

WITH SACRIFICE AND EFFORT VICTORY ASSURED

NO COMPULSORY SERVICE FOR THIS COUNTRY

Premier Borden Says No Thought of Conscription.

CANADA HAS DONE HER PART NOBLY

Martime Provinces, Slow at First, Now Showing up well in Recruiting.

(Continued from page 1)

complete victory is won, to the fullest extent of all their resources. (Cheers.) Sir Wilfrid would have liked to see Canada absolutely unanimous, absolutely and determinedly of one mind, in this resolve. He regretted that a small minority calling themselves Nationalists in his native province had demoted themselves and their country by the circulation of untruths to the effect that Canada's participation in the war was under pressure from the motherland. "I hold no brief for the government," proceeded Sir Wilfrid, "but I was fifteen years in office and I know that the relations which have and do exist between the Imperial and Canadian governments. I know the spirit that actuates both, and I say that there is no foundation for such an assertion—and I know whereof I speak."

Sir Robert Borden—"Hear, hear." What we have done we have done deliberately, voluntarily, gladly," continued Sir Wilfrid amid cheers. "Not from any sentiment of compulsion but because we thought that, as British subjects, as those who have been enjoying and still enjoy the benefits of British freedom, we owe it to ourselves to sacrifice of our treasure, of our blood in order to maintain British institutions and freedom in the world."

Scathingly Sir Wilfrid dealt with the agitation of the Nationalists. He recalled that there had been a line of cleavage between Premier Borden and himself as to the procedure Canada had adopted when Britain was called upon to fight. The premier had held that such forces should be despatched upon the declaration of war. He had held that parliament should determine action. This was a difference in viewpoint and Sir Wilfrid recalled it only to mark "the infinity of the reproach of servility levelled at us by those men."

He would remind them that there was the most dangerous kind of servility, the servility to passion and prejudice. "And if today," Sir Wilfrid exclaimed, "there is servility anywhere, it is not with those who have taken the attitude which we maintained and will maintain in this House, but it is with those who, blinded by passion and prejudice, would deny us the liberty of being humane and generous, would deny us the liberty of following the instincts and the promptings of our hearts and our minds and our consciences; would deny us the liberty, while we see France threatened with dismemberment, when we see Belgium actually under foot of the conqueror, would deny us the liberty of helping in the defence of France and of Belgium. Not, sir, because they hate France, but because we cannot in this way help France and Belgium without at the same time helping Britain. Away with such sophistry. It is nothing but an attempt to conceal the hostility of empty minds."

Sir Wilfrid scornfully repelled the

Nationalists claim that Canada had no interest in the war. With Canada the interest was vital. "Not only that," exclaimed Sir Wilfrid, "I will go further. There is not today a civilized nation in the world that has not an interest in this war."

Germany's Aim World Domination. "Should German triumph," declared Sir Wilfrid amid an outburst of cheering, "there would be nations that would rue the day of their indifference and supineness." Germany's purpose was not alone European domination. It was world domination.

Sir Wilfrid pleaded for a unified, determined, resolute Empire—an Empire which would see the great job through German militarism must be completely crushed. Then the world might look for an era of peace, for disarmament, and for an approach to the ideal condition of the brotherhood of man. "Germany cannot have complete victory," declared the Liberal leader, "as to that there cannot be any shadow of doubt."

The only problem in my mind is as to the extent of our victory. If we have only half a victory then Germany would be humiliated, but would still be defiant. She would continue her armaments. She would continue her dreams of domination."

Canada must take her part in the sacrifice entailed by the determination to make the victory a complete one. "This is our interest—the interest of every Briton—in the war. Our action is based upon the primary condition that we must be free or we must lose our freedom. Upon that our choice is made."

Sir Wilfrid referred to the premier's New Year announcement that Canada would undertake to raise 500,000 men. "I put aside today," said he, "the question as to whether this premature statement of my right honorable friend was exactly on the lines of constitutional government. I shall be prepared, and my friends around me will be prepared, to discuss in the spirit in which all such propositions should be discussed, the proposition which the government deem essential to carry on the struggle in which we are engaged."

Sir Wilfrid had words of caution and counsel for the finance minister. At the rate in which Canada was piling up debt there must be the wisest and most judicious economy in every branch of the service. For himself he felt that between twenty and thirty millions of the estimates of last session were unnecessary at the present time. "I have been in office," commented Sir Wilfrid, "and I know something of the importunities which confront the government. In times of peace many of these luxury expenditures may be legitimately made, but I feel that it is the duty of the government today to preach to the Canadian people economy in public service and in private expenditures." He regretted that the speech from the throne contained no such counsel and assurance.

Sir Wilfrid was also disappointed that there was no mention in the address of the abnormal action of the government in commandeering wheat in the elevators. In time of war the government had the right to take unusual methods if they were taken on the ground of military necessity. The government had issued an official statement that the action was taken at the request of the British authorities, but the following day the British government had issued a statement that it had made no such request and had no knowledge on the subject. There had been no attempt to explain that serious discrepancy.

