

of these citizens, with very few exceptions, has been exemplary; and I hope it will be realized that having invited them to become citizens of this country, we owe to them, in the trying circumstances in which they are placed, the duty of fairness and consideration. The vast majority of them, breathing the freer atmosphere of this Dominion, do not especially appreciate the military system of their native land. They and their descendants will become good citizens of this country and co-operate with us in upbuilding and developing it.

Thirty thousand Canadians now on Salisbury Plain will soon be at the front and fifty thousand more are in training in Canada. As fresh contingents go forward, further forces will be enlisted so long as the need continues. In this great testing time, Canada has made known to the Empire and to the world her true spirit. It has animated the men who are flocking in thousands to do their part; it has equally inspired the women who in every city, village and hamlet are busy in manifold activities for aid and solace wherever needed. The magnificently generous response of Montreal to every appeal for patriotic purposes has already spoken for itself, but I may be permitted to testify my warm appreciation.

We cannot yet foresee the end of this conflict, but there can be only one conclusion, however long delayed. To overthrow the most powerful and highly organized system of militarism that ever existed must necessarily entail a terrible and perhaps a protracted struggle. We have not glorified war or sought to depart from the paths of peace; but our hearts are firm and united in an inflexible determination that the cause for which we have drawn the sword shall be maintained to an honourable and triumphant issue.