

had time to contribute a single cent in cash or a single drop of Canadian blood.

I was in New York, the great commercial metropolis of the United States, on the day following the declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany. The dismay caused in the business circles of the United States in the course of a few days, consequent on the blockading of the ports, the congestion of grain and merchandise, and the interruption of international trade, challenges description. The worst panic which has ever been witnessed in modern times was avoided, thanks to one circumstance only: the assurance that the British fleet would succeed before long in restoring freedom of intercourse between the two countries.

Then it was, Mr. Speaker, that I fully understood the eminently civilizing and salutary action exerted in the affairs of the world by the formidable invincible British fleet. The British empire makes use of that force and of that power, not for the purpose of enslaving peoples, or of restricting the trade activities of its competitors, but with the object of upholding treaties and coming to the rescue of states too weak to defend themselves, such as Belgium, or else of protecting the free intercourse of allied or neutral powers, such as France or the United States, though though they may be rivals of Great Britain in some branches of commerce or industry.

We have had in the past our differences of opinion; further differences will crop up between us in the future, when this terrible crisis is over; but there exists at this moment—I make this statement without fear of contradiction—there exists at this moment among Canadians no difference of opinion as to the absolute necessity of our co-operating in the defence of the empire.

Already the Government have taken such measures as circumstances rendered imperative; this House will no doubt be anxious to sanction them and approve of all others which will be brought down for the country's security: protection and defence of our large seaports; active supervision of our large business arteries, canals and railways; judicious increase of the paper currency, so as to prevent speculation or the exportation of gold, and maintain our credit on a solid basis, a factor of such great import to our trade and industries during this period of economic stringency. This House will also be called upon to vote moneys for the sending of contingents of Canadian volunteers, in accord-

ance with the requirements of national defence.

Not without a pang will we see the pick of our militia leave our shores to fight for the country outside the boundaries of Canada; but I am satisfied that Canadian mothers will be courageous as their sisters in France, who have words of encouragement only for husbands and sons when the parting hour is at hand, resolutely controlling their feelings until the dear ones have departed. But, then, how differently these countries are situated. On the other side all the men in a position to bear arms are drafted into the service; every home is deprived of its bread winners, fathers, husbands, brothers, sons, mere youths perhaps. Here the service is quite voluntary; in the case of a married man, there is still another requirement: before enlisting the husband must get his wife's consent.

It will be incumbent on the Government and on the citizens of this country to provide for the sustenance of the families which will thus be deprived of their means of support. An enlightened patriotism commands that each one should do his duty and undergo willingly his share of sacrifices. Canada will never be able to pay off its debt of gratitude towards those who are leaving to fight abroad in defence of the common country. Glory and honours should go first to those who are the first in the fray. But it is incumbent on those who remain and who will profit by the self-sacrifice of the others, to help in other ways; by contributing to the fund organized for the relief of the wounded, widows and orphans; by tendering help to the families temporarily deprived of their bread-winner; by preventing in every way possible criminal speculation in foodstuffs and staples. Those wretches who avail themselves of these troublous times to grow rich through speculating on the misery of the people, should be considered as enemies of their country and dealt with accordingly. I understand that certain classes of goods, owing to the increase in the demand or the restriction of imports, will necessarily command a higher price. We are willing to abide by that: it is the inevitable outcome of war. But that, barely a week after the declaration of war in Europe, a staple article of food, such as sugar, for example, should in Canada go up two cents a pound, I say that such a leap can only be the result of a selfish and shameless spirit of speculation, which I do not fear to brand as criminal.