

country outside the motherland. We might here observe, too, that on the strength of Britain's standing, which, after all, is the best index to her ability for prosecuting war, she is practically the banker of the neutral world, as she has been in modern times the clearing house of the financial world. That our security under the present circumstances is altogether due to the supremacy of Britain's navy, no one will deny. If our trade is not demoralized and our trade routes untenable, entailing financial panic and its consequent disaster to our populace, we have the fostering care of Britain to thank. It is not only Canada that should be grateful under those conditions, but the neutral countries of the world owe a debt of gratitude to the statesmen who anticipated the day when a military mad despot and his entourage would attempt to overrun the world. We can take consolation, too, from the fact that Canada in recent years has earned the sobriquet of 'Granary of the Empire,' and in this way is an added strength to the mother country in her hour of trial. That Britain can depend upon the ploughs on Canada's farms, gives to her that air of stability so necessary under the circumstances.

We hardly needed the gracious speech before us to bring home to us the necessities of the occasion, and the desire of all humane people that this disastrous war, with its awful human carnage, should have every effort made to stop its devastating effects.

When last we met within these walls we were just on its threshold, and in our wildest flights of imagination we could not then picture the sudden devolution of our twentieth century culture (save the mark!); we could not dream of the unbridled license which has characterized our enemies in their march through Belgium, with its mutilation of children, its outraging of women, its looting of Louvain and its sister cities, the ruthless destruction of ancient cathedrals and the priceless treasures of art, science and literature, which had passed unscathed through the wars of centuries, prosecuted by countries which, in our self sufficiency, we would then have been pleased to sneer at as barbarous when compared with these modern Huns. Justice and right are natural conditions precedent to embarking in such a terrible national conflict as we have undertaken at the present time. When in August last we convened in an extraordinary session, the official documents of His Majesty's Government were laid before

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us, and they left no doubt in our minds as to the strenuous efforts made by Sir Edward Grey and the British Government in the use of every art known to diplomacy to avert war. These official papers of our Empire have since been reinforced by the official documents of Russia and France, nay, more, they are negatively supported by the suppressed or non-published official communications with passed between Berlin and Vienna during these trying times. There is, therefore, no doubt as to the righteousness of our cause left in the minds of the unprejudiced, and peace-loving people though we are, our sons, our mothers and our daughters are prepared for a supreme sacrifice. We thank God as we gaze in retrospect over the past six months, that Canada has been a unit in response to duty's call, and we are pouring out our blood and treasure to an unprecedented degree that civilization in its proper sense may not perish from the earth, and that the nefarious dictum—'Might is Right' shall not prevail. Our sons march to the strains of 'Tipperary' side by side with the sons of the composite and solidified British Empire, from every corner of the habitable globe to help eradicate the false morality and ethics of a Nietzsche or Bernhardi. They charge the trenches and man the firing line too, to assure the world of the future that such monstrous doctrines be still-born. In this noble work it is gratifying to have the active co-operation of a nation which is the parent land of many of our best citizens, whose ancestors first trod the banks of the St. Lawrence; men like Lallemand and Breboeuf who gave their noble lives that savagery might not longer hold sway in the countries drained by its mighty waters. Every catastrophe, however, has its compensations, and as a result of this awful conflict we have the fruitful lesson of the intensity of feeling for the motherland, which makes her sons rush to the colours from every corner of the Empire on which the sun never sets. A splendid object lesson in this respect is the action of the Premier of South Africa in the present crisis, and demonstrates the colonizing power of Britain, which in a few short years makes the strongest friends out of the bitterest enemies. We note, too, a pacified Ireland, the home of my forefathers, after a struggle of seven centuries and we can even now gaze in prospectu on the restored Parliament Halls on College Green,