

distinguished themselves. At the moment I recall the names of Papineau, Barté, Dansereau and Roy. No greater, no more heroic deed has been or could be performed in this war than that of Major Roy, who died in the endeavour to save his men from danger. His name, for that gallant deed, ought ever to be blazoned in the memory of all Canadians.

My right hon. friend has alluded to conscription—to the idea in this country or elsewhere that there may be conscription in Canada. In speaking in the first two or three months of this war I made it clear to the people of Canada that we did not propose any conscription. I repeat that announcement to-day with emphasis. My right hon. friend has alluded to reports in the press of the United States. I believe that representations even earlier than those which he mentions were made, and that there was an attempt, not only in the western provinces of Canada, but elsewhere, to convince citizens of American origin residing in Canada that they were in danger in that regard. I doubt greatly whether they would be so influenced even if conscription were announced to-day, judging from the splendid spirit which has animated our citizens of American origin, both in the east and west of Canada. They have been as eager, as determined to do their part in fighting for Canada and for the Empire in this war as the native born citizens of this Dominion.

Now, with regard to this proposed large increase, let us remember that we are in the agony of the greatest struggle that our Empire or the world has ever known. We can win it if we make the necessary sacrifice and the necessary effort. We know what it means to all the allied nations. My right hon. friend this afternoon quoted from the despatch from the French ambassador at Berlin, which has been made public by the French Government. The same idea has been expressed by a great German writer, whose teachings evidently impressed themselves upon the German people, in these words:

By one means or another accounts must be settled with France, if we are to win elbow room for our world policy. That is the first and most unconditional requirement of our world policy, and as French hostility is not to be removed once for all by pacific measures, recourse must simply be had to the power of arms. France must be so completely overthrown that she can never stand in our way again.

One of the greatest intellects in Germany, dealing with the part which Germany shall play and the part which the British Empire

[Sir Robert Borden.]

shall play in the future of the world, used these words:

If our Empire dares to persevere resolutely in the new path of our independent colonial policy, a conflict of interest with England will be inevitable. It lies in the nature of things that the new great power in the centre of Europe must settle with every other great power in turn. With Austria, with France, with Russia, we already have squared accounts. The last settlement with England seems likely to be the longest and hardest.

Are we fighting in this war to win or to lose? There can be only one answer to that question in Canada and throughout the Empire. Then, if we are to win we must realize that this war cannot be brought to a successful conclusion without sacrifice. Undoubtedly throughout our Empire the preparation made by the enemy through half a century was underestimated. Thank God, we yet have time for effort, for preparation. But our preparation and our effort must not be too late. May I quote some very pregnant words of Mr. Lloyd George in his great speech of 20th December last:

Too late in moving here. Too late in arriving there. Too late in coming to this decision. Too late in starting with enterprises. Too late in preparing! In this war the footsteps of the Allied forces have been dogged by the mocking spectre of "too late," and unless we quicken our movements damnation will fall on the sacred cause for which so much gallant blood has flowed.

So I say it is time for us in Canada to consider our course, to realize what further effort is necessary. Therefore I recommended to my colleagues, and we shall propose to Parliament, that the forces authorized in Canada for assisting the Empire in this war shall be increased in the measure which I have indicated. We owe something to the 120,000 men who have gone to the front. We owe something to those who have died in a great cause and to those who live to avenge them. If we are animated by the spirit of the men who fought at Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy, the Canadian people will not shrink even from the sacrifice and the effort thus proposed.

Before speaking of the results of my visit to Great Britain last summer, I must mention certain important orders in council passed since prorogation which will be laid on the table of the House to-morrow. Two of them at least are in fulfilment of pledges which I gave to Parliament at the conclusion of last session. We have appointed a War Purchasing Commission, the personnel of which, as the House knows,