

We are now getting on to the end of the third year, and does the thought ever strike us that very possibly the Canadian people are commencing to take this war as a matter of course? Do Canadians, men and women alike, not need an awakening? Heaven knows that our women have done wonderfully as have most of the men, but the fact remains, in my humble judgment, we have got to rise to the stern needs and duties that lie before us. The people of Canada living at home in peace, comfort and happiness, if they desire to hold up their heads amongst the peoples of the world, must show that they have real Canadianism enough to make the necessary sacrifice to support the men who to-day are protecting us in the enjoyment of all that life holds dear. We have got to have enough red blood in us to say that if the gallant men fighting in the trenches are willing to make the greatest sacrifice, we shall make some commensurate sacrifice on our part. Does the rich man realize, as he rolls down the street in his motor, with his wife and his daughter, that did he live in Germany and walk along the street of a German city, unless his wife or daughter made way for a German officer, she would be spat upon or slapped on the face with a sword? Does he realize in his wealth how small the sacrifice that he and others of his class have made? Does he realize that in neglecting to make that sacrifice, he becomes a unit in the force that is helping Germany?

This is not the day for soft words and soft actions. The time has long since gone by for that. Now the Canadian people, men and women, need an awakening which can only come through strong individual and concentrated leadership. Failing that, everything is at a standstill; failing that, our last condition may be worse than our first.

We must not think too much of party; we must remember that whatever party be in power, our country remains and her problems remain with her. The fate of parties, to my mind, matters not so long as we do our part for the cause of liberty and right and the preservation of our democratic institutions. Four hundred thousand of our people have gone; they went voluntarily, they went as young, red-blooded Canadians should have gone. Does anybody think for a moment that they went because they loved war and all that it means? No. They went from the highest motives of national and Imperial feeling; they went as young patriots; they went to uphold the liberty that our fathers and fore-

fathers have secured and handed down to us. They are gone—they are yonder—fighting, bleeding, dying, sacrificing themselves in this greatest war for principle, honour, and liberty. Is it not apparent that the duty of the Canadian people, and of this Parliament, to see to it that the men who have gone shall have the backing of the men who stay at home?

These are the reasons, imperfectly though I may have expressed them, that appeal to me in considering this question. There are thousands of young men scattered all over this country to-day who are not necessary for the purpose of carrying on the business of the state, and if they will not fight they are not fit to be free; and the man who is not fit to be free ought to be made to fight. Every citizen has the protection of the state, and when the existence of his protector is imperilled it is his duty to give that protector his support, to the offering up of his life if necessary.

Let me say, in passing, that I am speaking to-day only of the province I know. It would be presumption on my part to speak for any other. But this I do know, that in Ontario, in the towns and villages of this province, there are thousands of young men whose place should be at the front, and I have absolutely no objection to saying to them here, that when the time comes, so far as I am concerned and great although I know the responsibility is, through this vote of mine, to the front they must go.

I come to the amendment that has been moved by my leader (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and I may say to you, Sir, that I find myself politically in the most painful position of my life. I have been a follower of Sir Wilfrid Laurier since I knew enough to be a Liberal. I have admired him; I recognize the fact that to-day, among the statesmen of Greater Britain, he stands pre-eminent. I recognize the fact that he guided the destinies of this country for many years, and that no man could possibly have better filled that high office. I recognize further, and I say it with no disparagement whatever, that although to-day he is but the leader of the Opposition, he is a predominating figure in the British Empire. You can well understand, therefore, that, in differing from a man of whom I hold that opinion, I feel that my action may be presumptuous. I do it only for the reason that my sincere conviction is that my course is right—I could not do it otherwise. To my other friends in this House, my French-Canadian friends, let me say this, that although I differ from