

debate which took place in the Council of India. It was upon a motion proposed by one of the native members of the Council, and I invite all hon. gentlemen in this House who have the opportunity, to read that debate. I venture to say that, having read it, they will agree with me that in its sentiment, its strong and earnest patriotism, and its excellence of diction, it will compare favourably with any debate whether in the Imperial Parliament or in the parliament of any of the dominions. You say that India regarded participation in this war as a duty? India put her case on a much higher plane. India asserted her right to take part in this war and was proud that she possessed that right. And throughout the King's dominions, every race, every tribe, the smallest possession, the remotest island, have all tendered their aid. So far as the whole Empire is concerned, the situation was well summed up by the late Admiral Mahon in a letter which he wrote in October last to a friend in England shortly before his death. In it he says:

But the testimony to the uprightness and the efficiency of her imperial rule, given by the strong adhesion and support of India and the Dominions, is a glory exceeding that of pitched battle and overwhelming victory.

In the path of Germany's ambition to dominate the world has stood our Empire, and the chief bulwark of the British Empire is the British Navy. I repeat that it has done its work worthily and well. I am sure that none of us can appreciate all that has been involved and is still involved in that silent winter vigil in the North Sea. No deeds of the Vikings ever surpassed the courage and endurance of these sailor heroes.

As my right hon. friend has well said, be under no misapprehension as to the character of this war. The struggle is formidable and the task tremendous. Germany's military power has amazed the world. On the one frontier and on the other she has held back the forces of the allied nations. She strove to make her military power commensurate with her ambition of world-wide dominance. We have but held our own for many months. When our armies now being organized take the field we may hope with confidence for greater things. In that connection it is appropriate that I should read to the House a despatch which I have just received from Mr. Harcourt, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and which is in these words:

[From Mr. Harcourt to the Governor General.]
London, February 5, 1915.

Nearly four months have now passed since the first Canadian contingent arrived in the United Kingdom. It was recognized on its arrival that Canada had sent a fine body of men constituting a most valuable addition to the Crown's fighting forces. Training has been continued in the time that has since elapsed and is now practically completed under unprecedented conditions of climate, which have involved discomfort in spite of every effort on the part of His Majesty's government to alleviate the hardships which have been borne by the contingent with a cheerful resolve that augurs well for their endurance of the arduous conditions of actual active service.

The contingent was inspected by His Majesty the King on Thursday last, and His Majesty was much gratified at the marked general improvement since he last inspected them, and at the spirit of eagerness and loyal enthusiasm which fills all ranks. The contingent will shortly join their Canadian comrades of the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry at the front. These are acquitting themselves in a manner worthy of the great Dominion to which they belong, and some of them have already given their lives for the great cause for which the Empire is now fighting.

Six months ago Great Britain declared war on Germany, taking her place besides the allies in the greatest war ever yet waged.

The object of Germany was to dominate first Europe, and eventually the world. This result she hoped to achieve firstly, by overwhelming and crushing France by a rapid advance through Belgium, whose neutrality she shamefully violated, and then by dealing with Russia at her own leisure. She was to have the assistance of Austria against Russia after the former had crushed Serbia out of existence.

This programme for which Germany had made the most elaborate preparations, she proceeded to more or less successfully carry out, until her armies in France arrived at the line of the Marne river; here, however, the tide of invasion reached its high water mark, and it has since been driven back to the line of the river Aisne. The battle front now extends from Ostend in a line due south to Soissons, and thence southeast to the Swiss frontier at Basle. On the western frontier this line has remained stationary for several months. In the eastern theatre of war Germany has met with no greater success and the Russians everywhere more than hold their own. The great effort essential to the success of Germany has been foiled, and except for one success in East Prussia she has gained no single victory, she has lost two and a quarter millions of her best and bravest soldiers, and any fresh effort will now have to be made with greatly inferior and disheartened troops. Thanks to the work of our navy, Germany is now feeling economic pressure in many ways. In Austria there are still considerable forces in the field but her troops have suffered severe reverses both from Serbia and Russia, and she can no longer be counted upon by Germany as a really powerful ally. Of even less account is Turkey, who has suffered severe defeats from Russian forces, and results have been the same for her as regards British forces in Mesopotamia and on the Suez Canal within the last few days. In a far dif-