

of the Old Empire (applause) and without an hour's hesitation, without any need of a teacher we saw that the British Empire was aimed at and its extermination determined upon. We did not wait for time nor tide. Inside of a very few weeks thirty thousand well equipped Canadian troops sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, the biggest army that ever crossed seas previous to that, and inside of four months they were fighting in France and Belgium and they continued going and they continued fighting. In all five-hundred and fifty thousand of our men donned the khaki and four hundred and twenty thousand went across the seas. They fought as well, were as full of resource and as successful in that War as any other army (applause) and Canada was at the front during the whole War, and during that time the Canadian divisions never lost one single gun.

There are five-hundred and fifty thousand graves of British men in France and Belgium, making sacred forever the soil of both those countries to us and to all British people, and forty-five thousand are graves of Canadian soldiers. Our casualties were one hundred and fifty-nine thousand. When the armistice was signed we had two hundred and eighty-six thousand men "over there." We have brought them all back, we have demobilized them all with the exception of a fragment and we have brought back something else—sixty thousand of their dependents gathered up in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England—the results of the lovemakings of our soldiers abroad. So that we have had a gain coming back to us of about sixty thousand, where we have to put on the other side forty-five thousand graves of our dead.

That much for our War effort. Now that the soldiers are coming back, what are we doing for them? We have today in Canada the finest equipment and service for the re-establishment of soldiers in vocational training and otherwise of any country in the world (applause) with more men passing through them in point of numbers than any other. We have spent already on that fifty-seven millions of dollars and we shall spend fifty million more, which will be altogether one hundred and seven millions of dollars for the re-establishment of the disabled, the putting of them into a position to earn their own living and become self-dependent useful citizens.