

been placed in a position where she willingly takes up arms to do her part until every effort that could honourably be made had been put forth to keep the peace, and that this war has been forced upon the whole of His Majesty's dominions because, although they were under no formal obligations to take part in such a struggle, yet they have to fight, to quote again the words of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom:

'In the first place to fulfil a solemn international obligation—an obligation which if it had been entered into between private persons in the ordinary concerns of life, would have been regarded as an obligation not only of law, but of honour, which no self-respecting man could possibly have repudiated. Secondly we are fighting to vindicate the principle—that small nationalities are not to be crushed in defiance of international good faith by the arbitrary will of a strong and over-mastering power.'

These words place in a concise form the position in which we are to-day and the reasons why we are engaged in this struggle—a struggle not against the German people or the German race, but against the form of imperialism and autocracy that has too long domineered over a pacific and amiable people, oppressing and keeping them from realizing their natural aspirations. We admire the plucky and determined stand that has been made by the people of Belgium in the defence of their rights and of their country, and sympathize with them in having to bear at the present time the blunt of the conflict. This time, as at the time of the Crimea, we are the allies of the French, but now we have the Russians also with us. In dealing with the legislation that is mentioned in the address as about to be brought before this Chamber, as in the House, we shall remember that the responsibility of dealing with the present situation rests on the members of the Government, that we are here to facilitate their work at the present time as much as possible, reserving for a future date any criticism that we may then think should be made. May I, however, be allowed to express the hope that in every way possible the people may be assured that there is no need to fear a scarcity of food in this country, and that they should be satisfied that everything is being done and will be done to keep the price of food stuffs down to their normal level and readjust the trade of the country to the altered conditions under which it may have to be carried on. A proper realization of this position will help very much in the present difficulties.

The last paragraph of the address, which reads:

'As representative of His Majesty the King I must add my expression of thanks and admiration for the splendid spirit of patriotism and generosity that has been displayed throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion.'

will be appreciated by the people as a recognition by His Majesty the King, expressed by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, of the response made by the people of Canada in this hour of trial.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Permit me to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne upon the calm and judicious spirit which they have shown in dealing with this subject.

At such a time when all the national impulses are stirred it is peculiarly an occasion for dispassionate deliberation and for the exercise of the highest qualities of the mind that we can bring to bear in dealing with those measures of the public business which call us together. It is peculiarly a time when the public needs of the country require not only a unity of all parties but the exercise of the highest and best abilities and services of our public men no matter to what party they may belong, in contributing to the advancement of the common good. I believe that this spirit animates every member of the Parliament of Canada at this special sitting called to deal with the extraordinary measures which will be brought before us.

In view of the extraordinary events which have happened during the present month, involving the Empire in war with two of the great powers of Europe, it is but common place to say that seriously as Canada has regarded the European situation for some four or five years past yet we were startled into a sense of reality upon facing an actual declaration of war between England and Germany. The Government of Canada at once assumed the responsibility of recognizing the important fact and upon which there could be no two opinions, that the Empire being at war, Canada was also at war, and that it became necessary for the Government to adopt such measures as would be commensurate with the critical situation that had so suddenly arisen.

The public will and utterance were peculiarly expressive of that which should be done. Parliament could not have more clearly defined the duty that was cast upon Canada as was so clearly and emphatically