

to achieve victory and a lasting peace. Sir Robert and his colleagues have had carte blanche, from the very start, the Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and his colleagues in the House having assured the government of support in their military measures. Not only have the federal Liberals done this, but many leaders in the provincial field, Sir Lomer Gouin in Quebec, Mr. Rowell in Ontario, and the other Liberal leaders in other provinces having promised and given support and co-operation. The moment Canada entered the ring it could not rest with any half measure.

These articles, I believe, Sir, represent the sentiments of the country. In the speech which my hon. friend the member for Red Deer (Mr. Michael Clark) made to the House last evening, he made allusion to the number of men which the Government had decided to send to the other side; and without criticising at all the tremendous outlay which this involved, he expressed the feeling of anxiety of the people of this country at the delay between the recruiting of the regiments and their despatch to the trenches. My hon. and gallant friend, the Minister of Militia (Sir Sam Hughes) will no doubt give a full explanation of this; but as far as I can gather from the information I have, it is due to no fault of the Government. One must take into consideration the difficulty of transportation, and then again, if I am correctly informed, we send across as many troops as possible under the circumstances. Once they arrive on the other side they are under the control and command of the British authorities.

May I say, Sir, that the speech of the hon. member for Red Deer commended itself to me by its dignity of tone; indeed the tone of the debate so well set by my hon. friends who proposed and seconded the Address, the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Alfred Thompson) and the hon. member for l'Islet (Mr. Paquet) has been characterized by the loftiest patriotism. I commend particularly to the attention of the House the remarks made by my hon. friend from l'Islet. The members of the House who could not follow him in the language in which his speech was delivered, I am sure will find in the translation of that speech the real sentiments which animate the people of the province of Quebec in this momentous crisis. I trust, Sir, that in the few remarks which I am about to present to the House, I shall say nothing in manner or in form which may be disagreeable in any way to my hon. friends on the other side, or to any one in the country who may differ from me on the great questions at issue.

My hon. friend from Red Deer alluded to the splendid spirit which exists in the

West, and I am a witness to the truth of what he says. Last summer I had occasion for two purposes to visit the West—that great portion of our Dominion of which we are so proud. The first purpose which I had in view was to judge at first hand, to hear with my own ears and to see with my own eyes, the postal situation there. The second purpose, and probably the most important one, was that I wished to allay certain prejudices, and to convey to any who might be misled correct opinions and ideas as to the situation in Quebec. I had read in some of the western papers that there was such an anti-war feeling in the province of Quebec that the Liberal party—and I do not wish to make the Liberal party responsible for this—wished to profit by this feeling to bring on an election, hoping by that means to secure a greater number of supporters in the province of Quebec. It seems to me—and I think I am correct in this view—that there is nothing which will detract more from the unity and harmony which should exist between all sections of the country, than the arousing of suspicions and prejudices between those of different race and faith who compose our federation. I wished to do as much as I could to allay those prejudices and susceptibilities, and suspicions, and to work so far as lay in my power for that brotherly love and good will which above all other things, should exist at this time in Canada.

Everywhere I went in the West I was received not only with the greatest courtesy but with the greatest sympathy. It was impressed upon me everywhere—that I was indeed a welcome messenger from the province of Quebec. Upon my return to Eastern Canada it seemed to me the imperative duty devolved on me of going into my own province, and placing before its people the real issues which confronted them. In the month of September, October, and a part of November, I held eighteen or twenty meetings in the eastern section of the province. My colleagues the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Patenaude) and the Secretary of State (Mr. Blondin) held other meetings in the central part of the province and in the district of Montreal. The reason for holding these meetings was to bring home to the people the origin and nature of the present conflict, and the results which were bound to follow from the unthinkable possibility of a German victory. As far as I could see while addressing audiences sometimes twenty-five hundred or three thousand