

RECRUITING SPEECH

Delivered at Stonewall, December 10th, 1915, by

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INSPIRING APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN TO DO THEIR DUTY

I venture to say that there are many reasons of great importance of the highest patriotic and honorable nature, of real urgency, which should at this moment compel every young Canadian, by birth or by adoption, to think seriously of his country's needs and his duty to it at this moment.

Do we realize the value of our British citizenship in the greatest empire the world has ever seen? Do we realize the value of the civil and religious liberties which we enjoy under our flag? If so, are we ready to sacrifice for the protection and perpetuation of these great blessings handed down to us by our ancestors?

The old Union Jack has been dyed crimson in the blood of heroes, that we might enjoy the civil and religious liberties which all British subjects enjoy today.

Are we going to fold our arms and stand idly by while tyrants trample under foot these great privileges, handed down to us after centuries of struggle and sacrifice?

No, no! We must, we do, realize our duty at this moment. The Empire must be preserved; British civilization, which means so much to the world, must not be supplanted by that thing called German "kultur."

What does the British Empire mean to you? It holds in fee for your use and profit, for your children's development and wealth, the richest resources in gold, silver and precious stones, to be found in all other parts of the world. It is the greatest money power in the world.

Its vast trade—the accretions of centuries of skilled effort on land and sea—with a total of more than nine thousand millions a year. It comprises one-fifth

of the world's area, and one-fourth of the population of the world owes allegiance to the British flag.

Back of all this lies the glorious record of individual sacrifice and daring, of naval skill and valor. Every thread of the old flag has been steeped in blood fighting for the rights of small nations, protecting the weak and advancing the cause of civilization in all parts of the world.

As part of this glorious Empire, we have enjoyed all the privileges and liberties that belongs to British subjects, and now that

these are threatened by foreign tyrants our duty must be manifest to every British subject. I am satisfied that Canadians are thoroughly prepared to do their full share in protecting the liberties which we enjoy at this moment, to the extent, if necessary, of our last man and our last dollar.

The German war lords have endeavored to create the impression in the minds of the masses of the German people that the British are a decadent and degenerate nation. They proclaim to the world, through their professors and false teachers, that we are a non-heroic nation, skulking behind, whilst we egg on more gallant nations to their destruction.

This is the description given of Britain to the German people—we are a timorous, craven nation, trusting entirely on our fleet.

But I am satisfied these professors, and the German people as a whole, have long ere this found serious reasons to change their opinion of Britons. The battles of Mons, Langemarck, St. Julien and Ypres, and at the Dardanelles, where the Germans and their allies met the British,

have opened their eyes to the fact that the British soldier is more than a match for the German, with all his years of training and preparedness.

The heroic deeds performed by volunteer British soldiers have demonstrated to the world that the old heroic spirit still lives in the hearts of the British people.

One million of British volunteers are now on the firing line, and we, as Canadians, are proud that we have fifty thousand of as good troops as the



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