

ence that is felt at the present time in the way that this struggle in which we are engaged is being handled by the British Government. We all appreciate the enormous difficulty of the fight, and realize the difficulties of the situation that had to be met by the British Government. We all appreciate that the difficulties of the situation have been handled in a very able and masterful way. We also desire to express our admiration for the courage of the men who have so nobly laid down their lives in the trenches in fighting for the defence of the Empire, and also for the courage and endurance, the cheerfulness and bravery, shown by the men who are in training, and those also who are holding the front in the trenches to-day. The exceptional conditions under which this fighting has had to be carried on is something that no one could foresee, and the sufferings that men have had to undergo when they have had to be kept in the trenches, is enough to call forth the admiration and appreciation of everybody who gives one moment's thought to the position in which those men have been placed. We have also great confidence in the men who are directing the forces of Great Britain on land and sea, and also the forces of the Allies in the different parts of the world. We realize that with those men directing this contest on the side of the allies we shall eventually attain the object that we are all so anxious to see achieved—the gaining of the fight for liberty.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—We are indebted to the mover and seconder of the Address for the excellent speeches that have been made upon the speech from the Throne and the very exhaustive and eloquent manner in which they have dealt with the subject. They, with my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, have so well covered the entire subject that there remains little to say except to again travel over the ground they have so well surveyed. So much has been said and written upon the war since the 1st August last, that there is no phase or feature of it that has not been presented to the public, thus making it difficult, if not impossible, to say anything new or interesting upon the subject.

When Parliament met in the month of August last, war had been declared only a few days previously. As Germany had been twenty-five years preparing for this war, and had its armaments ready and its plan of campaign absolutely decided upon, she therefore selected the time, the place, the

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circumstances and conditions under which to begin. In the month of August last when war was declared, in a few days thereafter Germany had over-run Belgium and practically occupied the territory which she is now seeking to hold to-day. The allies having had only an inaccurate idea of Germany's designs were naturally found unprepared and our last session of Parliament found them in a scarcely more advanced position than a process of mobilization. We are in a position to-day to look back upon six months of the campaign and to examine the situation as to what has been accomplished.

Germany began the war with a trained army approximating five millions of men, far exceeding anything in size and efficiency that the world has ever seen. To confront and battle with this almost inconceivably gigantic machine, representing not only the greatest of numerical strength but the highest genius which a nation for twenty-five years could concentrate upon building and perfecting, required a task on the part of the allies such as no nation or group of nations had ever been called upon to face in modern or ancient history. Particularly was this task rendered the more gigantic by reason of the programme of speed which had been adopted by the enemy for the carrying out of its campaign. Paris was to have been reached and taken in the first month of the war, the army on the western frontier was to join that upon the eastern and Russia was to be overwhelmed in the second or third month of the war. By some inconceivable flight of the enemy's imagination our Empire was to be reduced to a second-rate power, and the seas swept of her navy and her shipping before the snows of winter fell. This programme of the enemy has fortunately, not only for the allies, but for the whole civilized world, failed of its consummation.

For the last forty years Germany has had visions of world power, she has ever dreamed of war; for a generation, she has sowed the seeds of war and of hate in the minds of her population from infancy up; she has taught it in her schools, in her universities, in every ramification of life; she has fed her people upon the splendour, the magnificence and the national advantages of war. It has dominated her religion, her scholarship, her literature, her so-called culture and every phase of her national life. The whole national purpose of her people has been concentrated upon building up a war machine to overwhelm the other great powers in a world-wide devastation