada was denying them?