

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE—*Con.*

on the 23rd of July, had to be delivered not later than six o'clock on the evening of the 25th July, I cannot resist the conclusion, and I do not think any man who reads these documents can resist the conclusion, that it was the deliberate intention of the Government of Germany, formed many years ago, to violate the neutrality and independence of Belgium in case war should break out with France, 13. Quotations from Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Askwith. We have absolutely no quarrel with the German people. I believe that they are a peaceable people, that they are not naturally a warlike people, although unfortunately they are dominated at the present time by a military autocracy. No one can over estimate what civilization and the world owe to Germany. In literature, in science, art and philosophy, in almost every department of human knowledge and activity, they have stood in the very forefront of the world's advancement. Nearly half a million of the very best citizens of Canada are of German origin, and I am sure that no one would for one moment desire to utter any word or use any expression in debate which would wound the self-respect or hurt the feelings of any of our fellow citizens of German descent, 14. Precautions taken by the Government alluded to and Documents quoted, 15-16. Telegrams exchanged between the Government and the Imperial authorities quoted, 17-18. It is barely two weeks since war broke out. Already nearly every pathway across the ocean has been cleared. Our foreign commerce has been but little interfered with, very little indeed. The splendid organization of the British navy has enabled this to be accomplished, 18. It is not fitting that I should prolong this debate. In the awful dawn of the greatest war the world has ever known, in the hour when peril confronts us such as this Empire has not faced for a hundred years, every vain or unnecessary word seems a discord. As to our duty, all are agreed: stand shoulder to shoulder with Britain and the other British Dominions in this quarrel, 19.

*Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Quebec East)*—8.

It is our duty, more pressing upon us than all other duties, at once, on this first day of this extraordinary session of the Canadian Parliament, to let Great Britain know, and to let the friends and foes of Great Britain know, that there is in Canada but one mind and one heart, and that all Canadians stand behind the Mother country, conscious and proud that she is engaged in this war, not from any selfish motive, for any purpose of aggrandisement, but to maintain untarnished the honour of her name, to fulfil her obligations to her allies, to maintain her treaty obligations, and to save civilization from the unbridled lust of conquest and domination, 8-9. England to-day is not engaged in an ordinary contest. The war in which she is engaged will in all pro-

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bability—nay, in absolute certainty—stagger the world with its magnitude and its horror. But that war is for as noble a cause as every impelled a nation to risk her all upon the arbitrament of the sword. That question is no longer at issue; the judgment of the world has already pronounced upon it. I speak not only of those nations which are engaged in this war, but of the neutral nations. The testimony of the ablest men of these nations, without dissenting voice, is that to-day the allied nations are fighting for freedom against oppression, for democracy against autocracy, for civilization against reversion to that state of barbarism in which the supreme law is the law of might, 9. But let me tell my fellow countrymen of German origin that we have no quarrel with the German people. We respect and admire as much as they do the proud race from which they have their descent; we acknowledge all that the world owes to the German people for their contribution to the happiness of mankind by their progress in literature, in art and in science. But perhaps our German fellow-citizens will permit me to say that, in the struggle for constitutional freedom which has been universal in Europe during the last century, the German people have not made the same advance as have some of the other nations of Europe, 10. In invading Belgium some two weeks ago, the German Emperor invoked the memory of his ancestors and called upon the blessing of God. The German Emperor might have remembered that there is a treaty guaranteeing the independence, the integrity, the neutrality of Belgium, and that this treaty was signed in the last century by the most illustrious of his ancestors, Emperor William the First, of Germany. He might have remembered also that there is this precept in the Divine book: 'Remove not the ancient landmarks which thy fathers have set up.' But it is not only in Ireland that you find this union of hearts. In the two other united kingdoms the voice of faction has been silenced. Even those who on principle do not believe in war admit that this was a just war and that it had to be fought. That union of hearts which exist in the United Kingdom exists also in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand. Yea, even in South Africa—South Africa, rent by war less than twenty years ago, but now united under the blessing of British institutions, with all, British and Dutch together, standing ready to shed their blood for the commons cause. Sir, there is in this the inspiration and the hope that from the painful war the British Empire may emerge with a new bond of union, the pride of all its citizens, and a living light to all other nations, 11.

*Sutherland, Donald (Oxford South)*—3.

Rumblings of distant thunder have been heard and dark and threatening clouds have been visible on the horizon for several years. These have at last burst