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Sir Wilfrid stated frankly the position of the opposition in relation to the conduct of public affairs. "We feel today," said he, "perhaps more than ever the serious responsibility which has always pertained to an opposition, and which in this time of war is more than ever pressing. It would be part of that duty to criticize, and a far more pleasant duty to support wherever and whatever there is just cause to support. Our sole aim will be to contribute, so far as is in our power, to the final and complete victory of the Allies over Germany."

"Our supreme aspiration," said Sir Wilfrid, in concluding, "is that Belgium shall again be free and prosperous as she was, if it be possible that, as she was in view of the awful destruction she has suffered. It is also our aim that France shall have her lost territory and her natural boundaries restored. And that England shall retain unimpaired, undiminished as ever her prestige and her power in the world. It is our aim that both England and France shall resume as early as possible their normal position and ward the future enfranchisement of the human race from the shackles of passion and prejudice, and that in weakened Germany democracy may be triumphant and that every German people sobered from their dreams of conquest and domination, may return to the past of peace and benevolence which at one time characterized their race."

(Prolonged applause from both sides of the house.)

Sir Robert Replies.

Sir Robert Borden at the outset of his speech replied to the observations of the leader of the opposition in regard to the amount of last year's estimates. They had been passed, he stated, on the understanding that no new works would be undertaken during the war, unless of a most urgent character, and that was the policy which had been carried out. Not only was this the case, but the government had even considered staying construction on works already under contract, and if the urgency of future conditions should ever render it necessary would not hesitate to adopt such a course.

The Prime Minister then took up the matter of the government's action in commandeering wheat for the Allies, also a topic for discussion by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. "The Right Honorable Leader of the opposition stated that he had no objection to the government's action, but that he had no charge to make, it might have been in better taste not to refer to any charge at all." The prime minister stated that the government's action was not a matter of procedure, but a matter of necessity. The wheat commandeered had been moved out of the country, and the question arose whether the matter deserved congratulation, rather than criticism.

No Reason to Be Down Hearted

Turning to the subject of war Sir Robert stated it could not be denied that the Premier favored that policy of conciliating with the Russian retirement in the eastern theatre, the failure of the Dardanelles project, the entry of Bulgaria into the war and the over-running of Serbia and Montenegro. But to one who looked below the surface there appeared no ground for discouragement. The Allies had held the enemy in the west, and secured time for preparation, and that was one of the essential factors of the war. There had been a great number of the numbers and resources of the Allied nations vastly exceeded those of the enemy, and that a fleet which alone outweighed every military advantage which Germany had so far gained. Sir Robert paid a high tribute to the valor of the Russian army which, fighting almost without arms and munitions, had defeated the German plan for the capture of Russia. He had every confidence and hope that the Russian offensive, recently begun, would ultimately succeed.

The prime minister then dwelt upon the enormous task of providing munitions for an army twenty times greater than the Empire had ever contemplated sending into the field. Time had been lost, but it was surprising that it was so little. Our own task in Canada had been, perhaps, even greater, comparatively, than that of Great Britain, because we had lacked officers to train our men.

"I am making no boast for the government, but claiming credit for the people of this country," asserted Sir Robert, "that without distinction of race or creed they came to our assistance in every possible way. It serves to indicate that the races which make up Canada are animated by the same lofty spirit of patriotism as animated their forefathers."

The Premier gave some figures regarding Canadian enlistment since the war began. In the first two weeks of the present month, 8,000 men had been enlisted. Since parliament proposed, on April 15th last, \$9,250,000 had been sent across the Atlantic. Altogether, 120,000 had been sent to

the front, and 250,000 had been under arms, in one capacity or another, since the war began.

Sir Robert Borden then detailed the steps by which the authorized total of Canadian forces had been periodically increased, till on New Year's Day, it was 500,000 men. The leader of the opposition had said that this was a large position, and it was, but Canada was fighting this war as a unit of the British Empire, and he would like it to be remembered that Great Britain herself proposed to raise four million men, while 250,000 more were now in the British navy. The Prime Minister said he realized that 500,000 men was a large force and he realized, further, that the national strength of Canada must be maintained. It was necessary to have regard to the agricultural and industrial resources of the country, and the government would have regard to them. It had seemed to him, however, that on the first day of January, 1916, in view of all the developments that had taken place, it might be well while to announce to the world that Canada was not only prepared, but willing to do something more than she had done. As for recruiting the response had been good. It was true that at first the maritime provinces and Quebec had been a little slow in this regard but from information just received he could say that the movement there was now all that could be desired. In this connection he wished to pay tribute to the French-Canadian fighting in France. The names that occurred to him at the time were those of Papineau, Barre, Dansereau and Roy. He had heard of no more heroic deed than that of Major Roy, who had died to save his men from danger.

