

or in Belgium about the end of December, and which distinguished itself on many a battlefield by achievements that will always be remembered by the people of Canada. Last July I had the honour of seeing what was left of that regiment. The ranks had been depleted—in fact, had been decimated; but the spirit of the men and of the officers was as dauntless as it was on the day on which they sailed from Quebec.

At the commencement of October the first Canadian division crossed the seas, and about the middle of February they went to the front. I suppose that nearly every gentleman in this House had the privilege of seeing that force while it was assembled at Valcartier. In actual warfare they were nearly all untried; so far as military knowledge and experience were concerned, they were new men, men without previous military experience for the most part. They went to the front in February. Perhaps they did not realize that there was to come to them in the very early future a test such as might have daunted the bravest and most experienced veterans. The story has been well told of that great event. It can never be completely told, as hundreds of instances of individual heroism can never be recorded, because the men who know of these incidents and who took part in them lie under the sod in France or in Belgium. To-day let it be enough to remember that, although their trenches were obliterated by artillery fire, although they were assailed by awful methods of warfare hitherto unknown and unused amongst civilized nations, although one of their flanks was exposed, and they were attacked by overwhelming numbers, they never retired except under direct orders, and from first to last they did not lose one Canadian gun. There is therefore little wonder that, when on the afternoon of Sunday, the 25th of April, 1915, two British brigades came forward to pass through their lines and to make a counter attack, these Englishmen, hundreds of whom were going forward to certain death, paused for a moment to cheer their Canadian comrades, and to say "All hail" to Canada. Well did these Canadians merit the tribute universally accorded that but for them the onrush of the Germans might not have been stayed, and that the events of the past year might have been very different from those which we have known. Canada's heart will always be thrilled when the memory of those days is recalled. The same valour, the same determination and the same tenacity char-

acterized the Canadians at Festubert and Givenchy. Our hearts are saddened day by day with the long lists of casualties which come to us; but the spirit of the Canadian people is as firm and as undaunted and the response of the men of Canada is as ready as in the days of August and September of 1914.

Up to the present time we have enlisted in Canada about 310,000 men; and in the period between the first day of January and the 15th day of April more than 100,000 Canadians came forward to do their part in this great struggle. That recital of itself is enough to convince us that the spirit of Canada is as firm and its determination as unshaken as it ever has been since the commencement of this war.

The military organization of this country was unfitted to undertake so great a task as that which has been accomplished; and I am and always have been ready to concede that but for the whole-hearted support of the Canadian people, and but for the splendid spirit which has animated them, men and women alike, since the commencement of the war, it would not have been possible for this Government or for any Government to do what has been achieved.

The anniversary draws nigh; the war still continues. Perhaps a year ago we may have imagined that events would have shaped themselves otherwise and that the situation would be different to-day from that which now confronts us; but, although the task during the past year has made itself manifest as much greater than we contemplated at the beginning of the war, still we are ready with the same response, and in no part of the Empire is there a firmer spirit than in Canada, nowhere a firmer resolve to do our duty to the end. The determination of the people of this country is as inflexible and as unshaken as ever.

We are approaching the anniversary of the day on which the first great test came to the Canadian troops at the front. How shall we honour those who survive? How shall we honour the men, whether in the British islands or in this country, who have rallied to the colours and who are keen and eager in their desire to go to the front and do their part? As for the men who have survived this test, can we better honour the memory of their achievements than by flying upon all the public buildings of Canada and upon all the buildings which are available for that purpose from the Atlantic to the Pacific the flag of our