

at war. There are times in the history of every country when national sentiment sweeps everything before it, when it is more powerful than constitutional platitudes or doctrines, when even national reason and caution and all other imaginary safeguards which the people will sometimes build up in their statute-books and constitutional practice, are swept away by the wave of national sentiment. Such has been the case in Canada. War was no sooner declared than the peoples of all the Overseas Dominions forgot about distinctions in Governments and boundaries, or that they had not the same voice in war and peace as the people of Great Britain. These things faded into insignificance in the face of the fact that they belonged to the Empire and that the Empire was in jeopardy. Hence, no sacrifice was too great to make for the safety and integrity of the Empire in which they had a common interest and all belonged. Entirely apart from this irresistible wave of sentiment, which so swept over the entire Empire there are the concrete facts to be considered that this war is our war as much as it is the war of the people of Great Britain, or the war of any of the Allies of Great Britain. When the declaration of war was made on the 4th August, 1914, Canada became as much in jeopardy as Great Britain or the country of any of its Allies, and entirely apart from tradition and sentiment and basing our attitude upon common sense and reason, it became the imperative duty of Canada at that moment to become as active a participant in the war as any of our Allies. Though the enemy possibly may not be at our gates, though the smoke of battle and the tumult of war may be confined to European theatres of the war, such as those in Flanders, in France, in Russia, or in Turkey, the duty of defence lies upon us as imperatively as it does upon the Allies. A large section of the people of Canada up to the present time have only been exercised by the sentimental view of the situation and not by reason of the possibility of our suffering from the actualities of war on our shores. The safety of Canada is entirely dependent on the success of the arms of the Allies in Europe. We in Canada, must stand or fall by the fortunes of this war between our Allies and our enemies.

This is on the part of Germany a war for world power, of territorial conquest. New countries are what Germany wants. It is not European possessions, it is not

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conquest in the effete east, but room for German expansion in the western hemisphere; room for its millions of congested population. For years Germany has been conscious of the advantages Canada would afford for German expansion. Germany, through its system of espionage, has a more thorough knowledge of Canada in the pigeon-holes of its foreign office than would be found in the departments of our own Government. Our natural and developed resources, our unoccupied lands, our forests, our minerals, our harbours and ports, our great systems of transportation by land and water, are as intimately known by Germany as by our own people. Do not let us delude ourselves into the idea that the eyes of Germany have not been upon Canada. For years we have been under the observation of its spies and the observation of its foreign office. Here is a country with resources and possibilities beyond the conception of the human mind; capable under German systems of efficiency and organization of sustaining 200 million people, with the climatic conditions that appeal more to the German people than to any other people in Europe, lying alongside the United States within the boundaries of which are to be found ten to twelve millions German people; more Germans than are to be found in any country outside of Germany. The greatest menace to Canada from this war lies in this situation. Our security, our very existence as a free people lies in the defeat of Germany in Europe. Once let the German armies break through that 400 miles on the western front in Flanders and France, once let German armies reach Paris, crush France and concentrate upon Russia, what would be England's chance of repelling Germany's war machine, the greatest fighting machine the world has ever seen? Assuming that Great Britain should meet with defeat or even less than that, namely that our Allies should be defeated, and Germany should direct her attention to Canada, what then would be our fate? In fact, were Germany to triumph to-day, there is no territory belonging to Great Britain or any of our Allies that would appeal to it so strongly as Canada. In fact Canada would logically be the only area of great territory that would appeal to Germany for the settlement and expansion of its congested population. With the Allies beaten German transports could lay down in Canada an army of several hundred thousand in a few weeks, and with the co-operation of her ten mil-