

succeeded in holding possession of these enormous territories, covering both central and eastern Europe, subjugating the peoples of those countries to her dominion, and exercising autocratic power on this sphere of influence, the Teutonic power would thus dominate most of our civilization. In such case the democracy of Europe as well as of America would be subordinated to the tyrannical and autocratic rule of Germany. This influence would be not only immediately reflected upon the Empire to which we belong, but would ultimately result in the disintegration of our Empire, and in its control and destiny being placed under the heel of Germany.

North America may be said to be the home of democracy. Democratic institutions have probably laid their foundations deeper and wider and more permanently on this continent than elsewhere within the boundaries of civilization. We in Canada and our ally the United States have a peculiar responsibility devolving upon us in this war. Both peoples have not only been called upon to furnish their quota of fighting men, and thus to hold their own in the fighting line, but, owing to the marvellous resources of both countries in the furnishing of food supplies and munitions, Canada and the United States are playing a peculiar and exceptional part in this the greatest struggle of the centuries.

Had our interests in Canada not been tied up with those of the Empire, but had we been separate and apart as a national entity, we could not even then have desisted from taking our part in this great struggle and thus allowing the other nations with whom we are to day allied to fight without our participation in this battle for freedom and humanity against an enemy as barbarous, as inhuman, and as unprincipled as mankind could be. Canada is therefore in this war not necessarily because of the Empire to which we belong, but as a protagonist of our Allies fighting for those eternal principles of right which are the foundation of all our democratic institutions.

As indicated in the Speech from the Throne, the Government is committed to the policy which it has pursued since the war began, and will leave nothing undone that a Government can do to throw all the resources of Canada into the balance in the carrying on of our share in the war until a successful conclusion is reached. Notwithstanding our active participation in the fight now being waged in Europe, yet this war must end at no distant date. The duty, therefore, falls upon the Government to

make every provision for the demobilization of our forces and the reconstruction period which must follow the termination of the war. Not only under the War Measures Act, but by special legislation already indicated in the speech from the Throne, the most advanced measures are being taken to meet these important conditions. As a consequence of the war, Canada has been called upon to assume enormous obligations, financial and otherwise. Our industrial conditions have been so largely disturbed in the creation of avenues for the production of munitions and other war material, as to necessitate after the war period a return to industrial activity under peace conditions. This is a problem that will entail most profound and anxious thought on the part of our people in readapting the industrial life of Canada to the development of those resources within our own boundaries and the building up of our industrial conditions and of our national interests.

The war has a peculiar bearing upon our transportation interests. The financial disturbance which has been the result thereof will practically throw upon the Government the duty of taking over many of the most important railway transportation interests in the Dominion. This will be one of the greatest problems that the people of Canada will be called upon to solve in the near future. It is a question involving such consideration as to demand the best attention that can be given it by the ablest minds in the Dominion.

The disturbance of world-wide conditions elsewhere, particularly outside of Canada, will direct the attention of a large portion of those engaged in the war to Canada as a field for immigration and settlement, and for the development of the vast resources which we possess within our boundaries. Special attention is being given by the Government to make provision for the happening of this event. If Canada is to meet the enormous obligations which we have contracted through the war, it is manifest that we can only do this through a largely increased population, through the settlement of our boundless wheat lands in the West, and through the development of our national resources, abounding in unlimited wealth, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the international boundary line on the south to the Arctic circle in the north.

Furthermore, during this war Canada has established herself before the world as otherwise she could not have done. Not only our allies but our enemy recognize that upon this northern half of the North American continent there is a greater Brit-