

Opportunities and responsibilities march abreast from the cradle to the grave, and never were the responsibilities of Canadians greater than now. One of the problems that will face the Government and the people is the great debt we owe the returned soldiers. There is nothing too much that we can do for them, who have done so much for us; but for them Canada might have been in the hands of the enemy. Better every Canadian dead than that that had happened. The Minister of Militia has spoken with no uncertain sound as to the returned soldiers. They have made the name of Canada glorious and immortal. How splendidly they have done their part to save the Empire in this great crisis. Many since the armistice have come back to their own homes, and have been welcomed with patriotic joy; but there is a shadow with that joy and we mingle our tears with those who have been bereaved. The victor's wreath will fade and the monuments which a grateful people erect in memory of their illustrious dead will perish, but the story of how Canadians fought and died for the freedom of mankind will live forever.

There is no dependency of the British Empire has greater cause for thanking than we Canadians; we are proud of our country, not only because it is the greatest dependency in the Empire, but, as Sir Sanford Fleming said, it has more right than any other to be called Greater Britain. It has ever been the brightest jewel in the British crown, and to-day it is the strongest loyal link that unites the Empire. Oceans once divided it, but now through Canada our great Empire is united. Unroll your map and you will see what I mean. You can start from the Thames, the Mersey or the Clyde, sail across the Atlantic to Halifax, on through Canada to Vancouver, rolling along at 50 miles an hour by the Canadian National Railway, or by the greatest railway in the world, the Canadian Pacific Railway; then on to the eastern possessions of the Empire without any other flag over your head than the flag of freedom, the stainless flag of your fathers; the flag that is the emblem of protection and power the world over, the flag that has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze—the glorious Union Jack.

"Great God, the pillars of the world are Thine;

Pour down Thy bounteous grace,

And make illustrious and divine

The pillars of our race."

General Currie, our own Currie, said that Canada was the most glorious country under the blue sky. Few of us take in the extent of our country; it is a land of tremendous extent. Its area is 3,620,000 square miles. It is washed, I may say, by four oceans, as Hudson's Bay may be called one, its area being 35,000 square miles. You could dump England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales into it, and sail all around it and be out of sight of land. Canada is as large as the whole of Europe, and without Alaska 500,000 miles larger than the United States. It is one-fifth the size of the whole world. It is one-third the size of the whole British Empire. Its coast line is equal to half the circumference of the globe. The Province of Ontario is 20,000 miles larger than Great Britain and Ireland. You can see what a large constituency the Canada Life has. Canada is a land of great fertility, and will yet be the home of many millions more of happy and prosperous people. The great J. J. Hill said: "There is land enough in Western Canada to feed an empire," and the late Secretary Seward of the United States said: "Canada is grand enough to be the seat of a great empire." These observations were made no doubt in reference to our great West, the "stoneless land of plenty."

"Where prairies like oceans, where billows have rolled,

Are broad as the Kingdoms and nations of old."

Two great factors for the material progress of a country are rapid transit and good postal facilities; Canada has both to a marked degree. An able writer on our