

not to wait until Belgium is absorbed into the German Empire, not to wait until Germany is still stronger, and more powerful, but to strike now when the time is ripe and the cause just. Great Britain has struck. I think the best proof that she is justified in doing so can be found, not only in our own consciousness but in the tributes that are paid to her by the world. Our neighbour, the United States, looks on as a neutral nation, and although amongst her population are enormous numbers of German and Austrian origin, any of us reading the great daily papers of the United States must feel grateful, as British subjects, that the great republic believes our course is absolutely justified and warranted. Around the world we find every small nation, the independent nations, those who love freedom, joining in the chorus that England is doing the right thing, doing the noble thing, doing what she ought to have done. We in Canada, as a part of that great empire, feel that our safety is at stake; we feel that if the power of England should be broken in the near future our independence, our freedom, and our belief in the settlement of disputes by arbitration, our love of peace, our peaceful homes and rule as we have it in Canada would be threatened and shattered; therefore I feel, as every Canadian feels, whatever his origin—even Germans themselves—that we are justified. I have met some Germans in this country, and have spoken to others who have met numbers of them who say that they would be only too glad to enlist and take part in this war. It is not a war against the German people, it is a war against a system that has been adopted and carried out in Germany, a military system, and the Germans themselves will reap the most benefit if the power of the Emperor of Germany is broken, as I fully believe it will be. From the unanimity of the opinion of this country, including all classes, and the unanimity which I am sure we will meet with in this hour. It is clear that Canada is justified in doing everything she can do to assist the mother country and her allies in this emergency. If the present contingent is not enough, we will send another, and if need be another, until the war is concluded and settled in a way that is satisfactory to the British people and to the free nations of the world. Many people seem to feel that it is a time to lose confidence; business is somewhat depressed; we have just passed through a year or more of financial stagnation in the world, and

Canadian people are prone to think that this is a time when we are going to be pinched. Doubtless some of our interests will suffer, such as the agricultural implement industry, that does a large portion of its business with Russia, and many of our homes will no doubt lose some of their loved ones, and will suffer in that way; but I think that Canada stands to gain more in this contest in every way than any other nation or people in the world. We stand to gain as a nation, because it will be fixed and established once for all that Canada is a part of the British empire and is going to stand by it through thick and thin. That was established, perhaps, sufficiently at the time of the Boer war; but this will establish it on firmer ground than ever, and the nations in future, when they count Great Britain and Ireland, will count the British dominions all over the seas as an integral part of that nation. That is one thing that will be made clear, and that is something that will be well worth while. But looking at it from a financial point of view, Canada stands to gain more than any other country in the world, because our chief products are agricultural and food stuffs, and any one knows that these are certain to rise in value. We are certain to gain in that respect, having a surplus of exportable products in food stuffs. We look around the world to see what nations export, and we will be able to judge more surely what our position will be. Our position is such that our trade routes are bound to be protected, being shorter than those of any other food producing countries in the world that have large surpluses for export. Our routes are sure to be amply protected; therefore insurance, and probably freight rates, will be lower in proportion than from any other country in the world. Some of the countries which export agricultural products in large quantities will be handicapped. One of those countries is Russia. Russia will put an embargo on those products, if she has not done so already. Australia is a large exporter of food products, and will continue to export during the war, but the route from that country is more dangerous and the insurance rates will be higher. The Argentine republic exports large quantities of food products to Great Britain and France, but the routes from there are not so well defined and protected, and insurance rates are bound to be higher. Therefore, of all countries in the world, Canada stands to get the advantage