

why I should not change, but still stand true to the professions of my whole life. But it has been clear to all the pacifists in the world; to the Radicals of England; to the Labor party of England; to the Radicals, nay, to all classes, in France; to the Radicals of Italy, that in face of the avowed intention of Germany to dominate the world, in face of their blatant assumptions and complacent belief in being the "superman," in face of their brutal assertions that force, and force alone, was the only law—it was clear, I say, to all pacifists that nothing would avail but such a victory as would crush forever from the minds of the German authorities the belief in atrocious theories and monstrous doctrines. (Cheers.)

LIBERALS' ENDEAVOR TO AVOID PARTY STRIFE.—

"Hence it was that when war broke out those of us who were entrusted with the confidence of the Liberals of our country had no hesitation in declaring that it was the duty of Canada to assist to the full extent of her power the mother country in her supreme task of maintaining civilization by resort to arms. In this conviction we acted together as members of the party, and pledged support to all war measures. It was no time for mere party strife. Yet occasionally—yes, more than once—we were confronted by measures brought forward by the Government so vicious in principle, so grievous in effect, that we could not be true to those we represent and ourselves if we permitted them to pass without taking the position of irreducible objection.

DISAPPOINTED IN GOVERNMENT.—

"Liberalism at the outbreak of the war had deemed it a duty to abandon party considerations and to endeavor to assist the Government. "We expected and hoped the Government would realize the new conditions created by the war, and would set itself with earnestness and consecration to the great tasks before it. But in this we, and the people of Canada, have been to a large extent disappointed." (Cries of Hear, Hear.)

REHOBAM'S ANSWER GIVEN.—

"Sir Wilfrid recalled how Mr. R. L. Borden in Opposition had stated that an annual expenditure of sixty millions suggested corruption, yet, under his regime, the annual expenditure had mounted year by year till it had reached one hundred and thirty-six millions. The answer of the Borden government to appealing people was the answer of King Rehoboam to the subjects who asked a reduction of the burdens laid upon them by his father. His answer was: "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father hath chastized you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

NOW TIME IF EVER TO GET RID OF PATRONAGE PLAGUE.—

"If patronage had been eliminated from the Budget of this year, from the estimates of this year, it would have made an appreciable reduction. The patronage was there—patronage is a ubiquitous, omnipresent, omnivorous rover, devouring anything, everything in which there is any public money. It has a voracious, insatiable appetite. Patronage is a plague, and if ever there was a time to be done with it, it is this calamitous time in which we are now living, in which everybody should be determined to have the biggest possible economy, the greatest possible reduction in the burden of the people.

STRENUOUS TIMES DEMAND THE STRICTEST ECONOMY.—

"In the meanwhile let me again repeat that we must win this war. We have made every possible sacrifice, and we are ready to do more if need be. We have assisted, we have sent our boys to the front where they have fought on the battlefields of Europe and on the soil of France with the same bravery which characterized their ancestors. They have shown that the blood which flows through their veins is still the same as that which was poured upon the soil of France. (Cheers.)

BRITISH INSTITUTIONS THE BEST YET.—

"I ask you if anything has taken place in this war to lead any man to the conclusion that Britain has erred in her policy of anti-militarism, or of maintaining as her objects in life the arts of peace, which have led her where she is to-day? Is Britain in the wrong? For my part, more than ever I am a believer in British institutions such as they came to us by our ancestors, from those who made Britain and the British Empire. (Cheers.) Does anyone imagine that if Great Britain had adopted the German system she would have displayed the same power she has since the beginning of contest? Does anyone suppose that if Britain had adopted the German system, and had taken every generation year after year as they came of military age and removed those young men from the farm, from the shop, from the professions, from schools and universities, and placed them in camps and barracks, and taxed the rest of the nation to keep them under the charge of the Drill Sergeant, non-producing—does anyone believe that England would have been able to stand the strain of spending \$25,000,000 every day to finance not only her own part, but Russia, Italy, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and that on a gold basis, out of her own resources? The answer by contrast is that Germany to-day has been obliged to have recourse to a paper currency, which is every day depreciating.

MILITARISM MUST GO.—

"Prussia has dominated the German Empire, and it is an admitted fact that Prussia impregnated Germany with that abominable lust of conquest which is now desolating the world. Prussia is the creator of the system of militarism. The first King of Prussia, Frederick William, invented the system. It has been extended again and again by his successors, but it has not produced peace. On the contrary, more than one-half of the wars which have desolated Europe in the last hundred and fifty years are due to Prussian militarism.

CONFLICT OF THESE IDEAS HAD TO COME.—

"Between these two ideas there had to come a conflict, and the conflict came. We are in it to-day? I ask you how shall it end? Sir, how it shall end is not now a question. (Loud cheers.) Without haste, without undue exultation, with calm and confidence, with clenched fist and teeth, British subjects all over the world are determined that this conflict shall end in victory. (Loud cheers.) But after victory comes the problem. That will be the question. What will follow? Shall we suppose that the old ideals, the old theories, which have made England and the British Empire what they are, shall it be supposed that the theories and the notions shall be thrown aside and a new military England and Empire be substituted for the old? Shall we have to say at the close of the war that the old England is not the same?

LET BRITAIN BE TRUE TO THE PAST.—

"For my part, British Liberal as I am—(Cheers)—I do not know what the future may bring, but I have no hesitation in stating what my aspirations and hopes for British Liberalism may be. Let Britain remain true to the glorious past. (Loud cheers.) Let her be in the future, as in the past, in the van of progress to that higher civilization which is now on trial, but which we hope to see, nay, are confident of seeing, emerge from the ordeal of blood and fire victorious, more glorious and more beneficent than ever. (Loud cheers.)

"I repeat, sir, this war has got to be fought to a finish. So it is that firmly, resolutely, we go on until victory is won. But then, let the better angels of our nature guide our course. There are many speculations now as to what should be our relations with Germany after the war. Sir, this is an idle question at the present time. It will depend on the extent of our victory. At all events, if the victory be great or small, and I repeat that I think it ought to be great and thorough, it is not revenge that we are seeking. It is simple justice and freedom for the rest of Europe. (Cheers.)