

and it will so continue. The burden of so tremendous a responsibility must not rest upon Britain alone but upon the greater Commonwealth which comprises all the King's Dominions.

One peculiar trait of the British nation is its faculty of self criticism during times of stress. This criticism, these internal disagreements, this occasional political unrest, however, do not indicate any real lack of unity or determination. They are characteristic of the race, they are inseparable from the experience of a people who conduct government in the open under democratic institutions. They are but the mists which hover about and perhaps for the moment obscure the granite summit of the nation's purpose. Across that purpose there lies no pathway to an inconclusive peace. We fight for an abiding peace, not for a truce.

I have some just claim to know the spirit of my countrymen and I most solemnly affirm that among us there was absolutely no thought of aggression or attack on any nation. In this the spirit of our Dominion exemplified that of the whole Empire. We in Canada were entirely masters of our own destiny; but just as in the Motherland when the hour struck there was no wavering and no waiting, so in Canada the decision was never for a moment in doubt. Our resolve is as fixed and unshaken to-day as at the first and whatever loss or sacrifice we may still have to bear we will not waver or falter. Nearly two years ago the First Canadian Division, composed of untried men gathered hurriedly from the ordinary avocations of life throughout our country, were put to the supreme test at Ypres. Men never faced more terrible odds or more horrible methods of warfare. They lost heavily but their ground was held, the day was saved and the path to Calais was not opened. It was suggested that on the anniversary of that day flags should fly at half-mast throughout our Dominion in memory of our glorious dead. But we held that memory worthy of a truer honour. On that revered anniversary, never to be forgotten by Canadians, our flag flew at mast-head from ocean to ocean in solemn but proud remembrance of those who had fallen and in testimony of the unconquerable spirit which shall animate the Canadian nation to the end.