

tion of this House, and I am sure of this country as well, of the heroic sacrifices which have been made by an ally of Great Britain in this contest—the people of Belgium. It is impossible for any of us in a country such as Canada, which has not experienced the devastating effects of war, to realize the courage, the earnestness, the fortitude, which must have been possessed by the Belgian people to make the fight which they have made so bravely up to the present and which they are continuing to make. I received a telegram only to-day from Mr. Perley, stating what the wonderful resistance made by the Belgian people, who up to the present time have borne the awful brunt of this war, has excited the greatest admiration in the United Kingdom. The feeling which prevails in the mother country in that regard is equally shared by the people of Canada. I hope that the message may be permitted to go forth that the heroic sacrifices that these people have made, and the bravery and fortitude which they have displayed, are realized to the full by this parliament and by the people of this country.

We are sending to the front a contingent of nearly 25,000 of the flower of the youth of Canada. We send them in the full confidence that if they are called upon, as doubtless they will be called upon, to undergo the ordeal of battle, they will prove themselves worthy of their country in the highest sense, and come through the trial with the same distinction as that which has crowned the soldiers of Belgium in this conflict.

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM: I have not, up to the present time, made any observations concerning the seriousness of the session which is now being closed. I assure you, Sir, it has not been because I have not appreciated the situation or been in entire sympathy and hearty accord with everything that has been done, but rather my silence has been due to the fact that time was the essence of the contract at this meeting of the House. We are under conditions and in a situation never before experienced in the history of our young country and possibly never expected by most of us. That Canada has risen to the occasion we are all glad to know, but nothing else was anticipated by us or by the Empire, if it was perhaps by other nations of the world. The history of Canada is not long, but its pages are covered with the record of the bravery of our sons and of their stalwart adherence to British traditions, Bri-

tish usages and British constitutional principles, in cloudy weather as well as in fair weather.

What we, the young sons of Britain, have done in the years gone by, we will do again on the present occasion. I have a personal regret that circumstances are such—and they are very serious circumstances to me—that I shall not have a personal representative in this contingent, as I otherwise would have had. Had Providence dealt with me otherwise I would have had a son in this contingent. I believe I speak for all Canadians when I say that we are not doing this solely as a matter of duty. It is a privilege that we have as British subjects, to show that we are not only loyal and devoted to British institutions, but that we are ready to defend them when attacked. We deem it a privilege to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with those of the motherland who, we believe, in this case, are fighting for a wider extension of that freedom which we enjoy.

We may have our differences, we have had them, all free people have them, but it has gone forth to the world, Sir, to our enemies as well as to our friends, that in the hour of danger, in sight of the foe, Britons are all one from whatever part of the world they come. This is the strength of the British Empire. We cease for the moment to be Irish, to be French, to be Canadians, to be South Africans, to be Australians, to be New Zealanders. We are all these, but we are more: we are one united people, and we stand together as British subjects ready to fight for what we believe to be right and in the interests of humanity.

I just wanted to say these few words, and also to add, in the momentary absence of my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), on behalf of those on this side of the House, that we are in full accord with what the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) has said in recognizing the valour and bravery of the sons of Belgium. Here is a comparatively small country, the neutrality of which was guaranteed by the most solemn obligations, her territory invaded without warning, and her sons urging to the last moment that the neutrality which had been guaranteed should be observed. But when it became apparent that that was not to be, Belgium stood true not only to herself, but to those surrounding her; and to-day I think it is a proud thing for our young Canadians to go and fight side by side with the Belgians. As our sons gave a good