

Mr. Masterman, a member of the British Government at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, as to the reason why Britain is now at war. He said:

I do not suppose that any body of men ever passed through six such days as we did, sitting continuously with telegrams pouring in from every capital in Europe, and with the clock ticking out the hours, not the days, which remained if peace and civilization were to be continued in the world. During every one of those days there was no thought in the mind of any one of us but that of endeavouring to preserve the peace of the world. We tried this and that, we offered conditions, we asked for conferences, and we pleaded for time, but everything was refused us until finally we were left with this choice—the security or the destruction of the honour of our country. . . . It is not the interest of England that led us into this war, it was the honour of England.

That is why we are fighting to-day; and that is why we shall fight to-morrow, and fight on until, as the Prime Minister has said:

Belgium has received all and more than all for what she has suffered and all the world will know for all future time that when England makes a promise she keeps it.

Why are we fighting to-day? We have four million men raised by voluntary enlistment in the British Isles; Canada with two hundred thousand under arms, fifty thousand more getting ready to go, and two hundred and fifty thousand more to be enlisted, and every province, city, town, hamlet and countryside contributing its quota. From Cape Breton to the Yukon men have answered the call, and men will come as men are needed. From the island continent of Australia and from New Zealand, what a magnificent response. . . It is not the fault of our Australasian brothers that the Gallipoli invasion failed. They fought like heroes and the legend of Suvla Bay and Anzac will be emblazoned on their banners for their children to see as synonyms of personal bravery. Is it not an inspiring sight to see the various races coming from the different countries in ships that plough all the seven seas converging upon the home of the Aryan race in Europe to settle this great question of principles? There must be some underlying reason for this magnificent spectacle of the people of England, of Ireland, of Scotland, of South Africa, of New Zealand, of Australia of Canada fighting side by side in this war. The Maoris of New Zealand, the Indians of our own country, the natives of India, the Soudanese, all take their part. Was there ever such a unanimity of will in any nation or empire in the world's history? Never.

Why do all religious denominations join with united voices in support of this war? The Mahommedans, the Hindus, the Sikhs, the Parsees, the Buddhists, join with the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Anglicans, the Baptists, the Roman Catholics, the Greek Catholics, and all other Christian communities. Why did the head of the Methodist church telegraph our Prime Minister congratulating him on offering to raise another quarter of a million men? I will answer that question by quoting the words of the head of the Roman Catholic church in Montreal, Archbishop Bruchesi. Speaking to the students of Laval, the Archbishop said:

Canada being a part of the British Empire, it is the sacred duty of the Canadian people to assist Great Britain in her heroic defence of liberty. . . . It is the solemn duty of every Canadian citizen to the utmost limit of his force, to stand side by side with the motherland in her heroic effort to crush the tyrant who wishes to trample small nations and states beneath his iron heel. What fate would be ours if the Germans obtained a foothold here? Were Great Britain defeated, Germany would secure domination on the St. Lawrence. I, for one, do not want to be a German citizen.

Why is it that this vast concourse of men of so many different races, religions, and climes are going to the front to take part in this struggle and are willing to make, and are making the supreme sacrifice? Why? Because they live under the flag that floats over Parliament Hill. And they have found that wherever that flag waves, there you will find liberty for the individual, security for his life, and safety for his property; there you will find freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press; there you will find the greatest possible freedom compatible with security of the state. And there you will find a state based upon the eternal principles of freedom, justice, and toleration.

Mr. EUGENE PAQUET (L'Islet) (translation): Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to second the motion which has been put before you so eloquently by the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Thompson). The honour redounds especially to the electors of the beautiful county of l'Islet, and my most heartfelt thanks go to the right honourable the Prime Minister.

In seconding the motion for an Address in reply to the speech of His Royal Highness, it is my object to rise above partisan considerations, and let myself be prompted by the truly Canadian sentiment of rallying