

the Empire. Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to the valour of our Canadian troops. They have proven their worth in the desperate fighting on the West Front and shown themselves worthy to fight alongside the veterans of France and England. They have met the much vaunted Prussian Guard and at Ypres, Festubert, St. Eloi, Zillebeke and the Somme, have shown their superiority.

When I heard, Sir, the eloquent tribute of the Prime Minister to the late Colonel Harry Baker, I thought it should not rest there, but that this House should recognize, in a fitting memorial, the fact that he was the first member of the House of Commons, to make the supreme sacrifice in this great struggle.

Coming from the part of Canada that I do, I think I am justified in speaking of the courage and sacrifice of our troops. There are ten military districts in Canada and the one from which I come has furnished nearly twenty-five per cent of the enlistments. From my own constituency of Wentworth over 3,000 men have joined the colours and nearly as many more have volunteered but failed to pass the rigid examination. We have paid the price in the loss of scores of our best and bravest, but our people are undaunted and are giving, and will continue to give, in men and money to the utmost of our resources. In my constituency, the county insures the life of every soldier from our county funds, we give four thousand dollars a month from the same source to the patriotic funds and the voluntary contributions exceed even this amount. In addition large sums have been subscribed to the Belgian Relief, the Red Cross Society and Sailors Aid. In a three days' campaign held last week for the city of Hamilton and Wentworth Patriotic Fund the sum of \$500,000 was aimed at and about \$700,000 raised. The chairman of this Fund received a cheque for \$5,000 from a Cleveland firm, accompanied by these words: "We feel sure that most Americans realize that Britain and her Allies are fighting the battle of civilization and it is as much our cause as any one's"—a practical and true expression of the American people.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to the splendid spirit of Canadian womanhood. No greater courage has been shown by our troops in France, than has been shown by their mothers, wives and sisters at home—working, waiting, praying. Their's is the hardest part.

[Mr. G. C. Wilson.]

With us they are all at work—in the patriotic societies, in munition plants, in caring for the wounded and invalided who have returned. Canada's part in the war has been great and glorious, and no factor contributed more to this result than the courageous women of our country.

This country must deal justly and generously with the men, and the dependents of the men, who have fought our fight in this great war. The revised scale of pensions made by a joint committee last session has, I believe, been generally found satisfactory. In the treatment and care of returned soldiers great advances have been made, and the experience gained in the early stages of the war has been utilized to the best advantage. It is a great problem, the care and rehabilitation of those who have suffered. They must be dealt with generously, and fitted for a return to civil life, educated and instructed for suitable occupations. I understand the Government has prepared a land settlement policy that will give occupation to those who wish to engage in agricultural pursuits, and that they have consulted with the provincial governments to this end. But placing the returned soldier on the land is not alone sufficient. He must be protected and encouraged until his success is assured. These men who have served the Empire have given years of their lives, have sacrificed positions and business, have made such an abrupt break in their usual vocations that they must start life over again. They and the dependents of those who have fallen are the wards of the nation, and as the nation deals with them, so in a great measure, will a strong and enduring patriotic spirit be maintained in this country. Where education to fit men for new occupations is necessary, it must be given to them. There must not now, nor in the years to come, be permitted any case of a man who served and suffered, or the dependent of one who made the supreme sacrifice, being pointed out as an object of charity. This country must keep faith with its defenders.

Speaking for my own district, I can say that we welcomed the steps taken by the Government to secure a national stock-taking of the man power and natural resources of the country. From the splendid reception accorded the Prime Minister in his long tour across the continent advocating this proposal, I feel convinced that all Canada welcomed such an innovation. That it is necessary is evidenced by the action