

no country within the last thousand years has undertaken to carry on war in that spirit. In opposing this power we are fighting the battle of freedom and civilization against barbarism and irresponsible government.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POWER—With respect to the German people, hon. gentlemen must have noticed that there is no disposition, even on the part of the people of England who have suffered from this barbarism, to place the blame on the German peoples as a whole. We have Germans in this country; there are large numbers of them in the province of Ontario; and there are no better settlers in the country.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POWER—We have Germans in the province of Nova Scotia; the county of Lunenburg is almost altogether German, but there are no more industrious, peaceful, or in any way better citizens in the province than these Germans, and the descendants of Germans. They do not interfere with their neighbours; they manifest no desire to alter their neighbours' land marks or to encroach on their neighbour's property. It is just this: this war is the result of the condition of things that the hon. leader of the Government has referred to—the people have been trained by the ruling class, particularly of Prussia, to believe that their rightful destiny was to be the rulers of the whole world; and they have been misled and misguided. To help the good cause, the loyal Opposition in Canada are prepared to aid the Government's efforts to do our duty by the Empire, and to vote such sums of money as are needed to carry on our part of the war, and to support such measures as the Government may show to be necessary to bring the struggle, so far as we are concerned, to a successful issue.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Now I wish to address a few more observations to the House in a somewhat different strain. I do not assume, as it appears to be assumed, that this session is to be devoted exclusively to providing for the conduct of the present war. The August session was devoted to that purpose alone. We came here and we made the necessary provision for the beginning of the war at any rate, and at the present session undoubtedly, our most important business will be to make provision for doing our part towards carrying on the war. Speaking as an

Hon. Mr. POWER.

individual member, my own idea is that while no controversial measure should be introduced, the necessary business of Parliament should be dealt with, as in an ordinary session. If this war lasted, as wars have lasted, for a great many years, is it contended that the ordinary business of the country—the things which are found to be necessary for the good government of the country—should not be attended to while the war was going on. I cannot endorse that view at all, and I wish to call attention to two or three subjects which the hon. Leader of the Government should try to impress on his colleagues. One matter is most urgent, and that is the organization of a defence force. We have in Canada the material for a magnificent fighting force, but there is no organization at all; there is no provision for reserves; there are no organizations except a few scattered battalions here and there; no organization that can be called upon at the moment of crisis. This is something that should be remedied, and the hon. gentleman should, I believe, present to the Government this view of the matter.

The late Government was to blame nearly as much as the present Government. While we have largely increased our expenditure for militia purposes, we have not increased the force; we have no organization. Take the case of the present war. Hon. gentlemen, even those who do not come from British Columbia, know what a panic there was in British Columbia for a long time after the war began. There really does not seem to be any good reason why the squadron which sank the Good Hope and the Monmouth should not have gone in and destroyed Victoria and Vancouver. The people of British Columbia were very much afraid this would happen, as there was nothing to prevent it. If we had had a proper organized militia, such as we had a good many years ago in the province from which I come, the Government would have been in a position to call out at once a sufficient number of men to repel any force that would likely have attacked British Columbia. Or suppose again, that, instead of going with England, Japan had gone with Germany, where would British Columbia be? Hon. gentlemen must see that we have been living in a fool's paradise. There is this thing about the present Government—I said the two governments were almost equally responsible—but there is this difference, that their own inspector general reported to the present Government two years ago, pointing