

(Monday, November 7, 1916)

THE WAR AND OUR CANADIANS AT THE FRONT

By N. W. ROWELL, K.C.

I HAD the opportunity of addressing this Club some 15 or 18 months ago. I am sure we all then hoped, we probably expected, that the war would be over before this time. Our expectations have not been realized.

So to-day my subject is: "The War and Our Canadians at the Front."

We have sent over 250,000 Canadian men to take part in the war. We did it because we were British citizens; because as such we were interested in the causes and results of that great conflict. But let us not lose sight of the importance and deep significance of our action. We have voluntarily embarked upon a war with the greatest military power of the world. Whatever it could have been before we sent our troops across the seas, from that day on and to-day it is Canada's war just as much as Great Britain's. And we cannot carry on our share in that great war with Germany and Austria on a limited liability principle. We have gone into it, and our national future depends upon our helping to see it through to a successful conclusion.

The events of the past few months must have brought the war very close home to many Canadian homes; but one cannot visit England and France and then return home to Canada without noticing a distinct change in atmosphere. Our distance from the actual scenes of conflict seems to cloud our appreciation of its magnitude and significance. One needs to be at the front, to see the actual conditions under which our men are fighting, to appreciate adequately their heroism and sacrifices.