

## CANADA'S RELATION TO THE GREAT WAR

the South since this wasting and bloody war began." Early whispered to his neighbor in the pew: "I would conscript the whole d—— lot." But we will not conscript, even though we know that National Service is compatible with democracy and that the voluntary system may be unjust and unequal in its incidence and effects.

Already in the Canadian forces we have had 13,000 casualties. It was the sad privilege of the Canadian Prime Minister to plant maples over the graves of Canadians in France. We think of the solemn utterance of John Bright during the war of the Crimea: "The angel of death has been abroad throughout the land. You may almost hear the beating of his wings. There is no one, as when the first-born were slain of old, to sprinkle with blood the lintel and the two side-posts of our doors that he may spare and pass on." They begin to come back to us in invalid ships, maimed and broken, some with an empty sleeve, some with eyes that will not see the beauty of the earth any more, some with wounds that will heal, but all with the glory that will not fade. You understand, just as we begin to understand. For four years the shadow was over this country. Not only at Arlington and in the parks and squares of your great cities and towns, but in slumbering villages and quiet rural places, there are the stones and crosses which commemorate the soldiers of the Union. They sleep well in their beds on the hill-sides and you cherish their memories and honor their achievements. They gave their lives, as they believed, for country and freedom, and one would think meanly of an American who would suggest that the cause was not worth the sacrifice. So we believe, as Lincoln said, that we must nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth. We believe, whether you agree or not, that we battle for free men, free seas, a free world and that the cause is worth the sacrifice. What is freedom? Separated from the poetry and sentiment which which we surround it, and reduced to the terms of practical life, What is Freedom? It is the right of a man to live his own life, to