

French Government. But in the appalling stress and pressure of affairs which confront the Government of France at the present time, the British Government have not been able to obtain an answer to their own request, and so we have not been able to obtain an answer to ours. But I thought it desirable that I should here publicly state that the Government of Canada, with the approval of Parliament which I am sure will not be withheld, are prepared to establish, equip and maintain, in Paris or elsewhere, a hospital making provision for fifty beds for the comfort of those who may be wounded in the war."

Concluding his speech, the Premier said:

"It is not fitting that I should prolong this debate. In the awful dawn of the greatest war the world has ever known, in the hour when peril confronts us such as this empire has not faced for a hundred years, every vain or unnecessary word seems a discord. As to our duty, all are agreed; we stand shoulder to shoulder with Britain and the other British dominions in this quarrel. And that duty we shall not fail to fulfil as the honour of Canada demands. Not for love of battle, not for lust of conquest, not for greed of possessions, but for the cause of honour, to maintain solemn pledges, to uphold principles of liberty, to withstand forces that would convert the world into an armed camp; yea, in the very name of the peace that we sought at any cost save that of dishonour, we have entered into this war; and while gravely conscious of the tremendous issues involved and of all the sacrifices that they may entail, we do not shrink from them, but with firm hearts we abide the event."

THE WAR TAXATION.

At a subsequent stage in the proceedings of parliament, the Prime Minister explained that the special vote of \$50,000,000 was required for an additional outlay on the defence and security of Canada, the conduct of military and naval operations in or beyond Canada, promoting the continuance of trade, industry and business communications whether by means of insurance or indemnity against war risk or otherwise, and the carrying out of any measures deemed necessary or advisable by the Governor-in-Council in consequence of the existence of a state of war. It was thought that of this amount there might be a possible expenditure of \$6,000,000 on Naval service account, exclusive of the submarines purchased at a cost of \$1,150,000. On military outlays, including cost of mobilization and the Canadian overseas contingent, the estimated expenditure for the ensuing seven months was put at \$30,000,000. It was explained that the troops to be sent over seas as the Canadian contingent would constitute the equivalent of an Army Division, to form part of the Imperial forces, and be subject to the orders of the Imperial authorities. In all, the numbers would equal about 21,000 men. This force was being mobilized at Valcartier, Quebec. In addition to the force being sent overseas, it was the intention of the Government to have a certain number of the active militia on active service for the defence of Canada at Atlantic, Pacific and other points.

The New Duties Imposed.

Hon. W. T. White, the Finance Minister, explained that he proposed to partially meet the special war expenditure by increasing the rates of duties of Customs and Excise upon coffee, sugar, spirits and tobacco.

The following tables give, in barest outline, the increases proposed, and which have since gone into effect, and the amounts which according to the Minister's view, would be raised in additional revenue from these sources..

Article.	Amount of Increase of Customs Duty.		Increase of Revenue Expected.
	Under British Preference.	Under General Tariff.	
Green coffee.....	.02½ per lb.	.03 per lb.	\$ 500,000
Raw sugar— (testing 75 degrees)	.63 per 100 lbs.	.80 per 100 lbs.	
Raw sugar— (testing 96 degrees)	.63 per 100 lbs.	.80 per 100 lbs.	} 5,000,000
Refined sugar.....	.80 per 100 lbs.	\$1.00 per 100 lbs.	
Refined sugar— (testing 99 degrees)	½ cent per lb.	.01 per lb.	} 2,500,000
Whiskey, brandy, gin and other distilled spirits.....	.60 per gallon	
Cigars, cigarettes— (specific rate).....	.50 per lb.	200,000
			\$5,200,000

Article.	Amount of Increase Excise Duty.	Increase of Revenue Expected.
Spirits.....	.50 per gallon	\$6,600,000
Malt liquor.....	.05 per gallon	
Malt.....	.01½ per lb.	
Cigars.....	\$1.00 per thousand	
Manufactured tobacco.....	.05 per lb.	

These increases, if realized, would make a total additional revenue of \$14,800,000 within a year, or about \$7,000,000 during the remainder of the present fiscal year. This, the Minister explained, left over \$36,000,000 to be provided by borrowing. Of this \$15,000,000 would be raised as free money borrowed from Canadians upon the Dominion's credit, through the legislation amending the Dominion Notes Act, and loans for the balance would be issued as opportunity offered.

Alternatives Suggested for Consideration.

In accordance with the declaration of the Leader of the Opposition at the outset, that objection would not be offered to measures which the Government proposed, exception was not taken by the Opposition in any party division to the proposals of the Finance Minister. At the same time, members of the Opposition did not hesitate to strongly urge upon the Government alternative methods of raising taxation which they believed, existing conditions being what they are, and what they promise to become, the Government should adopt. Dr. Michael Clark, M. P., expressed a point of view which was emphasized by several other speakers on the Liberal side, and which voiced the attitude of the Opposition when he said: