

France. At Chantilly itself, only twenty-five miles from Paris, one can hear in the open the booming of the German guns at the front. The French people and the French army have an absolute and perfect confidence in the issue of this war, and I repeat again that they are inspired with an absolute and resolute determination that this war shall never cease until the invaders have been driven from France and until Belgium has been freed.

In Great Britain I found the same splendid spirit. I believe there has been a profound change in the spirit of the British nation during the past twelve months. The gravity of the situation is now realized thoroughly and fully. It may possibly be said that John Bull requires a little bit of hammering to make him thoroughly in earnest; but when John Bull is once aroused he is terribly in earnest, and there is no doubt about it that the British nation is now tremendously in earnest in this war. The British people have not been accustomed to methods of warfare such as those which have prevailed. The British soldier is naturally a humane man; he goes to battle with the idea that if he succeeds in conquering his enemy and taking him prisoner he should treat that prisoner not only humanely, but generously. That is his spirit. It is the same kind of spirit as that which animates two Britons when they fight with each other: when one comes out second best he immediately shakes hands with the man who has thrashed him, and there is no more bad feeling between them. In this war, however, the incidents which have taken place, such as the Scarborough raids, the Zeppelin attacks, the Lusitania horror, and, last but not least, the execution of Edith Cavell, have aroused in the British people a stronger and more intense feeling than I believe has ever been aroused in that nation in any previous war. These incidents and the inhuman and barbarous methods of warfare practised at the front have had their effect; they have brought more recruits to the British standard than any other agency in this war from first to last; and they have aroused a fierce and grim determination that this war shall not cease until the cause for which it was undertaken shall have been fully and absolutely vindicated.

As to the Canadian troops at the front, I saw the Princess Patricia Regiment on the 23rd day of August, 1914, at Lansdowne park, when divine service was held and the colours were presented by Her Royal High-

ness the Princess Patricia. I saw them on the 21st day of July, 1915, at the front, where they had been since the previous December. There were then only two officers out of all those who had gone to the front, only two still able to perform their duties; those were Niven and Papineau. In the trench warfare at St. Eloi on the 14th of March, on the 7th of May and on many occasions from the end of 1914 up to the time that I saw them, they had shown to the enemy how Canadians could fight. Hon. members will recall that on the 7th of May, 1915, this regiment was attacked in overwhelming force by the Germans. They went into the fight mustering 635 men; at the end of the day only 150 men were able to respond to the call. But they had held the line. Well might their brigadier general, in bidding them farewell, speak of their unparalleled tenacity, and declare that they had earned a reputation which would stand amongst the highest in the record of the exploits of the British army.

I saw the Canadian division at the front as well. I saw them at Valcartier camp in September, 1914, and I had the honour and the privilege of saying farewell to them, of shaking hands with every officer of the force before they went overseas. I saw what was left of them at the front on the 21st of July, 1915. In the meantime, their heroic deeds at Ypres, Festubert, Givenchy, had thrilled the whole country. As the mover of the Address said, they were men of no military experience; they were taken from every walk of life in Canada. Only nine months before they were put to the test, they had been engaged in the ordinary avocations of life in this country. You remember that just one week after this Parliament prorogued, that is to say on the 22nd of April, 1915, these men were put to as fierce and terrible a test as any troops in the world were ever subjected to. They were vastly outnumbered, they were almost surrounded, they were subjected to horrible and unknown methods of warfare. The awful effects of gas no man can realize who has not seen, as I have seen, the survivors of this terrible ordeal. The men I saw in the hospitals and convalescent homes included in their numbers some who had endured the full force of that attack, and who, even months afterwards, were actually gasping for breath. Under these conditions, their left flank in the air, the Canadians held on all that day. They held on during the following day. One brigade which had been eventually sent back for