

people long accustomed to peace, the first efforts are slow to materialize and to bring forth results. But history attests and this War will again prove that peace loving people, ever slow to anger, when at last roused, are inflexible in purpose and never let go until victory is won, and the goal reached.

So it was, so it is with our own people. All classes have splendidly come forward and those in the field have shown that after one hundred years of peace, when put to the test the blood of the fathers has lost none of its warmth and vigor in the veins of the sons.

Those at home have given freely and generously and are continuing to give with an ever open hand.

Women of all conditions have been incessant in their labors and activities to help the suffering, and the wounded, and to minister comforts to those gallant boys now facing the indescribable miseries of modern warfare.

Reviewing all that has been accomplished during the last thirty months, it is no vain national boast that the Canadian people have far exceeded the expectations laid down at the outset. Yet there is every probability that we are still far from the end, and so long as more has to be done, they have not done enough. Only the all possible will suffice. Industry should be organized with the sole view to victory, with all idea of profit carefully eliminated. For let it ever be remembered that industry is public service. Nothing truer has been said during this War than that the idea is revolting of profits out of the nation's agony.

Let the young and healthy enlist, and those who cannot enlist will serve the country by work in the fields, in the forest, in the mines, on the sea and in the shops. Every individual in the nation can work; every hour of toil is conducive to victory, and work should be specifically directed to that end. All public construction unless necessary and immediately indispensable should be deferred till more auspicious times; all available funds and labor devoted to the production of munitions, food and war necessities and their prompt conveyance where needed. In England and France the women have nobly shared in all the burdens of the men, even assuming tasks hitherto supposed beyond their strength thereby testifying of unsurpassed devotion to the highest ideals. Then all can and must save; all expenditure public or private absolutely restricted to the object in hand.

These suggestions and recommendations are new, and never heard of before in this country. The reason is that we of this generation and of several generations before us never knew what war was—and war means sacrifice.

Canadian fathers, mothers, and wives sacrificed their dear ones, when their dear ones donned the King's uniform; of these, many have given to the cause the last full measure of devotion and now sleep and will forever sleep in the soil of Old France. The rest of us owe it to them that we also make sacrifice, sacrifice of feelings, of prejudice, of comfort, of leisure, of gains. Such sacrifice is a better monument to the fallen and wounded than either bronze or marble, and the best monument of all is the stern determination that their lives and limbs were not given in vain.

While we claim, and with just cause claim to have done much, our efforts pale almost to nothing when compared with the exertions, the almost inconceivable exertions of Great Britain, of France, of Russia and of Italy.

In those countries there has been a constant effort towards concentration in the one object of bringing the War to a triumphant conclusion. This has produced in France especially not only a growing union of all the forces of the nation, but also a union of souls. Antagonisms which before the War seemed irreconcilable have now well nigh disappeared, and opinions, even the most heterogeneous are now embraced in the sacred union.

Let us imitate this noble example. Let us here and now sink passions, prejudices, vain and idle recriminations. Let us when criticism is needed, criticize without bitterness, only by appeals to reason, and above all let us bend all our energies towards making Canada an effective factor in the struggle.

The heart of the nation must beat with one accord and one desire. Thus and thus only can Canada attain the full standard of what she owes to herself and her future and with such an inspiration, the people will rise to a consciousness of national power and national character which will be enduring and permanent for the welfare and grandeur of our Dominion.

Whether victory and peace be near or distant, our resolve will not falter. We will continue to the end, calmly, firmly and grimly determined to do our share so that this terrible scourge of war may forever pass away from us. And there is hope—hope not founded merely on desires and aspirations but on appreciable facts—that victory will bring us measurably near to an era when war will have become so odious, that the nation which would attempt it, would have to face the majesty and combined strength of the whole civilized world.

*W. J. L. Laurier*