

So, when we met on August 18, 1914, every member of the House had before him the provisions of the Militia Act which give the Governor General in Council power to send the militia anywhere outside of Canada for the defence of Canada, and which made it compulsory for every male between eighteen and sixty to serve. In that session we expressed our approval of Canada's entering into the war, knowing that it might become necessary to the defence of Canada to send our soldiers to France; knowing that it was in contemplation at that very time to send our soldiers to France—volunteers of course, but they knew that under that Act we could compel them to go—and there is not a single representative in this House who objected to that condition of things. If there was a single member who felt then as some of them say they feel now, that they are opposed to all war; that they do not want to take any part in a European war, that was the time for him to rise in his place in this House and say so. But not one of them said that he objected to the war, or objected to sending our forces to France, or that he opposed the terms of the Militia Act under which they might be forced to go to France. As silence gives consent, all the membership of this House agreed, not only that it was our duty to enter the war, but to pledge ourselves that we would continue in it until it was won. Is there a gentleman within the sound of my voice who will say that that is not true? Will the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) or the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) or the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) say that he did not personally, individually, express approval of our entering into the war and our determination to continue in it until victory should be ours? But that is not all. Every member of this House is here in a representative capacity, he represents thousands of constituents; and every one of us pledged his constituents to the declaration that we ought to enter the war and ought to continue in the war until victory should be achieved. Thus collectively the people of Canada, without any referendum, without any general election—not the people of one province but of all the provinces—declared themselves in favour of Canada taking part in this war and remaining side by side with our Allies until the war was won. We pledged ourselves individually. We pledged our constituents also, that they would use all reasonable means for the prosecution of this war, that they would provide men

and money to carry on the war. Was not this implied in the attitude we took? Did not we declare to the British Government, to our sister nations overseas, and to our Allies, that we individually, our constituents to a man, and the people of Canada as a whole, were unanimous in joining them in this struggle and in remaining in it with them until victory should be achieved? We not only gave our pledge to the British Government and to our Allies, but we pledged ourselves to the brave young men of this country, that if they would go to the front and fight for us, we would stand behind them so long as the war should last.

We entered into a covenant with every young man who enlisted that if he would take the position of the greatest sacrifice possible to a man and go to the front and risk his life for the freedom of this country, we would supply him with food and equipment and munitions and guns, and send him assistance as might be necessary, as long as the war lasted. Did not we promise him that? What do we propose now—some of us? What do we propose now? To abandon the men who have gone to the front, desert the men who have risked their lives for our freedom? The member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) made a similar pledge to that which the rest of us made. I believe that personally he has redeemed that pledge, because he has done a great deal throughout Ontario to assist recruiting. I believe his constituents have redeemed the pledge he made for them on the 18th of August, 1914. My hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) made such a pledge, not only on his own behalf but on behalf of his constituents in the city of Vancouver. I believe that he has redeemed the pledge that he gave personally; I believe his constituents in the city of Vancouver have redeemed the pledge that he gave on their behalf. My hon. friend from Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) gave a like pledge for himself and for his constituents and for the people of Canada. Has he redeemed his pledge? Have his constituents redeemed the pledge he made on their behalf? I put the question; I do not answer it. My hon. friend from Megantic (Mr. Pacaud) was here. He made a pledge on his own behalf; he made a pledge on behalf of his constituents, that they would stand behind the boys at the front, that they would supply a fair share of men and money to back up the boys who had gone to the front. Has he discharged his duty? Have his constituents discharged their duty? Let us get this question home to each one