

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Tuesday, February 9, 1915.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

The Order of the Day being called.

Consideration of His Royal Highness the Governor General's speech on the opening of the fifth session of the twelfth Parliament.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—In rising to perform a time-honoured task I must thank the hon. leader of this House on behalf of myself and the province from which I have come for the honour he has conferred upon us by his designation on the present occasion. That honour is all the more accentuated by the fact that we are passing through conditions which will make indelible pages on the world's history, and will have a potent effect on the future divisions and development of the human race. The position in which I find myself then, being at a period of such historic importance, I naturally approach it with a certain amount of diffidence that I know will be a passport to the indulgence of my honourable colleagues during the short time I shall occupy their attention. The speech of His Royal Highness our Governor General delivered to us in common with our fellow legislators of the House of Commons, must have a solacing effect in its note of optimism. It gives us the gratifying knowledge that Canada is fulfilling its duty in the troublous times through which we are passing. The mention of our Governor General reminds us of the fact that His Royal Highness, with his dutiful consort, came to us as connecting links in our chain of imperialism, as the visible token to the premier colony that Britain's Empire had entered a new era. Voicing the sentiments of the Senate of Canada then, I beg respectfully to bear testimony not only to the manifest loyalty which goes out to His Royal Highness as the representative of our beloved King, but to assure their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of the heartfelt thanks of a grateful people for the many evidences given us of their love and devotion to Canada. Especially does the thanks of our young nation go out to them for their decision to remain at our head under

present conditions or until the dove of peace again alights on our fair land. We are not unmindful of the fact either that the Royal Princess has from the beginning stimulated recruiting by allowing a regiment to be named after her, and with her own hands presented them with their colours. The despatch of the large expeditionary force which has already gone forward, the largest to ever cross the ocean, and the clockwork precision of its mobilization and embarkation reflect the highest credit on our Militia Department and Government, and are a source of pardonable pride to all Canadians. The subsequent recruiting, and the readiness of a second contingent to embark after three months' training, with the third in preparation, is an object lesson to the world of Canada's national status.

The assurance that our soldiers in training or at the front are giving a good account of themselves, often under the trying circumstances of a most severe winter, and the information we have of the splendid work of the Princess Patricia's Own, who had their first baptism in the trenches of France, make every breast swell with patriotic pride. The fervour which permeates every corner of this great Dominion, and the intense feeling which it imparts, has been shown in the rush to the recruiting centres, and must be a source of satisfaction to everybody. While comparisons are perhaps invidious, and at the present time may be uncalled for, I cannot refrain from pointing out on this occasion that the heroic little province I have the honour to represent has, in proportion to its population, the largest number of Canadian citizens on the enlistment rolls. There is a sense of satisfaction, too, that this same spirit and courage pervade every class and creed, and are impelling our people to further and further sacrifices until the desired goal is reached, the emancipation of our civilization secured, and our empire emerges triumphant with the flag that has braved a thousand years flying as of yore. We are reminded, too, that not only sacrifices of brain, and blood and brawn are essential in a crisis of this kind, but what is known as the sinews of war—the money to prosecute and properly equip and maintain our army in the field, with all that this entails, is also a prime requisite. In this connection, notwithstanding the dislocation incidental to war, we are glad to know that Canada's trade is still buoyant and her financial institutions are on a stable basis, perhaps unparalleled by any other