

We had hoped before we separated at the end of last session that possibly the condition of things throughout the world, in connection with this war, would have been further advanced than they are to-day. There were at that time men who thought there was a possibility of our arriving at a state which would mean the termination of the war before we met again in this House; but, although the progress made in the war has not been as great as we hoped for at that time, still the progress that has been made on the western front, as well as on the east by the Russians, and even at Salonica, has been of a nature that does not give cause at this time for any feelings of anxiety. The splendid work done on the western front by the French, in the fight at Verdun, which was so admirably carried through in the latter months of last year, and the work done on the Somme by the British troops, including all the troops from the different Dominions, have been, I think, a revelation to the Germans, inasmuch as, from all accounts that we receive, they had made preparations and had intrenched themselves as if they had thought that they could not be turned out. But all their ideas and calculations have been upset by the valour and the determination of men of all parts of the Empire and by our Allies the French. Moreover, the co-ordination between the different branches of the service—the artillery, the infantry and the aviation corps—has been a revelation to everybody who has seen the work that has been going on. The way in which the different services have been able to co-ordinate their work and to co-operate in carrying it out has revolutionized the system of warfare from what it was at the beginning of the war. We appreciate the good work that has been done by the Canadian soldiers along with the other troops of the Empire, and desire that everything possible shall be done by the people of this country to support them and let them realize that they have the whole force of the country behind them.

In talking of the war we must not forget that, as far as Canada is concerned, we really owe our position and our freedom from actual contact with this struggle to the admirable work that has been done by the British Navy. The British Navy has had a most difficult part to play, a part that has not appealed to the ideas of the people in the same way as the part that the army has to play. It is very seldom that we are able

to read of any work that has been done by the navy, and we are apt to think, when we read, as we have lately done, of a German raider having escaped into the south Atlantic, that the navy has not been able to do all that it should do. It is only natural that sometimes the Germans, with all their tricks and arts of disguise, should be able to rig out a ship that would escape the notice of the watchdogs of the British navy, slip past them, and do a considerable amount of damage before being caught. The reports that we now receive seem to indicate that already this particular raider has been brought to time.

We are threatened at the present time with a further attack by the submarines, possibly on this side of the Atlantic, but I think that we all feel that, even should those submarines be able to do a certain amount of damage at the start, the British navy will eventually prove itself entirely competent to deal with them and bring them to time and that eventually the submarine will prove as great a failure as the zeppelins have proved to be in the raids which they have from time to time made on England. We realize that those attacks, made at different times on undefended parts of the country, have had no military effect whatever.

The Speech from the Throne deals with certain questions with which the Senate has not very much to do. I do not propose, for instance, to discuss the question of the extension of the term of Parliament, as that is a matter which pertains more to the work of the other House, and will, I presume, be discussed when the resolution is brought down. If it comes to us we shall then have an opportunity of dealing with the matter.

The question of National Service, to which my hon. friend from Manitou (Hon. Mr. Sharpe) referred, is one that we are all ready to consider and to deal with at the proper time. I agree with him that the country must rise to a realization of the situation in which it is placed to-day, and that every one, from one end of Canada to the other, in duty to the country and to himself, should put forward every effort to help in the prosecution of this war.

With regard to the question of the Imperial Conference, we have heard from the Premier of England that he is desirous of consulting the Premiers of the Dominions on questions concerning the further prosecution of the war, and those questions which will arise after the termination of the war. The idea is, to some extent, a new one. It is a further step in bringing together the