

affected by the war, but rather had fattened and grown rich by reason of her commercial dealings with the then Allied nations—and one might have thought that under such conditions she would have hesitated before plunging the whole resources of the nation in men and money into the war—she did not hesitate nor equivocate, but she put through a Conscription Bill and called out her efficient man-power to the colours, thereby laying down the principle that every citizen of the State is a servant of the State, and that he who accepts and enjoys the benefits of citizenship must be prepared and willing to accept the responsibilities which that citizenship entails, the proof of which willingness is to stand for and fight for the welfare of the State. This cannot be done by agitating any narrow or provincial policy; it cannot be done by pandering to any local class or race, in particular in this country of ours. I have ever claimed that selfishness is and always has been the curse of humanity. I do not say this with any acrimony or any desire to be unduly offensive in this House; I give it as my candid opinion that selfishness is the mainspring behind the opposition to conscription, not only in this House but throughout this country.

At the outbreak of war nearly three years ago, the whole of Canada was pledged by her representatives assembled in Parliament, to the full extent of her resources in men and money. We heard no word at that time of a referendum. Was the voice of the leader of the Opposition heard at that time asking that the people's voice should be heard with regard to our participation in the war? It was not, and I am glad, and I am ready and willing to say that every true Canadian was proud to see the leader of the Opposition stand shoulder to shoulder with the Prime Minister, pledging himself and his followers to stand behind the Government to the full extent of Canada's resources in men and money until victory was achieved. I leave it to the judgment of the House and of the people of Canada how the leader of the Opposition has fulfilled that pledge.

Some men have had the temerity to say that Canada has done enough in this war. The hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) implied that in his speech yesterday, and the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Murphy) indirectly implied it in his speech this afternoon. Canada has not done enough until this war is won, and it cannot be won without men. Canada has not done enough until that great military mach-

ine, conceived and perfected by Germany during the last fifty years, that machine which since the outbreak of hostilities has violated every law of God and man, is smashed beyond repair, and it cannot be smashed without men. Canada has not done enough until the power of the houses of the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns is a thing of the past, and that cannot be achieved without men. Until we are assured beyond the peradventure of a doubt that liberty, justice, truth and national honour shall not perish from the earth, Canada has not done enough; and we cannot achieve that end until victory is won on the field of battle, and we cannot achieve that victory without men. Four hundred thousand of Canada's sons have, up to to-day answered the call of the motherland. Thousands and thousands of our homes are to-day under the shadow of death and bereavement. Thousands of Canada's mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts will go down to their graves with their heads bowed in sorrow and their hearts torn with anguish, mourning "for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still." With thousands of our homes thrown into mourning, with the cry of our boys ringing across the waters calling for help, with the very life of the nation hanging in the balance, shall we stop in our fight for liberty, justice and humanity because, forsooth, certain elements in this country say: We do not like the idea of being forced to do our duty?

Why is conscription necessary at this time? I do not wish to be offensive, and as far as possible I shall avoid any acrimonious remarks, but I believe in calling a spade a spade, and in justice to the rest of Canada, I must say that the reason why conscription faces us to-day is because French Canada has failed to do its duty. I am not going into all the reasons why enlistment has been apparently so dilatory in that province, but in my humble judgment if the province of Quebec had come up to the same standard set by the other parts of Canada, conscription would not have been heard of about the corridors of this House for many months to come.

A great deal has been said by speakers who have preceded me as to whether or not Canada had the right to send her troops beyond her borders under the old Militia Act. I have listened to both sides of that argument, and while I am forced to say in all honesty that I am convinced the leader of the Government has made his case clear,