

estimate. How is Canada to meet this tremendous strain on her financial resources?

The answer is plain—we must economize. Every wasteful expenditure must be cut out. We must also strain every energy to increase the wealth-producing power of the people.

It is estimated that the annual loss in Canada through the liquor traffic is about \$150,000,000. By the passing of such an Act this great loss can be avoided and a saving to the country can be made equal to more than one-half of the estimated war expenditure. Are the free-born citizens of Canada equal to this sacrifice?—a sacrifice cheerfully made by the nobility and peasantry alike in Russia.

Our political leaders may be willing to lead in this great patriotic movement, but they must be supported by Parliament and the people.

What, then, is the duty of the people? Let the citizens call upon the senators and members to grant this legislation. Let every constituency act. Let the churches, the temperance organizations, the boards of trade, Canadian clubs, and other local bodies in each constituency make clear to their member their desire for such legislation.

As soon as the answer of the member is obtained advise our secretary, so that the central committee may know upon whom to rely.

If the people of Canada are in earnest, as we believe they are, on this question, a united effort in every province brought to bear on our public representatives will produce the desired result.

Let the people act.

This, I think, was the inception of the present movement to bring the question before this House. The circular is couched in moderate language; it is supported by arguments which are irrefutable; it is entitled to respect. Even if nothing had taken place since this movement was inaugurated but what has happened in this great province of Ontario, I think those who promoted the movement have every reason to feel proud of what they have done.

The Prime Minister has impressed upon us the urgent need of economy; the urgent need of taking every possible step which will enable us better to bear the burdens laid upon us by our participation in the great cause of Empire. I remember reading some few weeks ago a speech delivered by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster), in which he also referred to the urgent need of national and personal economy. In speaking as they did both hon. gentlemen gave expression to the views which have prevailed on the other side of the water. When this war was declared the destinies of the British Empire were, to a great extent, placed in the hands of Kitchener. When the Republicans of France undertook to combat practically the whole of Europe the organizer of their victories was Carnot. To-day Kitchener fills practically the same position for England. He has been entrusted with the task of organizing the vic-

[Mr. Marcell.]

tory, of raising, supplying and equipping the armies, and of maintaining them at the front. Less than a week ago Lord Kitchener delivered a speech at the Guildhall in London. I should like to read a few paragraphs from that speech to impress the House, if possible, with the authority of a great man whose words apply to Canada as they apply to the other side of the water, because they are true, and are based on common sense. Lord Kitchener said:

We want just as many men as we can get as soldiers. We are bound to take all the men that can possibly be spared from industry, agriculture and commerce.

We cannot produce all our ordinary peacetime requirements. Either the population must go short of many things or the army must go short of munitions and other indispensable things.

Are civilians prepared to let brothers in the trenches endure hardships while they are not ready to make small sacrifices of harder work, increased effort and increased economy?

Every war problem teaches the same lesson. First, if we employ less labour, meeting the wants of the civilian population, we release more men for fighting. Secondly, if we import less for consumption we lessen the difficulties of sea transport. Thirdly, we relieve serious congestion at our docks. Fourthly, we relieve the congestion of our railways. Fifthly, the general reduction of the consumption of commodities by civilians limits the increase in the cost of living. Lastly, less consumption sets free labour and capital which make what armies need.

Referring to his remarks, the press report says:

Lord Kitchener appealed for economy in everything, particularly in coal, foodstuffs, intoxicating liquors, petrol and oils, tea, coffee and tobacco and clothing of all kinds, especially woollen articles.

In another part of his speech he said:

As a representative of the army in the field, I want to appeal on their behalf to the civilian army at home to play their part strenuously. Whether the army in the field, who are entirely dependent on the civilian army for food, equipment, and munitions, can get those things in sufficient quantities depends absolutely and entirely on whether every man and woman at home shows the utmost energy in production and the utmost economy in consumption. Any failure in this respect helps the enemy to win just as much as the soldier who refuses to do his utmost in the field of battle.

The question is how all these things can be done at the same time, how we can take millions of men from their workshops and farms and yet provide for all the needs of the civilian population and the army millions in the field. If those left behind only work as hard as they did before and all the consumers consume as they did before the war, our problem will be insoluble.

Hitherto we have filled the gap by vast importations, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other financial authorities impress us with the vital necessity of reducing our imports.