

## RECRUITING SPEECH BY LIEUT.-COL. GEO. H. BRADBURY, M.P.

world ever produced fighting side by side with the other British troops in the trenches. And at the famous battle of St. Julien the Canadian troops blocked the German advance, but at great sacrifice, and, as Sir John French said, saved the day to the British and allied troops. This gallant conduct of our men makes every Canadian proud of those who have crossed the seas to fight for our flag. While these great battles are being fought thousands of miles away from our shores, we are just as much interested in the result as though we were fighting on our boundary line to keep an enemy out. We must realize, as I am sure most of us do, that we are fighting on the plains of Flanders for our very existence as part of the British Empire, and that until we can say we have furnished our last man and spent our last available dollar, we cannot truthfully say that we have done our full duty in defence of our liberties.

Are we lagging behind? We boast of being the brightest gem in His Majesty's crown. Are we entitled to this honor? If we wish to hold our place we must wake up and make greater efforts to supply fighting men than we have already done.

Australia, with about half of our population, has 126,000 men on the firing line and has furnished a magnificent fleet unit that has done noble work on the seas.

France has no soldier for every ten of her population, including women and children. Great Britain has already one soldier for every fifteen of her population. Canada, a country of young men, has, up to date, only one soldier for every forty of her population.

So, while we are proud of what we have already done, we must realize that our sacrifice is not by any means complete. We have 100,000 more men in training and ready for the field, but we ought to have, within the next year, at least **500,000 men on the firing line**—and we can do it.

The fact is there must be no limit to what Canada will do to save the Empire. We must realize that everything we have under heaven in this great Canada of ours depends entirely on the perpetuation of the power and the prestige of the British flag.

I am not going to say a single word in disparagement of the German people as a people. They are a great people and have great qualities of head and heart. I believe, in spite of recent horrible events, that there is a great store of kindness in the German peasant, but, unfortunately, he has been schooled and drilled into a false idea of civilization. His civilization is efficient; it is capable, it is powerful, but it is cruel and heartless. They cannot comprehend the action of

Great Britain today. They say—France we can understand; she is fighting for vengeance, she wants territory, she wants to win back Alsace and Lorraine. They can understand Russia—she is fighting for mastery; she wants Galicia.

They can understand fighting for vengeance, they can understand fighting for greed of territory, but they cannot understand a great nation like Britain fighting for **honor**, pledging its resources, pledging its might, pledging its very existence, to protect a little nation like Belgium that seeks to defend its honor.

God made man in His own image, high of purpose and noble of character. The German civilization would re-create him in the image of a machine, precise, accurate, powerful, cruel, but with no room for the soul to operate.

Why is Great Britain involved? There is no man cognizant of the facts that is not convinced that Great Britain could not have avoided war without national dishonor.

I know many a crime has been committed and is being committed today in the sacred name of honor. All the same, private and national honor is a reality, and nations that disregard it are doomed.

Then why is Britain's honor involved in this war? Because, in the first place, we are bound by honorable obligations to defend the independence, the liberty, the integrity of a small nation that has tried to live at peace with the world.

Belgium could not have compelled us to fulfil our obligation. She was small and weak in comparison with Great Britain. But the man or nation that declines to discharge an obligation because his creditor is too poor or too weak to enforce it is a contemptible coward in the eyes of his fellow men. We entered into a solemn treaty in 1831 to defend Belgium and her integrity. Britain's signatures are attached to that treaty. Her signatures do not stand there alone. Britain was not the only country that pledged herself at that time to defend the integrity of Belgium. Russia, France, Austria and Prussia were all pledged on the same document.

Then why is Austria and Prussia not performing their obligations under this bond? Germany suggests that when we quote this treaty it is purely an excuse on the part of Great Britain, it is low craft and cunning to cloak our jealousy of a superior civilization which we are now endeavoring to destroy.

Our answer to this is Britain's action in 1870. What was that? The great Gladstone was then premier of Great Britain and Lord Granville was foreign secretary, and they realized the honor of Britain was at stake. The treaty made in 1831 bound Great Britain then,

as it does now. She did not shirk her obligations then; she called upon France and Prussia, the belligerent powers, to respect it. At that time the danger for Belgium came from France and not from Prussia. Great Britain intervened to protect Belgium from France at that time, as she did a year ago to protect her against Germany.

Britain proceeded in exactly the same way in both cases. She invited both belligerent powers to agree that they had no intention of violating Belgium territory. In 1870, when Great Britain made this request, Germany, through its great chancellor, Bismarck, stated it was superfluous to ask Germany such a question in view of the treaty she had signed (Germany's code of honor has changed materially since). France gave a similar answer. Great Britain received the thanks of Belgium at that time for her kindly interventions. Here is a document addressed by Belgium to Queen Victoria:

**"The great and noble people, over whose destinies you preside, has just given a further proof of its benevolent sentiments towards our country. The voice of the English nation has been heard above the din of arms, and it has asserted the principles of justice and right. Next to the unalterable attachment of the Belgian people to their independence, the strongest sentiments that fill their hearts is that of imperishable gratitude to England."**

Mark what followed a few days after Great Britain had intervened and secured the pledge that Belgium territory would not be violated. A French army was wedged up against Belgium territory, every means of escape shut off by a ring of flame from Prussian guns. Yes, there was one way of escape. What was that? By violating the neutrality of Belgium. The French army could have escaped by crossing the Belgium boundary. But France preferred ruin and humiliation at the hands of the Prussians rather than break her bond with Belgium, and the French emperor, with a hundred thousand men, surrendered themselves to the Prussians sooner than violate her bond by crossing into Belgium territory. **All honor to France.**

Today conditions are reversed. It is Germany's interest to break the treaty which she has done without the slightest compunction. She proclaims to the world the damnable doctrines that treaties should only be kept when they are in the interest of the state. "The German chancellor of today asks: 'What is a treaty?'" And answers his own question by saying it is only a scrap of paper to be honored only when it is in the interest of the state to do so.

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