

proud, the Empire is proud, that Canada has responded so nobly to the call; but the wonder to me is not that 400,000 Canadians should have answered to the call of duty, but that **any** Canadian of Military age, physically fit and whose services are not required at home should have hesitated to offer his services and do his bit. If we had had conscription and militarism was a hated noxious thing in Canada it would have been different, but we are the freest of all free people and we are free because we belong to an Empire that has stood for freedom and is today fighting with all her mighty force for that most precious of all priceless things, Liberty. In that struggle the liberty of every Canadian is involved. For this cause, for their weal and for individual as well as National safety and honour, the man who can, but will not fight is unworthy to be called a Canadian, much less a subject of the British Empire.

In conclusion I cannot resist the temptation of quoting a short portion of a speech delivered by our Canadian Prime Minister at the Guild Hall on being presented with the freedom of the City of London, July 29th, 1915.

"Why in Canada do we see those who are the descendants of those who fought under Wolfe, and of those who fought under Montcalm, standing side by side in the battle-line of the Empire? Why, coming down to later days, do we see the grandson of a Durham, and the grandson of a Papineau, standing shoulder to shoulder beyond the Channel in France or Belgium? When the historian of the future comes to analyze the events which made it possible for the Empire to stand like this, he will see that there must have been some overmastering impulse contributing to this wonderful result.

"One such impulse is to be found in the love of Liberty, the pursuit of ideals of democracy, and the desire and determination to preserve the spirit of unity founded on those ideals, which made the whole Empire united in aim and single in purpose. But, there was, also, in all the Overseas Dominions, the intense conviction that this war was forced upon the Empire, that we could not with honour stand aside and see trampled underfoot the liberties and independence of a weak and unoffending nation whose independence we had guaranteed. And, above and beyond all that was the realization of the supreme truth, that the quarrel in which we are engaged transcends even the destinies of our own Empire and involves the future of civilization and of the world."