

ces, may furnish us with the answer, certainly will give us hope. After the close of the ten years' war with France, in 1697, the national debt of England was about £15,000,000, which caused William III to utter the grave fear—"May God relieve us from our present emharrassment, for I cannot suppose it is His will to suffer a nation to perish which He has so miraculously saved". In 1749, Lord Bolingbroke wrote: "Our Parliamentary aids from 1740 to 1748 amounted to £55,552,159, a sum that will appear incredible to future generations, and is so, almost to the present. Till we have paid a good part of our debts and restored our country, in some measure, to her former wealth, it will be difficult to maintain our dignity". Yet that sum is less than twelve days of the expenditure of Great Britain alone in the present war! The national wealth of Great Britain was then probably £500,000,000, her debt was £80,000,000, or about one-sixth of her wealth. In 1816, after the Napoleonic wars, the national debt of the United Kingdom amounted to about £1,000,000,000. Now, in 1916, it is about £2,500,000,000, an increase of 150 p.c. In 1816, the income of the people of Great Britain was estimated at £300,000,000; in 1916, the estimate is over £2,500,000,000, an increase of more than 800 p.c. In other words, in 1916 the debt of Great Britain had increased 150 p. c. and her wealth 800 p.c. I cannot guarantee the absolute correctness of these figures, but they are as close as I have been able to ascertain.

The remarkable and almost incredible thing is that Great Britain very largely is providing for the payment of the most of this huge war expenditure by levying enormous taxes from the present generation. The direct taxation in England is 5 shillings on the pound on incomes, with 3 sh. 6 d. special war tax. Let me illustrate this by pointing out that the man in Great Britain who as an income of £5,000 has to pay into the Treasury yearly £2,125, and thus is left with £2,875.

We are told sometimes that we, Canadians, have not yet suffered greatly through this great war, that we have not really begun to feel the burden of it, notwithstanding our war taxes and what we have done in the way of helping the Red Cross, Patriotic Fund and other war aids. Could anything more eloquently prove this statement than the very figures which I have just quoted?

If England was slow in waking up, if there was muddling for a time, she has indeed been moving since at a steady and tremendous pace. Who will now dare say that England is decadent?

FRANCE.

And France, who will dare repeat the Prussian calumny that she was or is now impotent? Who will now repeat the words: "La France légère"?

The effort of beautiful, resourceful, vallant and heroic France and her marvelous successes, which have provoked the unbounded admiration and the burning sympathy of the whole-world, cannot be expressed in words.

I wish it were in my power to describe the cool, calm courage, the self-denial and universal devotion of her people, the resolute and indefatigable determination of every French man, every French woman to vanquish or die, the cheerfulness with which France is bearing the terrible burden of the German invasion, with all its sufferings, losses and brutalities, the resignation with which she is contributing all her best blood and all her treasures in the accomplishment of her gigantic task ; her