

date. Recently I had a conversation with Col. Ward, who is immediately in touch with the situation in London, and I understood from him that the Canadian Government is to-day paying all the expenses connected with the Canadian Expeditionary Force at present in England, and is paying the men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France, and Belgium, but that there will be certain adjustments of accounts necessary between the Government of Canada and the British Government at a later date covering such items as rations, supplies, and other equipment for the Canadian troops who are actually on the firing line. That matter is not susceptible of calculation and adjustment to-day, but the Canadian Government is responsible for the entire expense of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That means, of course, all the ammunition, all the guns, all the boots and shoes, and all the clothing used by the Canadian soldiers at the front?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Our understanding is that the Canadian Government will pay all, but that an adjustment is necessary and will have to take place later.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: Does that include transportation?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I speak subject to correction by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, but I believe that the Canadian Government has agreed to pay all the cost of transportation also; in other words, we desire to pay the entire cost of the Canadian Expeditionary Force abroad.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of the motion of Mr. Alfred Thompson for an address to His Royal Highness the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, resumed from Monday, January 17.

Hon. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Postmaster-General): Mr. Speaker, it must have been a source of gratification to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden)—it certainly was a source of gratification to his colleagues—to notice the acclaim with which the people of Canada received the announcement made by him at the beginning of the year that half a million Canadian soldiers would be raised to participate in this war for the

[Sir Thomas White.]

vindication of British justice and British freedom. So far, two leaders of the Opposition party have so expressed their views on that announcement that no doubt remains, if ever there was a doubt, about its unanimous endorsement by the whole people of Canada. We already had some indication as to how this announcement had been received by what had appeared in the press of the country. The comments of the leading Liberal journals of Canada proved that the Prime Minister was right in believing that although Canada had been doing her share in the war up to the date of the declaration made by my right hon. friend, Canada was ready to make still further sacrifices to support the cause of the Allies. May I give some citations on this point? *Le Soleil*, of Quebec, after discussing the question of the contribution of Canada to the cause of the Allies, ends an article of the 7th of January, 1916, by saying:

It cannot be decently pretended that this sacrifice—

Meaning the sacrifice of five hundred thousand men.

—is above the forces of Canada; it is a little more than one-eighth of the total male population of the country.

A correspondent wrote to the *Toronto Globe* asking what would George Brown say if he were living and saw the tremendous expense to which this country was put by its participation in this war. The *Globe* answered on the 11th of January:

But on the main issue Sir Robert Borden is right, and the great mass of the people of the Dominion, irrespective of political ties, will endorse his decision. Canada joins with Britain in the declaration made by Premier Asquith on her behalf when he said: "We shall not sheathe the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium has recovered more than she has sacrificed; until France is adequately secured against menace; until the rights of the smaller nationalities have been placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is finally destroyed." If George Brown were here he would say amen to every word in that declaration of the nation's purpose.

In an article which appeared under the signature of my hon. friend from Bonaventure (Mr. Marcell) in the *Montreal Herald* of the 6th of January, I read:

The announcement made by Sir Robert Borden that his government have decided to authorize the enlistment of 500,000 men for overseas service will not be a surprise to the country. It will be a welcome announcement to the Empire and will demonstrate once more that Canadians are in this war in earnest, and that they are decided to leave nothing undone