

German Chancellor, when he vindicated this policy in Parliament said: 'We knew we were doing wrong in invading the neutrality of Belgium, but we were compelled to do wrong.' A nation that begins a great war by declaring that its foundation is wrong, and that it is obliged to do wrong, is likely to fare badly if there be a God in Heaven.

"Then we are not merely fighting for Belgium, France and the sanctity of public law, but we are also fighting for ourselves. We do not fight to gain any advantage for ourselves. We do not fight to gain an acre of territory. We only fight to secure our liberties against an oppression which would be intolerable.

"I know that we have seen wars in our time in which the loss of a province or two ended the war. That will not be so. You may lose territory and you may lose money, but what is certain is this, that if you are beaten to your knees, if you are compelled to submit, you will lose infinitely more than province or money. Make no mistake this is a fight to a finish. If we go under now we go under for ever. I do not ask you to suggest to yourselves that you will go under for a moment. But if you are not going under every man who is capable of defending his country is bound to step into the breach.

"Just think, try and imagine what it would be if we were beaten. I do not suppose we should be annexed as a province. That is unthinkable, To see foreign uniforms, foreign police, foreign laws, foreign tax-gatherers in our country—that I discard as absolutely impossible. But there is another very improbable contingency which might happen, which would happen if we were defeated, which is that we would be reduced at once to an inferior power, living at the goodwill of our superior Lord, living on sufferance, our Army limited, our Navy limited, our Empire cut up and divided among the plunderers—a position so abject that we cannot realize it. If we were to sink to be a third-rate power in the position that I have described, I, for one, would from my heart and soul rather that all our people as they now exist