

fidence of the volunteers and also of myself.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: Since we are filling up time, I should like to say as a humble member of the Opposition that I feel we are met on an epochal day in the history of the British Empire and in the history of the world, on this last day of this short session.

I should like to say still further, speaking purely for myself as a member of the Opposition, that it is a matter of pride to me, having been born in the old land and having lived for a good many years now in this country, to be able to say that in my judgment the measures taken by the Canadian Government up to the present moment in this crisis have been characterized by energy, wisdom and effectiveness. I have the best reasons for believing that the action of the Opposition is fully appreciated as having been the most patriotic possible under the circumstances, because it was patent to everybody on the first day of this session that the Prime Minister of this country went fifty per cent further than he need have done in recognizing that Canadians were acting to-day as one man.

There is no part of the Government's action which has met with my humble and enthusiastic approval more than a declaration which the Minister of Militia made before the House met, and which he has repeated here to-day, that every man who goes from Canada goes as a free volunteer. There is a statement of fact which goes to the root of the differences which are dividing the two sides of this campaign. Every man in the British Empire feels that he is fighting for the Empire and for the flag. But he is fighting for more than that. He is fighting for the principles that are at the root of the highest civilization; he is fighting for human freedom. I should be guilty if I said a word in the way of contrasting that with what is the case on the part of our chief opponents in this struggle. I am delighted, as all Canadians will be, to hear the statement of the Minister of Militia about the splendid spirit of our people—not only the splendid spirit of the Canadian people, but the spirit which prevails throughout the whole British Empire to-day. I am sure that we are enlisting to see the struggle to a finish, and that every man of British blood or under British institutions is animated by this spirit.

I do not know whether the Government would think it necessary in a single sentence by any of its members to tell us that this spirit which is animating the men who

[Mr. Sam. Hughes.]

are climbing on the trains in their eagerness to go, animates to the fullest extent every man in the country, and that every one of them is anxious to go. I know that that is the spirit of the country, but I just think that at this moment an assurance from some member of the Cabinet to that effect would give our people heart, and would be an answer to a question which was put, I think by the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald), the other day as to what would happen in the matter of recruiting and sending further forces after one expeditionary force had gone, if this great fight for civilization were not yet ended. I want to reiterate a belief in what is certain to be the end. I hope I shall with all Britishers caution entrance into a quarrel, and I am certainly old enough not to have forgotten the Scripture text which says: 'Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.' But in the last moments of the session I would like to proclaim my opinion once more that in this fight there can be no let-up, and to it there can be but one termination—victory for what we believe to be the right.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: I want personally to thank the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Michael Clark) for his very kind words. They come from the heart. It is not generally known to the House that one of his sons is in the contingent.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I also desire to express my appreciation of the words which have fallen from the hon. member for Red Deer, and of the spirit in which the members of the Opposition have co-operated with us in dealing with this difficult and trying situation. The responsibilities of the Government, under the conditions that arose so suddenly, were very grave, and I need not assure the House and the country that the seriousness of those responsibilities impressed itself very deeply upon my colleagues and myself. The hon. member for Red Deer has expressed the opinion that the measures which we took have been characterized up to the present time by wisdom and effectiveness. In regard to that, I can only remark that whatever the opinion may be on this subject, all the steps which we took received the best of the ability, the energy and the sense of duty that were in us, and that we took them in the clear belief that they were such as the necessity of the hour demanded.

I would like to voice, if I may be permitted to do so, the very earnest apprecia-