No Conscription.

Sir Robert dealt with Sir Wilfrid's reference to conscription. During the first few months of the war, he said, he had made it clear in Canada that he proposed no conscription and he repeated it now. As regards attempts made to convince American citizens that they ran a danger of conscription if they settled in Canada, the Premier asserted that he did not think it would affect them greatly since they had been as eager to do their part in this war as the native citizens of Canada.

After referring briefly to the appointment of the War Purchasing Commission, Economic and Development and Military Hospital Committees since the last session, Sir Robert spoke of his last summer's visit to Great Britain with particular reference to the extent to which British manufacturers of munitions had been increased. Great Britain would soon be able to produce in a week what she could formerly have accumulated laboriously in four months and the larger sums to be had in Great Britain at the beginning of the war were now the smallest being sent to the front. In Canada some 250 factories were now making munitions; the value of the value of \$200,000,000 worth of shells had been sent overseas, half the payments having been financed by Canada for the British government. The question arose why Canada was not doing more. The reasons was to be found in the fact that though empty shell bodies could be turned out in great numbers there were certain delicate parts of the successful manufacture of which had been found in Great Britain sometimes to involve three years preparation.

Sir Robert told of the success which had attended the efforts of the government to secure transports to carry goods to fill War Office orders to England. In February last, arrangements were made with the Admiralty for regular sailings by sixteen ships. That number had been increased to forty, of which twenty sailed in winter from Halifax and twenty from St. John, N. B. Besides the government had secured a number of the most modern service of a good many ships which had been taken over by the Admiralty. Sir Robert paid a tribute to the

MARRIED.

COMEAU-HUGHES—In this city, on the 17th instant, Miss Mildred Hughes, daughter of Jas. F. Hughes, formerly of P. E. I. to Joseph C. ComEAU, son of Chas. C. ComEAU, of Bathurst, by Rev. Father Bourgeois.

DIED.

HOWARD—In this city on the 16th inst., J. William Howard, leaving a wife and eight children, to mourn the loss of a loving father and kind husband. Notice of funeral later.

FOLKINS—At the residence of his daughter, Mrs. George Ashlock, Centre Point, Iowa, on the 29th Dec., Peter Parlee Folkins of Millstream, N. B., in the 90th year of his age. He leaves three sons, three daughters and one brother. Funeral services were held Jan. 15. Interment was in Centre Point cemetery.

TAIT—In this city, on the 15th inst., William Tait, aged forty-three, son of the late James and Elizabeth Tait of this city. Funeral from the residence of his brother-in-law, Jeremiah Damery, 55 Richmond street, Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Friends invited to attend. Boston papers please copy.

HOLDER—On the 16th inst., at the residence of her son, George H. Holder, 24 Rodney street, west end, Mrs. Deborah A. Holder, widow of Captain Charles H. Holder, aged eighty-six years. Funeral on Tuesday from her son's residence at 2:30 p.m.

brave, self-reliant and determined spirit of the French people and to the strong feeling in Great Britain. He spoke of the exploits of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and of the Canadian Division, which he had been told, had saved the Allied armies by its stand at Tynon.

No Doubt of Success

"There is no doubt as to what the issue of this war will be," he said, "if we in Canada are animated by the same spirit which animates these men." "I believe that we have still a long way to go before we see the end of this war."

He felt that as a result of the conflict, "the strong elements of the Canadian nation will learn the better to understand each other and through that understanding will be welded into a more splendid unity than ever before."

Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, who continued the debate at the evening sitting, commented upon the reference made to last season's countful crops in the speech from the throne. He said that the farmers had done their duty, and that Providence had smiled of their efforts, but that the government had done its best to thwart both Providence and the farmers by failing to secure a market in the United States for Canadian grain. Dr. Clark congratulated the government upon its interpretation of the mind of the people in regard to holding or not holding a general election, as indicated by the announcement that a resolution providing for the extension of the parliamentary term would be presented.

After referring to the purchase of alleged "equine Methusalems" in Nova Scotia, Dr. Clark declared that the people would not stand for any diversion to the pockets of individuals of money which should be devoted to the killing of Germans and the termination of the war.

George Ross of Shellic was at the Royal yesterday.

A. G. Steeves of Moncton was in the city yesterday.

G. W. Reitz and F. O. Linton of Truro were at the Royal last night.

G. S. Kinnear of Sussex was a guest of the Dufferin.

W. N. Robinson of Sussex was also a guest of the Dufferin.

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PERSONAL.

Miss M. E. Parlee of St. John is visiting her sister, Mrs. G. F. Bolster, wife of the pastor of the West End Baptist church, Halifax.

Hon. Captain Rev. Joseph Aris, Roman Catholic chaplain with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, is at the Dufferin.

Leut.-Col. H. F. McLeod, M. P. of York, who has been ill with pneumonia in Shorncliffe, England, has been able to leave the hospital. He is recovering gradually.

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