

present Parliament, and second, measures to be submitted for the further effective co-operation of Canada in the defence of the Empire.

The brevity of it, I assume, is an indication that the energies and labours of Parliament for the session are to be directed to passing only such legislation as is essentially necessary to carry out expeditiously the important work now on hand, of aiding and co-operating with the Mother Country and her Allies in prosecuting the war to a successful issue. Fortunately for Parliament and the country, owing to the fairly prosperous times we are experiencing on account of the bountiful harvest garnered last autumn, and the increased activity in most industrial lines in consequence, and the demands created for new enterprises by the exigencies of the war, the people are fairly well employed at remunerative wages; consequently, the Government can, without serious injury to other demands, devote its energies to the important work of assisting the Empire in defending our rights, maintaining her authority, and safeguarding our liberty.

Dealing more particularly with the items referred to in the speech, the first paragraph sets forth what is painfully apparent to all, viz: that since His Royal Highness last addressed Parliament, the war has continued with unabated vigour and varying fortunes. It is, however, cheering to have it from such high authority that the Empire's part therein has been amply maintained, both on sea and land. Britain's Navy, true to her record in the past, has been a bulwark of safety, from ocean to ocean. Her achievements in the present conflict have equalled her highest and noblest records of the past; and never in the world's history was she more deserving of the title, "Mistress of the Seas," than she is to-day.

For the valour, dauntless courage, and prowess, of the great armies which have enrolled themselves under the flag in all parts of His Majesty's dominions for the defence of our liberties, no words of praise can ever do them full justice.

As for our gallant Canadian soldiers who have gone overseas to join the forces of the Empire, we are pleased to be informed that they have met the enemy in repeated contests, and by their pre-eminent courage and heroic endurance have shed lustre upon their country and upheld its highest traditions.

The assurance given us by His Royal Highness that, "the splendid loyalty and unflinching devotion of India and the overseas dominions have vied with each other in co-operating with the Mother Country, to defend our liberties," will, I doubt not, be highly appreciated by every citizen of Canada.

Knowing, as we do, the loyal sentiment and devotion of the people of the Dominion to the Mother Country, it was not a matter of wonder, but rather of pride and satisfaction, to find that the "call to arms" was responded to so generously, and with such alacrity, that in the short space of a few months 120,000 men were enrolled, equipped, trained, and forwarded for overseas duty to assist the Mother Country and her Allies, and an equal number are under training at home.

The information that from time to time more will follow as the exigencies demand, until, if necessary, the force is augmented to half a million, will meet with the hearty approval of the people throughout the Dominion.

In connection with what has been already accomplished in this line, and is being done, it is only justice to say, that while the Government as a whole have devoted themselves and their energies to an unlimited degree in furthering the important work imposed upon them in consequence of the war, the Minister of Militia and Defence is specially deserving of the highest commendation for the laborious, energetic, and important work that he has done throughout this trying ordeal. By his incessant labours, persevering energy and vital activity, he has shown an example to the whole force worthy of emulation and truly inspiring.

The observation of His Royal Highness in the speech from the Throne regarding the life of the present Parliament and the proposed legislation for its extension, owing to the war, is a subject which has been engaging the attention of the people for some time past, and, as might be expected, a diversity of opinion exists, some favouring it and others opposed to it. The colossal work the Government have been called upon to perform in consequence of the war is sufficient to tax the energies of the ablest and strongest cabinet the country has ever had, no matter what its capacity for work may have been.

The information that measures will be submitted for the consideration of Parliament, to further the effective co-operation