

the attention of the British people to one of the most delicious of our native products and will serve to encourage an industry heretofore too much neglected.

Ruthlessly awakened from our long slumber of false security, we are called upon to-day to desert for a time at least the doctrine of peace that has taken firm root amongst all peace-loving people throughout the world, and to devote our energies towards the adoption of measures to tide us over the present existing crisis—one that not only affects our own Dominion of Canada, but will have a tendency to cement the bonds of imperial unity throughout the whole Empire. Certain measures to meet the existing situation will be introduced in this House by the Government this session. We are confronted with a situation that demands the co-operation of every member occupying a seat in this chamber, that demands courage of a high order, a courage born of conviction that we are in the right, and that to falter and hesitate would be fatal to the country's and the Empire's best interests. All eyes to-day are focused on Europe. As the awful drama of war unfolds itself from day to day, bringing us tidings of the terrible conflict that is being waged by the contending forces in the field, of the destruction, the havoc, and the suffering that are caused by this Armageddon of the nations, we can scarcely believe it possible that we are living in the twentieth century, a century that was ushered in under the most auspicious circumstances, and that gave promise of being an era of peace on earth, and good will towards men.

It is a stupendous struggle, a struggle that will undoubtedly change the map of Europe, that has cast its blight and shadow on millions of happy homes, that is causing untold misery and suffering to those who are least able to bear it, that has practically ruined one country, exposing its citizens to untold privations and miseries, and may be the cause of ruination and disaster to others before the war is over. Never has the world witnessed such a catastrophe, such awful carnage, such ruthless disregard of the rights of others.

The anxiety felt by the Canadian people is intense, as our very existence is at stake. Newspapers are eagerly sought after, bulletin boards are surrounded day and night by innumerable numbers eagerly reading the news from the front announcing in short, concise sentences the daily

progress of the tremendous struggle that is going on in far-off Europe.

For years we trusted in arbitration; peace societies throughout the world worked harmoniously one with the other, and men who did not know the situation as it really existed claimed that there was no cause for alarm; the warnings of those who knew were held up to ridicule, and the possibilities of such a stupendous struggle were absolutely discounted. When the blow fell on that memorable day last August, people respected as they never respected before the late Lord Roberts' prophetic words prior to the war, when in ringing tones that could be heard from one end of England to the other, he warned the nation of the impending struggle, and they now realize that he was right and that they have lost in him through death one of the great and illustrious men of the British Empire.

They were pleased beyond conception, however, that Lord Kitchener was given absolute command of the Empire's forces—his very presence at the helm inspires confidence—that General French took command in the field—and he has since demonstrated to a thankful people that the trust confided in him was not misplaced—and a sigh of relief went up from the whole nation when at the outbreak of hostilities the First Lord of the Admiralty with confidence stated that the bulwark of the nation—the British Navy—was ready. And was it a vain boast? The silent victory on the seas is the answer—commerce uninterrupted—business as usual—with the enemy's navy bottled up, and her commerce practically at a standstill.

Never before in the Empire's history has the truth that "the strength of the nation lies in its sea power" been better exemplified than during the last five months; and British subjects throughout the world have every reason to be thankful to those men who had the courage of their convictions, who saw that trouble was bound to come, and who were ready and prepared for it when it did come.

This is a war that was not desired by Great Britain. The causes that brought it about are familiar to all of you and need not be discussed to-day. But from the evidence produced we are assured that the statesmen of England tried by every means in their power to avoid an armed conflict. Every art known to diplomacy, to bring about a better understanding, and to preserve the peace, was exercised, but to no avail. And now that the die is cast,