

this House, to-day, that Canada had nobly done her duty and, for the first time, I agree with him: In making such a statement, he certainly did justice to the situation, to the sacrifices of every kind made by our country and I may immediately add that we have done enough. Everywhere I have been, I did declare and repeat that Canada had done her full duty and made ample sacrifices in men and in money, and I may repeat here to-night that, in my view, we have done all and more than we should have done.

From the very inception of this war, Mr. Speaker, a large number of munition shops and mills sprang up through the country, even factories which were previously running along different industrial lines were converted into munition workshops. We have made heavy sacrifices in order to provide as properly as possible for the operating of these manufactories so that they might supply, as much as possible, the ammunition required by our Allies.

In the county where I have the honour to reside, Mr. Speaker, there are several manufactories, several workshops, where munitions are produced. In St. Laurent, especially, we have an important factory, which employs a large number of hands.

In Lachine, the residential city of the member for Jacques-Cartier—I regret he is not in his seat to-night, for he might perhaps have given us more details and more information—in the city of Lachine, there are several munition factories. Considerable capital has been invested in the construction and operation of these factories. From personal knowledge, I may state that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in the installation of such shops in the county of Jacques-Cartier and elsewhere.

There are hundreds of thousands of people employed in those mills. Young men and others of mature age, women and girls have been employed in large numbers, by thousands, in the manufacture of these munitions.

In several towns, even, the trade, occupation or work which these persons habitually followed were put aside so that they might devote themselves exclusively to the making of munitions. Workmen, painters, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, bakers, in a word every kind of working men gave up their ordinary labour, their habitual trade, to go and

[Mr. D. A. Lafortune.]

work in those shops. In the first place through devotion, then by patriotism and, thirdly, because the wages were larger. They found a more ample return for such a labour in those workshops. I have ascertained that a very large number of men employed in every line of trades and labour undertook this new occupation.

We were told, Mr. Speaker, that it was necessary, in the Empire's interest as well as for Canada's own interest, to perform that labour, to do what has been done. That's my opinion. There is no doubt that those who have taken up that work gave evidence of real devotion and of true patriotism, and it was necessary for them to do so in order to meet the requirements of the painful situation in which we found ourselves, and we can only praise and congratulate the people who so willingly undertook that kind of work, which was necessary and of interest to Canada.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that the population have made enormous sacrifices, both in men and in money. In the first place, it has been established that the number of those who have voluntarily enlisted exceeds 450,000.

France alone excepted, Canada has furnished more men than all the other countries of the world, in proportion to population. Canada occupies the second place on the list, coming immediately after France. Now, for a country that was not obliged to participate in the war; for a country whose constitution protected to the extent of allowing her to refuse even enlistment, it seems to me that a tribute of praise is due to the population who have been so anxious to efficiently enlist; in fact, as I have said, it is proven that 450,000 men have rushed to the colours voluntarily.

We have, moreover, subscribed millions and millions, Canada has made all kinds of sacrifices.

When I consider the sacrifices of all kinds, the sacrifices of every nature, the sacrifices of all sorts made by our people, I am asking myself whether the remarks made by the party in power, or by the papers supporting it, are really justified.

When some have stated that the province of Quebec was not generous, that the province of Quebec was not patriotic, when the people of Quebec have been blamed, censured, condemned and told most regrettable things, I reply to such gentlemen; you are wrong, you know