

desired to raise battalions loyally and patriotically hurried men into the ranks so that they would make a record in getting numbers sufficient to form a battalion. Individual Canadians who joined the army, but were unfit, joined from patriotic reasons, perhaps realizing that they were unfit, but anxious to serve. As I have said, many of them—tens of thousands—got as far as England, at great cost to Canada, because they had to be returned to Canada at a cost to this country which had to be added to our huge debt. I submit that this must not be repeated, and I submit further that it can be very easily prevented.

Here is another suggestion. From the very beginning we should give generous treatment to the dependents of those who enlist for overseas service. But, sir, there is one further thought: unless it is necessary for the preservation of our national life, so far as possible those who have dependents should be kept out of the danger zone. It will not only save losses to families, but it will save by way of lessening the huge debt of our country and the huge pensions which would have to be paid.

Some time ago a suggestion came out from England, which I believe was met with a good deal of favour here in Canada, that Canada be a haven for British children. One month and a day ago at my home city of Fort William I supported that idea. The press report of August 7 respecting my speech quoted me as follows:

I say here to-day that not only would every man and woman in Canada gladly agree to such a plan, if it is feasible, but I go farther and say that under similar circumstances, if some of the allies of the empire made the same request, again Canada would rise to the occasion and do her humane and Christian duty, just as any Canadian citizen would gladly give shelter in the midst of winter to the children of a neighbour whose house was being destroyed by fire.

I repeat that sentiment. For, after all, one of the greatest of Christian precepts is this: "Suffer little children to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." I repeat: If the proposal made is feasible I believe the government should forthwith accept it and do everything it can to carry it out.

Then, sir, yesterday in my mail I received what I consider to be a very wise suggestion from a dear friend of mine, a brilliant Canadian, an outstanding man of letters, loyal, able and anxious to serve, but a man who has almost attained old age, and who has one rather serious disability which would prevent him from doing ordinary active service. In his letter he says this:

Could not some genius organize a Canadian legion of honour at this time, not for foreign service but to serve Canada, to restore its pride in its destiny, and to heal its divisions?

To my mind that is a most worthy idea, even in peace time, because in Canada we have thousands of well-to-do citizens who would offer to serve—as this gentleman offered to serve, as indicated in the letter—without payment by the country. These people are anxious to do something for their country—and that is more true to-day, in war time. I submit this suggestion to the government because I think it is certainly more worthy of deep consideration to-day even than it would be in ordinary times.

There are one or two further points I would offer before I resume my seat. One is that I believe local Canadian problems must not be neglected or forgotten because Canada is at war. After all, in this time of trial it would be a poor service to the empire if Canada, our Canada, were forgotten. I expect we are to be called upon in this session—perhaps tomorrow or the next day—to pass a bill providing for an expenditure of some such figure as \$100,000,000, with which to finance our part in this war. That is right and proper—though I should like to interject that with the huge amount of money on deposit in the banks the money we need should be obtained at very low rates of interest, not at such rates and on such terms as it was obtained in 1914 and in subsequent years. But in the absence of our men themselves let us strive to make Canada a land really worthy of their love, a land really worth living in.

I should like to touch briefly upon the speech from the throne itself and read one paragraph which is really the gist of the speech. If there is any objection I shall read it all, because it is not lengthy; but I think this one paragraph covers the speech pretty thoroughly. It reads:

You have been summoned at the earliest moment in order that the government may seek authority for the measures necessary for the defence of Canada, and for cooperation in the determined effort which is being made to resist further aggression, and to prevent the appeal to force instead of to pacific means in the settlement of international disputes. Already the militia, the naval service and the air force have been placed on active service, and certain other provisions have been made for the defence of our coasts and our internal security under the War Measures Act and other existing authority. Proposals for further effective action by Canada will be laid before you without delay.

I have no desire to be critical when I say that to my mind that statement of Canada's position at the present time is not sufficiently definite and clear. Considering the telegraph and telephone messages and letters that I have received, considering the press statements that have been made, I think the people of Canada expect a full statement of