

tion determinedly and fearlessly. We recognized that Canada was British to the core, and we believed then, as we believe now, that all loyal Canadians would indorse our every action in taking the necessary steps to aid in the protection of our Empire and securing victory for her flag and our flag. We recognized that in such a crisis assistance promptly given was doubly valuable and therefore acted without a moment's delay.

Taking that proper position which Canada, the great colony of the Empire, should occupy—that of being the first to lead in our offer of assistance to the motherland—not only did we act quickly, but we felt there should be no two opinions in Canada that we should act generously and rely upon the support of the people to indorse our generous measures of assistance. It is quite true that Canada was not prepared for war. We are not a warlike people. We are a great industrial, peace-loving people.

It is, however, undoubtedly true that we should have been better prepared than we were, and had the feelings and policy which you represent been allowed to prevail, we would have been much better prepared than we were. But on that score the government have no apologies to make. They believed that there was danger. They believed that danger was grave and serious, hence our naval proposals, as made to parliament, which were there met with the following argument made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "I charge upon