

were French. If English Canada is to be credited with all the English-speaking soldiers gone from Canada, then French Canada has the right to count to her credit all the Frenchmen and Belgians, residents of Canada, who have joined their colours or enlisted in their native lands. They are Canadians, just as much as the newcomers from the British Isles. It may be objected that, under the military laws of France, all Frenchmen living in Canada were *obliged* to go and serve. But apart from the fact that those laws could not reach them here, the objection has no value in the mouth of those Imperialists who claim that all Canadians have a strict duty to participate in this war.

Whatever the duty of Canada in this grave contingency, that duty commands the whole of the Canadian people, irrespective of race, creed or language.

Constitutional aspect

Another point of great importance has been raised, in connection with Canada's participation in the war. It has been stated, in Parliament and out of it, that Canada, as part of the British Empire, is in duty bound to participate actively in every conflict in which Great Britain may be drawn.

That doctrine is contrary to all traditions, to the basic principles upon which rests our constitution, to the long standing agreement between the motherland and her self-governing colonies.

Canada, as a mere irresponsible dependency of Great Britain, has no moral or constitutional *obligation*, nor any *immediate interest* in the present war.

Great Britain has entered the conflict of her own free will, in consequence of her entanglements in the international situation. She has framed her policy and decided her action with a sole view to her own interests, without consulting her colonies or considering in any respect their peculiar situation and local interests.

The territory of Canada is not exposed to the attacks of any of the belligerent nations. An independent Canada

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