

ple of this country, without distinction of party, of race or of creed, who have come to the assistance of the Government in every possible way in the gigantic task which has been imposed upon us, and have shown that the races which make up the population of Canada are animated by the same lofty spirit of patriotism as that which characterized their ancestors in the past.

What have we accomplished? Mr. Speaker, you know that we sent within six weeks to Valcartier camp 33,000 men. During the past ten months our forces have crossed the Atlantic at the rate of more than 2,000 men per week. In the six months from July to December, 1915, there were enlisted 94,400 men in Canada and in the first two weeks of January, according to the information supplied by the Chief of the General Staff, more than fifteen thousand men were enlisted. Since Parliament prorogued, that is, between April 15 last and the opening of this session, no less than 80,250 men have been sent across the Atlantic to aid in the battle which our Empire and the allied nations are fighting. We have sent to the front altogether 120,000 men. First and last, we have had under arms in this country 220,000 men, of whom, of course, a portion are non-effective at the present time.

My right hon. friend has spoken of the very considerable increase which was proposed on the first day of January. Our authorized force was increased on November 7, 1914, by 30,000 men. On the 8th day of July, 1915, an Order in Council was passed increasing it to 150,000. On the 22nd day of October, His Majesty the King sent out an appeal. It was not specially directed to the Overseas Dominions; it was more particularly directed to the people of the British Islands. We thought it appropriate that that appeal should be recognized by the people and by the Government of Canada; and so, on the 30th day of October, 1914, the authorized force was increased to 250,000 men; and then, on the 1st day of January of this year, the announcement was made that the authorized force of this country would be increased to 500,000 men. My right hon. friend says that seems to him a very large number. So it is, a very large number. We must, however, remember that we are fighting in this war as one of the nations of the British Empire, and that in Great Britain the authorization for increased forces has reached the figure of 4,000,000 under the proposals made by Mr. Asquith

on the 20th of December last. Let us also remember that there are enlisted and on active service in the British navy at the present time not less than 250,000 men. I realize that 500,000 men is a large force for us to undertake in Canada; and I realize further that the national strength of Canada must be maintained, and that in proceeding with our effort to increase our forces in Canada we must have regard to the necessities of the agricultural and industrial interests of this country. Canada, in all the elements of her national life, must be kept strong, and we shall have regard to those considerations. But it did seem to me, in view of all the developments which have taken place during the nine months since Parliament prorogued, it was fitting that at the opening of the New Year we should announce to the Empire and to all the world that we were not only prepared but willing to do something more. I do not know that I could express to the House my view of the situation in better words than those of the Order in Council which I presented to my colleagues and which was adopted by them without any hesitation, and assented to by His Royal Highness. The words which I used were these:

The Prime Minister further observes that the developments in the various theatres of war during the past year unmistakably indicate the necessity of further vigorous and united effort on the part of all His Majesty's dominions to bring to a victorious and honourable conclusion the present conflict which unquestionably involves the power, integrity and welfare of the Empire, and even constitutes a menace to its existence. The realization of the great issues thus involved in the war has elicited from the manhood of the Dominion a widespread and splendid response ever since the outbreak of hostilities. The Prime Minister is convinced that this impressive response will be continued to the further appeal which is now proposed.

With regard to recruiting, the response has been good from all the provinces of Canada. It has been splendid. It may be that at first the Maritime Provinces and the province of Quebec were a little slower than some of the other provinces of Canada, but I know from information which has reached me recently that the enlistment in those provinces is now all that could be desired, and is thoroughly responsive to the call which has been made. It is appropriate that I should here pay a tribute to those Canadians of French origin who are fighting in France for the Fatherland of their ancestors. Among them are many who have