

regiments were sent to fight in South Africa. The scene of war was, however, remote, and, compared with what we now know, the effort was insignificant. Only in 1914 did the scales fall from the eyes of Canada and she saw the colossal figure of war, naked and menacing, rise up to imperil her own liberty and that of every free people.

In the face of this real peril, there was not a moment's hesitation in Canada as to her duty. It is true to say that in the tense days when the scope of the war was still undecided there was, so far from hesitation, a real fear in Canada that Britain might hold aloof and permit France and Russia alone to face Germany. It is sometimes said that Canada went into the war to help England. To stand by England, Canada was, indeed, resolved, but many Canadians resented the idea that she was merely helping England. Canadian soldiers thanked by English hosts for the help they had brought to the old land were annoyed rather than pleased. They had gone to fight for England no more than Scots or Irishmen had gone to fight for England. Partners with England in a great crusade? Yes. But fighting for England? No—except in the sense that England and Canada were fighting for each other.

What, we may again ask, was to be the relation of a self-reliant and proud nation in America to a self-reliant and proud nation in Europe, both of them owing allegiance to the same sovereign? It could not remain that of colony and mother country. The Canadian soldier in Flanders or France had no feeling that he was protected by a powerful mother land, the feeling which would have expressed the truth in regard to the Canada of an earlier period. Even so recently as in the South African war, though Canadian regiments had served in the British army, they had been paid not by Canada but by Great Britain. Now, in the Great War, Canada, for the first time, paid her own way as Britain and France paid their own way. For the first time the Canadian people subscribed for great loans to their own government to carry on the war. Hitherto a debtor nation, Canada became in part a creditor nation. She made vast quantities of munitions of war. Hitherto her manufacturers had not ventured upon some of the more delicate work in, for instance, steel, but now they made complex and difficult products. The young nation was showing itself competent. Its soldiers proved equal to the best. The officers, most of them civilians before the war, quickly acquired skill and enterprise in making war. What was to be the political expression of this national vitality?