

people, of a million bags of flour, may I add that during the past week we have been in correspondence with Mr. Perley with a view to offering to the Government of France, if they should desire to accept it, a hospital of fifty beds which we will be prepared to acquire, equip and maintain. The proposal has been put forward through Mr. Perley, as High Commissioner, who had been instructed to ascertain the wishes of the French Government with regard thereto. I believe a similar proposition has been made by the British Government to the French Government. But, in the appalling stress and pressure of affairs which confront the Government of France at present 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.

The leader of the Opposition has alluded to the uncertainty of human events, and particularly events such as are before us in the great war which now confronts the Empire. True, the future is shrouded in uncertainty, but I believe that the people of Canada look forth upon it with steadfast eyes. But, let me say that while we are now upborne by the exaltation and enthusiasm which come in the first days of a national crisis, so great that it moves the hearts of all men, we must not forget that days may come when our patience, our endurance and our fortitude will be tried to the utmost. In those days let us see to it that no heart grow faint and that no courage be found wanting. I was very much touched by the words of a despatch which came in only an hour ago—these despatches are sent to us from hour to hour. It shows a spirit which later we may need to emulate when perhaps tidings shall come to us that those of our best and our dearest who have gone to the front have fallen in battle. I will read the words of the despatch, which are very simple and direct:

Paris, August 19, 11.10 a.m.—A woman with four sons in the French army to-day walked slowly down the steps of one of the municipal offices where relatives are officially informed whether soldiers are dead, wounded or unreported. She was exceedingly white, but

her emotion was greater than could be expressed in tears. A friend came up quickly and said: 'Have you good news? I am so glad my Jean is safe.' 'Yes, they are all safe,' was the reply; 'they are safe in the arms of the Father; I am proud to give all to the cause.'

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.

Motion agreed to.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN moved:

That the said address be engrossed and be presented to His Royal Highness the Governor General by such members of this House as are of the Honourable the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

On motion of Hon. W. T. White (Minister of Finance), it was ordered that the House on Thursday next go into Committee to consider the Ways and Means to raise the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.

#### SUPPLY.

On motion of Hon. W. T. White (Minister of Finance) it was ordered that the House on Thursday next go into Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.

#### WAR MEASURES BILL.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Might I ask my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) if it will be convenient and agreeable to him to take up now the resolution which stands in the name of Mr. Doherty for the purpose of